



GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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Land use management and energy efficiency are the main areas of USAID's climate change activities in Russia. The FOREST Project promotes sustainable forest management and the preservation of Russia's vast forests as an important buffer against climate change. In the energy sector, the ROLL program's energy efficiency activities are helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby mitigating climate change.

Background. Russia is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. It holds major reserves of oil, gas, and minerals. Vast forests – 22% of the earth's forested land – absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, serving as a “carbon sink” that is vital to global environmental balance. They are also the habitat for rare and important biodiversity. These natural resources are keys to much-needed economic growth, but exploitation and poorly planned economic development cause environmental problems that have extracted exorbitant costs. Caused by economic expediency within Russia, the deleterious effects of these problems range across national boundaries. They affect the health, standard of living, workforce productivity, and commercial and industrial efficiency of the Russian people and country. They also affect the entire world's natural resource systems and climate.

USAID/Russia's goal is to work in partnership with Russians to build a market-oriented and socially responsible democracy through the adoption and use of democratic norms, free-market mechanisms, and modern approaches to public health and child welfare. While USAID works at many levels of government and with many sectors of society, the ultimate customers and beneficiaries are the Russian people, with particular attention to the needs of women and youth.

USAID/Russia's program focuses on:

- Supporting economic reform and improving economic infrastructure
- Strengthening small business and the investment environment
- Strengthening democratic institutions
- Improving health services
- Promoting environmental protection
- Strengthening local governance

Sector-Specific Climate Change Activities. Through environmental programs, USAID and its Russian partners have a mechanism to increase environmental protection in Russia, fuel economic growth through environmentally sound use of resources, and promote democracy at the grassroots level by allowing citizens to influence local decisions. These programs focus on sound natural resource management, prevention of pollution, strengthening of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the policy framework needed to support progress in these areas. They help build trade linkages between the United States and Russia, increase

USAID's partners in climate change activities in Russia include*:

- Institute of Sustainable Development
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- World Bank Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
- European Union
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Governments of Finland, Germany, and Japan
- European Union
- World Wildlife Fund
- U.S. Forest Service

* Because partners change as new activities arise, this list of partners is not comprehensive.

employment opportunities for indigenous peoples, add value to Russia's timber and non-timber forest products, and contribute to healthier living conditions for Russia's citizens. They also enable Russians and Americans to work together on environmental problems that are transboundary threats, such as pest control, forest fires, and resource depletion.

USAID/Russia's Forest Resources and Technology (FOREST) Project and its Replication of Lessons Learned (ROLL) program support USAID's Global Climate Change Program in the areas of land use management and energy efficiency.

FOREST Project. The major goals of the FOREST Project are to reduce the threat of global climate change and preserve biodiversity by promoting sustainable forest management and preserving Russian forests as a globally important carbon sink and critical habitat for rare and endangered species. The Project is achieving these goals by focusing on four technical components – forest fire prevention, pest management, non-timber forest products and secondary wood processing, and renewable energy alternatives.

During the first three years of the FOREST Project, the “forest fire prevention” component developed and implemented a scientific and systematic approach to changing behaviors in the Russian Far East and Siberia in an effort to reduce the number of forest fires caused by humans. The component consisted of four tasks:

- The general awareness program
- Training to strengthen foresters' communications skills
- The forest fire prevention school program
- Campaigns for targeted groups

The Project's fourth and fifth years present a new challenge for this component – to build on the success of the first phase and systematically institutionalize the initiative at the federal and regional levels of the Russian government. The outcome of this institutionalization will be sustained replication of the program throughout Russia, resulting over the long term in a reduction of forest fires caused by humans.

The FOREST Project introduced an integrated “pest monitoring” system to track forest Siberian moth populations and thereby increase the capacity of the Ministry of Natural Resources to prevent outbreaks of this pest over large areas. Implementation of this monitoring system began in Siberia in 2001 and in the Russian Far East in 2002. The pest monitoring team currently is monitoring eight oblasts (regions) in these two areas. Monitoring for Siberian moth is extremely important not only for saving Russian forests but also for protecting forests outside of Russia. In light of past experience with the introduction of the Asian gypsy moth into the United States via grain ships arriving from several ports in the Russian Far East, it is in the best interest of the U.S. economy to monitor

for incipient outbreaks. This includes the Siberian moth and resultant activity by wood-boring insects in the Primorski and Khabarovski kraia and Sakhalin oblast. Accordingly, the Primorski and Khabarovski Krai Centers for Forest Protection and the FOREST Project initiated monitoring in all of these areas in the Project's second year.

The FOREST Project will continue guiding its current partner companies in the design, construction, and testing of biomass systems. The biomass team will conduct site visits, provide focused technical assistance, hold design review sessions, and assist with bid documents, equipment procurement, and acceptance testing. The design review sessions will bring Russian consultants, design firms, company technical personnel, potential equipment suppliers, and foreign experts together to address technical design and construction issues. These sessions will be instrumental in moving biomass energy projects forward and in expanding the skills of Russian specialists in the region through cooperation and collaboration among companies. FOREST has collaborated with several companies in implementing biomass energy projects in Russia. Opportunities clearly exist to identify new approaches for improving and modifying the sale and service of Russian biomass energy equipment.

ROLL Program. ROLL is a unique program that supports effective low-cost projects to help Russian NGOs, local governments, and businesses respond to the needs of their communities and improve the environment in which they live. ROLL has administered hundreds of projects that have fostered intersectoral and interregional cooperation and improved the lives of millions of Russians. The results are astounding – from the Northern Caucasus to the far corner of Kamchatka, ROLL grantees have achieved new solutions to age-old problems. The program operates on the belief that communities can help themselves by networking and sharing information with one another. Encouraging people to learn from and build upon the successes of others in their own country is often more cost-effective and credible than using outside experts.

ROLL's energy efficiency program piloted 16 energy efficiency grants in the Volga region in 2001 and 2002. A comprehensive analysis of these projects has been completed and has found impressive results. A total savings of \$275,000 for the first project year has been achieved (an average of \$17,187 per project). If fuel prices increase, this savings figure will be even higher next year. Each of the municipalities involved in this project could easily save over \$100,000 in a five-year period. A total of \$380,000 in cash and in-kind contributions was received by grantees in addition to the grant money provided by USAID. Emissions that adversely affect human health and contribute to greenhouse gas/climate change factors decreased by an average factor of 2.5. In addition, municipal administrations have implemented new initiatives such as park renovations and school improvements with the savings achieved in their respective ROLL projects. Each result is a major achievement, and in

combination the results are remarkable. USAID/Russia is proud of the positive and concrete changes brought about by ROLL's energy efficiency program.

For more information on Russia, visit
USAID/Russia's Mission Web site at:

- <http://www.usaid.ru/>