

Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

First meeting, 6—7 September 2017

ZbigneŖ Glazko, Ministry of Environment
Lithuania



How do you contribute with your work in your country to climate change adaptation activities?

- Measures that address forestry sector are:
- 1. Afforestation of state-owned unused land or land that is barely suitable for agriculture by passing to state forest in order to create economically valuable, biologically resistant forest.
- 2. Management of the state-owned forests passed to state forest enterprises and management of land plots formed by land-use documents for state afforestation.
- 3. Afforestation of private-owned unused land or land that is barely suitable for agriculture by providing financial support from the Rural Development Programme.
- 4. Development and implementation of a system for wood biomass mobilisation from forest by using financial mechanisms.
- 5. Implementation of investment projects for forest residues for biomass production.
- 6. Promotion of non clear-cut felling in private-owned forests by implementation of promotional measures.
- 7. Supervision that the area of state-owned forest, where chemicals for forest health protection from diseases, pests and unwanted vegetation are used, does not exceed plots determined in the National Forest Area Expansion Program 2012-2020.
- 8. Preparation of an inventory and recommendations for management and
- restoration of endangered or degraded forest ecosystems.



Please describe a successful example of climate change adaptation measures implemented in your country/by your organization

The National Forestry Sector Development Programme for 2012–2020 sets the task to increase forest coverage up to 34.2 % of the country area. Therefore it is expected to afforest 30 000 ha of unused land and land unfit for agriculture until the year 2020 (from 2011 inclusive) or to afforest 3 000 ha per year.

In the period 2007-2013 with a financial support from Rural Development Program 2007-2013 the area of 17.2 thous. ha was afforested and additional 3.6 thous. ha were afforested in 2014, 2,6 thous. ha in 2015 and 2,0 thous. ha in 2016.



Is there a national strategy on adaptation of forests to climate change?

Strategy for the National Climate Change Management Policy until 2050 and Inter-institutional action plan on the implementation of the Goals and Objectives for 2013-2020 of the Strategy for the National Climate Change Management Policy.

The Strategy covers adaptation and mitigation policies and sets short-term (by 2020), indicative medium-term (by 2030 and 2040) and long-term (by 2050) climate change mitigation and adaptation goals and objectives in the several Lithuania's economy sectors, among others and rational use of national resources (forstry, ecosystems, biodiversity, landscape).

According to the National Forestry Sector Development Programme for 2012 - 2020 and Interinstitutional action plan on the implementation of the Goals and Objectives of the Strategy for the National Climate Change

Management Policy, up to 15 thous. ha of not suitable for agricultural purposes land should have been afforested.



What are major challenges related to climate change and forests in your country/organization?

To find a balance between a cost-effective forestry (based on the use of forest-based timber and timber products) and public expectations for forest management in the context of climate change.

In Lithuania the potential of use of biomass, especially of felling residues, is still poorly exploited. Wood fuel potential accumulated in Lithuania's forests is not fully used in the country's energy sector. The biggest part of this not used potential is in softwood broadleave stands as they are used not intensively enough, also in felling residues in private forests, pre commercial thinnings. There is possibility to use additionally about 1 mill. cubic metres of such wood each year. However, using part of this potential is not economically beneficial and requires financial support.

Additionally, approximately 95 per cent straw pellets are exported and not used in domestic market.

