April 14, 2004, № 256,
Bishkek, Government Building

Decree
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

On approval of the Concept
Of forestry development in Kyrgyz Republic

In accordance with item 2 of the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the new national forest policy in the republic" of October 6, 1998 №300, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic hereby decrees:

1. To approve the supplemented Concept for development of the forestry sector of the Kyrgyz Republic.

2. The State Forest Service of the Kyrgyz Republic jointly with the ministries, state committees, administrative agencies, and local self-government bodies shall develop the National Forest Programme for the period until 2015, the five-year Action Plan for the period from 2006 to 2010 taking into account the strategic lines laid down in the Concept for development of the forestry sector of the Kyrgyz Republic, and before January 1, 2005 shall submit the above-mentioned documents in accordance with the established procedure for approval by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

3. To declare null and void:

– Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic of May 31, 1999 №298 "On approval of the Concept for development of the forestry sector of Kyrgyzstan ";

– item 5 of the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic of August 3, 2002, №523 "On amending certain decisions of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic".

4. The control over implementation of this Decree shall rest with the Division for development of the agroindustrial complex and nature management of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic

N. Tanayev, Prime Minister

Approved on April 14.2004

Concept
Of forestry development in Kyrgyz Republic

Concept for forestry development established for the period till 2025 provides the directions for reforms being introduced in an open way, considering the need for a broad involvement of the local population in the forests' management with the aim of promoting social and economic development in the region and forests' conservation through sustainable and multifunctional use.

Forests of Kyrgyzstan

Forests are the national wealth in Kyrgyz Republic. They are in the State ownership and may play an important role in the development of economy and improvement of ecological conditions of environment.

Forests in Kyrgyz Republic form a unified State Forest Fund (hereinafter SFF), which comprises both forested areas and lands which are not covered with forests but intended for forestry purposes.

Annual amount of timber received by the leshozes makes about 50 000 cubic meters. The harvested timber is processed locally in a traditional way and it is obvious that this amount cannot satisfy the needs of the country.

Regardless of differences existing between spruce forests, located mainly in the North of the country, walnut-fruit and artcha stands in the South and riverside forests, all of them have a significant protective function and great ecological importance for water shed regulation and also for multiplication of diversity of wild flora and fauna by ecosystems.

Human pressure, considerably increased over the recent past, caused by illegal fellings and firewood cutting, and also uncontrolled cattle grazing, has inflicted substantial damages to the forests, as a result, the forest covered area has almost a 1\3 decrease, comparing to the 1930s.

Forest legislation of the past decades which banned forest regeneration fellings in the forests, did not promote forestry development. Low interest in conservation of forest plantations, lack of creation of industrial plantations with fast growing species, insufficient nurseries development and planning, badly organized collection and processing of forest fruit and berries together with medicinal herbs, resulted in the restriction of forestry contribution in the economy of the country.

As a result of intensive development (until recently) of cattle, forest resources has considerably decreased. Due to unsustainable use of available rich forest resources and insufficient development of ecologically sound branches of economy, such as ecological tourism health and sport facilities etc, their potential possibilities were not sufficiently used for economic development of the country and raising life standards of population.

For Kyrgyz Republic increase, conservation and regeneration of the country's forest resources is a matter of strategic importance, which lays down the foundation of the State's image , increase of its economic and ecological potential.

Sustainable use and conservation of the mountain forests is a moral duty and primary concern of every citizen of Kyrgyz Republic.

Development of the forestry sector in 1999-2003

For implementation of the National Concept of Forestry Development, a new Forest Code was elaborated and adopted in 1999, providing an improved framework for the whole forestry sector, giving more responsibilities and a new status for forestry staff in the field of forest protection and conservation.

Resulting from reforestation activities and transfer of the former kolhoz and sovhoz lands, the total area of the state forest fund has increased. New specially protected areas and other structural subdivisions have been established as state bodies authorized by the government for the issues of forestry sector development.

State Forest Service (hereinafter SFS) since November 25, 2001, has become an independent structure with increased functions and responsibilities as the republican state body for nature conservation in Kyrgyz Republic in the filed of protection, use and regeneration of the objects of flora and fauna. The reform of leshozes was introduced and developed into the general forest sector reform, when a forest ranger was declared a key person. Evaluation of the first 5 years of the new forest policy implementation in the republic has been carried out.

Generally speaking, during the past 2 years, there is an increase of the state budget financing of forestry sector. Forestry sector was exempted from main taxes, and now, there is a possibility for re-investment of generated special means for forestry development.

National Programmer LES, approved in November 2001 by Decree of the government of Kyrgyz Republic, on the approval of LES Programme, № 715, dated November 17 2001, is a specific action plan with the specified activities to be carried out in the period 2001-2005 and the relevant resources needed,. It was the main instrument for implementation of the National Concept of Forestry Development.

As a modern tool for forest inventory and management planning, a new Forest Inventory Unit and GIS laboratory were established and equipped up to date. New methods for forest inventory and planning activities have been developed and specialists trained. First results, as new forest management plans, have been prepared.

For education and training of the future forestry sector staff, the chair of silvicuture was established in Kyrgyz Agrarian University, vocational training schools for foresters and joiners were supported for new curricula and methodological aspects.

Involvement of the local population in the forestry sector has increased through the development of leasing and collaborative forest management (hereinafter CFM) relations, and introduction of private forestry activities: such as nurseries, creation of forest plantations, harvesting and processing of timber and non timber forest products, etc.

The interest to the forestry sector from international donors has increased. The lobbying of forestry interests in legislative and executive bodies from local structures to the Parliament have been strengthened due to increased number of the forestry representatives at all the levels of power.

- Under the conditions of market economy

Forestry, same as other sectors of the economy in the country, needs to be adapted to the changing policy and social - economical environment. (Commercial approach, bottom-up planning procedures, stakeholders' participation, link with private activities, etc).

According to the Law of Kyrgyz Republic "On Decentralisation and privatization of the State ownership in Kyrgyz Republic", state property, being used in the forestry sector have started to be consecutively transferred to private ownership.

There exists a good potential for forestry development in Kyrgyzstan. There are lands appropriate for afforestation; there is a big standing stock in the forests, professional level of forestry staff, as well as permanent involvement and interest of the State.

At the same time, there are still unsolved issues

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The Forest Code does not consider all the aspects of the new National forest policy. Therefore the actual legislation does not fully follow all the needs of changing conditions and is not fully translated into a coherent set of normative legal acts, rules and practical regulations which should be a basis for a concrete application.

The National LES Programme defines objectives and activities with poor consideration of reality and potentials, because bottom-up planning procedures were not correctly applied.

Due to economic instability, the human pressure on the forests has increased and the link between foresters and local population is very poor, occasionally leading to conflict situations. The relations of foresters with local authorities and local population did not reach a constructive level yet.

The coordination of forestry sector collaboration with other related ministries and agencies is not effective. Peculiarities of the forestry sector are not always considered the general administrative and legal documents.

Regardless of the increase of the acreage of forest plantations, their preservation, maintenance and inventory are at an insufficient level. Quantitative indicators are not transferred into qualitative ones. There is no system for coordination and monitoring. User-friendly data base system is not available either.

Leasing of the lands form the SFF is increasing, but not all the leasing-related aspects are defined (taxation, contracts etc.) There is no common understanding of CFM concept thus leading to misinterpretation and violations.

Generally material-technical basis of the forestry sector is very poor and outdated and there is still a very high dependency of the forestry sector from financing mechanisms for budget allocation and additional financing from international donors. Re-investment into the forestry sector is not always rationally implemented. Cases of violation of financial discipline are still current.

With new function of SFS, requirements to the professional level of the staff have increased, and they are not always met, due to the lack of training and also because of a not always fare and objective employment policy.

There are still cases of duplication of functions, leading to an increase of staff number, insufficient introduction of new management methods and labour organisation in the forestry sector which does not correspond to the government requirements to the sector reform.

Among other difficulties there are: lack of financial and material-technical resources (critical budget for leshozes), the need for a technical adaptation which could guarantee a better link between conservation and use of the forests. Management structure, which is not corresponding to the modern reality, (excessive centralisation, heavy bureaucratic system), and not adapted legislation (too much repression instead of incentives), an excessive control from the powerful and controlling structures as well as uncoordinated interference of local authorities, do not promote effective functioning of the sector.

For the promotion of effective sustainable management of the forests for the benefit of the whole society permanent active engagement of the state and each citizen of the country, are of absolute importance.

Section 1. Main aims of the Forest Policy of Kyrgyzstan

The development of forestry as one of the leading branches of the national economy of Kyrgyzstan is based on a revised concept for forestry development, as a basis for a legislation, adapted to the changing economic environment and a new national forestry programme.

The Kyrgyz Forestry Concept is based on 3 corner stones: Forest, People and State.

1. Ensure the sustainable management of forests

For the conservation and regeneration of forest resources, the national forest policy is established with the Government support in order to ensure the conservation and use of the resources according to common principles of sustainable development adapted to the socio-economic situation in the country.

As most of the forests in Kyrgyzstan are mountain forests, a special attention needs to be given to their protective functions and to the conservation of forests bio-diversity.

Minding the fact that the majority of the forests of Kyrgyzstan are over-mature, new strategies in silviculture need to be continuously introduced into practice, promoting natural regeneration and improving their protective function through appropriate fellings and grazing regulation.

Creation of forest plantations on suitable lands, not being used in agriculture, should be continued. For the future increase of the national potential in wood production, industrial silviculture needs to be developed by planting fast-growing species. With the aim of conservation of forest species gene pool, parent plantations of economically valuable tree species need to be continuously created and forest seed business should be improved.

Multiple uses of forests and forest lands promoting sustainable forest management will be thoughtfully and step-wise introduced. Progressive increase of harvesting and processing of timber and non timber forest products will tend to satisfy internal needs of the country.

New methods of forest pests and diseases control will be introduced with priority given to biological methods. Forest protection against fires, illegal fellings and cattle grazing needs to be strengthened.

For planning and monitoring of forest complex activities and survey of the forests resources and forest inventory need to be conducted in all the forests of the country.

Considering this challenge, the role of science in solving complicated problems faced by forestry will increase. The research results will need to be tested and introduced into practice. Thus, the scientific research will be more applied, and the questions of introduction of scientific achievements will be solved quickly and without any bureaucratic delay. In order to increase the input of science in forestry, research and education will be co-ordinated and centralized and special attention will be given to professional training and enhancement of forestry staff.

2. Involve people and local communities in collaborative forest management

Forestry activities cannot be conducted without consideration of the needs of forest users . Forestry is to be considered in link with the global society, and in the frame of the new policy and new economic conditions. Conservation of the forest resource and development of the forestry sector should also be based on a complete responsibilisation of general population and stakeholders to forest management.

Many parties are actually interested in the development of new forms of economic activities, such as those related to forestry. One of the most valuable interests for the Government of Republic of Kyrgyzstan is the fact that population is weel realizing the necessity for forests conservation and regeneration. Therefore there should be promotion of transformation of the people's consuming attitude towards forests so that the population would realize that nature conservation needs participation of everybody.

It is necessary to promote active participation of individual persons or groups from private sector in forestry activities in order to ensure economic and social benefits from the forests.

The involvement of population and local authorities in forest management may be organized in different ways.

Collaborative forest management will be promoted as a basis for development of additional employment and poverty alleviation.

By Collaborative Forest Management we mean various types of processes and procedures aimed at unification and collaboration of different partners, public and private structures, associated in joint definition and implementation of activities for forest management.

A system of leasing of some parts of the SFF has been introduced since 1997. This system has to be improved in order to increase awareness and willingness of the rural population to conserve forest resources and thus contribute to realization of complex basis for Kyrgyz Republic development, National Strategy for poverty alleviation, social mobilization.

In the market economy conditions, the main production activities are conducted by private individuals or groups, and forestry sector is not an exception.

As forest is a common good providing services to all population, and the forest cycles are very long, much longer than a human generation, most part of the forests have still to be maintained in the State ownership.

Productive functions should be given into private hands, under certain technical and socio-economic and ecological conditions guaranteeing sustainable forest development for the future.

This private initiative is absolutely needed, for the development of new plantations with regionally suitable, fast growing economically valuable species to reduce the raw material dependence especially for construction and energy needs.

Seed bank should be created and specialized nurseries can be developed on a private or collaborative basis, in order to provide saplings to satisfy market demand.

Private initiative is also needed for the implementation of various tasks of harvesting, skidding, and processing of timber and non-timber products including various expertise services. As the final aim is the selling of the products in the market, only private structures can have a market-orientated strategy. In order to promote private enterprises, which have undertaken implementation of this task, ways of encouragement are to be clearly elaborated at the legislative level.

3. Role of State in the forestry sector

According to the new editing of the Constitution of Kyrgyz Republic, various types of ownership are guaranteed in Kyrgyzstan (private, state, municipal and other types of ownership) and considering that private activity will have more and more important role in the future, the role of State, which is still essential in the forestry field, has to be changed.

An important task for Kyrgyzstan is to redefine the role and responsibility of the State bodies in the implementation of forest policy, state control and monitoring of forestry branch in general, with simultaneous restriction of bureaucracy, excessive centralisation and ineffectiveness.

The national forest service needs to be maintained with a permanent adequate staff with special forestry background (education). Revision of SFS structure based on the functional analysis will guarantee implementation of the tasks defined.

The existence of independent territorial management units of SFS is a necessary condition for forestry development in Kyrgyzstan. Territorial management units are the right scale to implement forest policy on the field level.

To improve the role of forests in economy and society a forest sector reform will be continued. New rules in management, including access to and marketing of the forestry products and services, a system of economic valuation of forest products and pricing based on market principles, will be introduced. New book-keeping, accounting and managerial procedures will continue to be introduced, to promote effectiveness and creativity in the work.

Rights and duties of SFS personnel, together with the social protection, salary conditions and, more generally, all what is related to the conditions of quality execution of their

professional duties will be redefined basing on the results of functional analysis in the order defined by legislation of Kyrgyz Republic.

For successful forestry development, the activity of all the state structures should be co-coordinated with SFS both at the governmental and field levels. Inter-relations must be regulated between territorial management units and local administration.

Local authorities are interested in the results of forestry activities and thus it should be included into the regional plans. In order to motivate local authorities , they should be involved in collaborative forest management.

Other Ministries, agencies concerned need to contribute to the success of this reform.

Changes should be introduced into the State planning system, defining not only expected results, but also more flexible ways of achievement, which could be corrected and adapted in the course of implementation. New procedures will be introduced for decision-making between the State Forest Service and territorial management units.

Forestry Development Fund should be improved in order to play an important role in the effective implementation of the reform.

Section II the 10 strategic lines of the National forest policy

Based on the results of evaluation of the National Forest policy (1998-2003) and considering the 3 corner stones, Kyrgyz Concept for forestry development defines 10 strategic lines.

1 Ensure protection of all the forests and biodiversity in the country

With the aim of implementation of international conventions aimed at environment conservation, a special attention will be given to conservation of biodiversity, all flora and wild life.

The creation of specially protected natural territories should be based on rigorously defined and consecutive principles.

For example, the Walnut Forest Action Plan should be implemented in all its components to guarantee a sound management of the whole ecosystem in the region. Other similar plans for all types of forests (spruce, juniper and riverside) should be established.

Considering that controlling and regulating functions will be left with SFS, the service of state control, of forest protection and conservation needs to be re-organized and strengthened.

Control over all types of illegal activities in the forest will be strengthened.

Protective plantations in the places endangered by mud-slides and also on the lands not-used by the population should be developed.

Some forest regeneration activities (planting in difficult conditions) should be executed with the help of other ministries and agencies under a strict control from the forest management units.

A special service within State Forestry Service needs to be established to deal with the questions of disaster prevention from land and mud-slides and soil erosion by creating protective plantations and forest melioration. For this purpose a specific programme should be elaborated by State Forestry Service together with other ministries concerned.

2. Definition of technical norms for sustainable forest management

State Forest Service, with the assistance of forest science and international experience, will continue to define and implement the related technical norms and rules to ensure sustainable forest management in various forest categories in Kyrgyzstan. Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management will be defined. Guidelines for planning and monitoring will be given both to territorial forest management units and forest inventory service.

Inventory of all the forests in Kyrgyzstan should be implemented in due time, considering the periodicity relevant for each forest type. For the promotion of multifunctional forest resources use, new methods of integrated forest management need to be defined, with consideration of the needs of the local forest users.

Methods and techniques of fellings will be improved, especially for forest regeneration, depending on the specific features of the species and ecological conditions. Minimal silvicultural interventions will be defined according to the forest protection categories.

A special focus will be made on multipurpose management of forest resources, including hunting. fruit and berries harvesting and processing, honey-making and more generally all kinds of useful non-timber forest products. Forest use for the recreation purposes will be developed.

New advanced technologies, including computerization of silvicultural data and geographical information system, will be systematically introduced into forest management.

3. Transfer of productive activities to the private sector

Productive functions to be transferred to the private sector will be clearly defined through a functional analysis of the whole forest sector, with an objective to have SFS implementing only those which could not be transferred to the private sector.

The mechanism for transfer of selected productive functions to private sector should be elaborated. Priority directions could include the following issues: establishment of industrial plantations; production of planting material; maintenance of young forest plantations until their transfer to the forested area; harvesting and processing of timber and non-timber forest products, organization of hunting tours and development of ecological tourism, other types of forest use according to the Forest Code of Kyrgyz Republic.

Activities linked with regeneration of renewable nature resources: forest, vegetation and wild life – should be kept under the state management, with specialized professionals.

Support of unproductive activities carried out by the private persons eg. protective plantations, forest protection, fire prevention and control, nature conservation, will be considered as services and paid by the state.

Development of specified entrepreneurs' activities, including afforestation of new lands, creation of plantations of fast-growing and economically valuable forest species, requires some specific regulatory decisions adopted at the legislative level.

Creation of private structures for implementation of forestry activities related with forestry complex, should be encouraged by local administration through special mechanisms.

For the development of private sector in forestry, special tax exemptions on water and land should be established for initial period under observation of certain conditions and with a control of forest management activities. Tax paid by privates should depend only on the amount of profit generated by their activity, and should be defined at a level which promotes sustainable development of related activities for the future.

4. Improve the system of collaborative forest management and leasing relations

Development of the system and principles of leasing and collaborative forest management introduced on a trial basis during the past years, needs to be further defined and developed for a better quality involvement of the local population in forest management.

For this purpose improvements may include legal aspects, changes to be reflected in the Les Programme, and improvements of the methods of work.

There is a need to assess the implementation of various legal documents, regulating different types of leasing relations and collaborative forest management, in order to introduce changes and amendments for a better mutual coherence and exclusion of contradictions of those texts and with the Forest Code of Kyrgyz Republic.

Different types of agreements depending of the different ecological and socio-economic conditions will be elaborated for forest covered and not covered lands, illegible for leasing. Related forest management plans for the activity of territorial management units will be formulated or reformulated in order to take into consideration new objectives and requirements.

Special conditions will be imposed for being eligible to become a partner in collaborative forest management, based on previous experience, including place of residence, knowledge on forestry practices and willingness and interest of forest users to conservation and regeneration of the forest.

A commission should be established at regional level in order to play a co-coordinating role in solving disputes, and in disseminating information on leasing relations and collaborative forest management among local population and authorities.

5 Rationalize forest service structure at territorial and national levels

All the forests and lands intended for being forested should be under observation of the state body for forestry management, in order to facilitate co-ordination of various activities towards development of multifunctional forest management.

State Forest Service should be maintained as the Republican National structure assisted by regional and local authorities, in charge of all public tasks related to forest management, and also regulation and control over all kinds of forest uses, flora, and fauna.

Local state administration will play a consultative role.

The central headquarters of State Forest Service should keep the strategic functions.

At central level, a new structure unit should be established to deal with monitoring and auditing, methodology, and co-ordination of international projects. In addition, a legal department will be set up.

A new distribution of functions will result in a situation where the SFS employees will focus on the main following functions: control, permissions, protection, forestry planning regulation and monitoring over all forests, regardless of types of ownership. Territorial management units will be established, with as a main task to co-ordinate the work of the different activities in the forest management

The planning system will be improved, while preparing of management plans, with consideration of both local conditions and needs strategic directions. The plan will define the means and not only the objectives to achieve, and will precise the modalities which will guarantee flexibility in means' use. Management decisions, including planning priorities, will be taken at the level of territorial management units of Forest service.

Official procedures for coordination of the work with other ministries, agencies and local administration, need to be stated.

6 Implementation of economic reform of structural management units

Improvement of structural management units of the State Forest Service will be continued to be improved with consideration of changing economic realities.

Based on the results of functional analysis, for the purpose of clarification of procedures for transfer of productive functions from State Forest Service to private sector, special guidelines should be prepared defining activities of territorial management units of Forest Service and private entrepreneurs, and common norms for both.

It is needed to define mechanism for re-investment of all the means generated from leasing of SFF lands, and from other types of incomes, as provided by the legislation of Kyrgyz Republic, to be exclusively used for forestry sector development.

Structural management units of State forest service will be authorized to sign contracts with private persons for the execution of specific works (seasonal works, harvesting, maintenance of nurseries etc.) A present system of norms and tariffs for work (considering the new economic conditions) will be introduced as well as the definition of the prices on the products depending on the market situation.

Accounting system of territorial management units will be re-defined and adapted to the changed functions and responsibilities' distribution. All kinds of financing will be done in time and in a transparent way. Computerization of accounting will be systematically introduced.

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7 Improve the status of Forest Service personnel

It is important in principle that forestry personnel in charge of implementing forest policy should be given all the rights and duties corresponding to the social importance of their tasks.

Material means, such as communication means or technical background, should be provided to the foresters. Stamps, uniforms, personal batches and registered weapons will be attributed to the forest personnel depending on the need and position

To consider the question of including forestry personnel into the register of civil servants of Kyrgyz Republic. In order to increase motivation of forestry personnel a system of special annual bonuses, depending on special achievements and annual results, will be leaborated.

At the same time activity of all the forest service staff will be strictly controlled by authorized state bodies through systematic inspections in the order defined by the legislation of Kyrgyz Republic.

Staff employment should be done according to the order defined by the legislation of Kyrgyz Republic based on an open competition with commonly accepted criteria, including technical background, professional qualities and personal aptitudes.

At each level of the forestry service it is needed to elaborate technical, certification of competence, qualification requirements approved at the Government level, and officially defined as the minimum requirements for employment. Special contracts will be established for the workers of all the levels of State Forestry Service.

A transparent system will also be guaranteed in order to have fair carrier among SFS employees.

There is a need for creation of a personnel data base, and definition of a global strategy for a better staffing.

8. Improvement of forest research and education

Implementation of forest policy requires a new type of knowledge, new approaches and work methods at a high professional level and preparation of high level forest officers. In order to promote a system of permanent courses for enhancement qualification and re-training, the link between SFS and training institutions should be strengthened.

For this purpose, State Forest Service will support Chair of silviculture of Kyrgyz Agrarian University and vocational training schools providing training to forestry specialists of medium level. The number of students should be defined annually considering precise needs from the state forest service. Curricula will be re- defined according to the new tasks of forest service in order to promote the increase of professional level and commitment of educated specialists.

Based on the results of functional analysis State Forest Service will develop a retraining programme and system for permanent enhancement training courses. Foresters presently working for the forest service at various levels need to be trained continuously to the new technical aspects of their tasks. This should become an obligatory condition for carrier promotion of regular forestry personnel.

A joint scientific and technical council responsible for monitoring and coordination of applied research should be established. Elaboration of norms and rules regulating economic activity of the productive units in the forestry sector will be executed by research institutions. A special programme of recruitment and training of young scientists at the international level will be established to support this scientific strategy.

A data base of forestry information should be created at the State Forest Service containing the information on technical, ecological, social and economy aspects for the forestry sector of Kyrgyzstan.

9. Improve efficiency of funding system for forestry sector

Funding of forestry sector should be reviewed considering new rules for allocation of the state budget. All financial means formed from forest use should be re-invested through the Fund for Forestry Development.

The Fund for Forestry Development should provide some means for the achievement of planned programmes in the forestry sector. It will give different types of grants to privates and subsidies to territorial management units for the purposes of forest regeneration and nature protection measures on the basis of justified calculations. All the means will be exclusively used for financing priority forestry activities expressly defined in the National Programme LES

Due to the long term nature of forest regeneration, restricting possibilities for immediate income the Fund for Forestry Development will be authorized to receive some assistance from private persons, donors and international agencies and other sources, not prohibited by the legislation of Kyrgyz Republic, according to pre-agreed selected programmes.

The management board of the Fund for Forestry Development should include representatives from stakeholders and report on its management each year before the Government and the Parliament. Additional funding given separately by donors will be mentioned into its report.

-10 - Raise public awareness on forestry-related issues

To explain importance of mountain forests to the population, means of mass media should be systematically employed.

The structural management units of State forestry service should be in charge of planning information dissemination among population in order to increase the consciousness for protecting forests. Through mass media and on a regular basis State Forest Service, will be regularly providing information on topics related to conservation and regeneration of forests. Any initiative in publishing forestry related information should be promoted.

Regular TV programmes will be devoted to commonly useful and benefiting role of forestry, promoting nature conservation and local development.

Preliminary preparation of local population for implementation of different types of forestry and silvicultural activity is needed.

Territorial management units will involve the local population in the planning of their activities and dissemination of information on achieved results. Public works, where local population is involved for the creation of forest plantations and forest protection and conservation on a contract basis with the territorial management units of forestry service, will be

used for spreading information about importance of the forests. Local authorities will be also in charge of disseminating information about the importance of the forests and forestry activities

School forest ranges and nurseries should be supported by territorial management units of forest service through providing seeds and saplings and technical advice.

An effective information-communication network within the forestry sector, including data base, should be established.

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National forest policy of Kyrgyzstan is developed in line with socio-economic environmental objectives of the country within framework of the programme for sustainable human development and poverty alleviation, social mobilisation and fare management.

Concept for forestry development in Kyrgyzstan is to be considered as the basis for elaboration of legal instruments, including the revision of the Forest Code of Kyrgyz Republic, and related by-laws. Harmonization of the basic legal documents on forestry and nature conservation needs to be done systematically.

The Concept will give the basis for a new type of planning the forestry activities and public action in the country after the year 2005. A National Forestry Programme (with a 10-15 years vision) giving the concrete strategic framework, derived from the Concept for forestry development, needs to be elaborated as a basis for defining the next 5 years Action Plan for 2006-2010. The Action Plan is to be established through a rigorous procedure, and discussed and agreed upon with related ministries and agencies and other stakeholders.

After 5 years of national forest policy implementation, an evaluation of the achievements should be made with a report presented and some inflexions can be proposed for the next years.

The forestry sector in Kyrgyzstan is undoubtedly beset with a considerable number of problems for the solution of which the Concept for Forestry Development has been defined for the period till 2025 years through a national participatory process and declared as an official statement at the highest level of the State.

The basic content of the National Forest Policy defined by the Concept for Forestry Development should be disseminated among the broad public of Kyrgyzstan for promotion of their conscious and active involvement in the implementation of the National forest policy for the benefit of all citizens.

The countries bordering with Kyrgyzstan will be informed about the Concept for Forestry Development for the establishment of mutually benefiting coll