



Director _____ P. Majewski

Silver Taiga Foundation

Progress report for 2011

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1. High Conservation Value Forests (Y. Pautov)

Objective:

1.1. To search and strength compromise solutions on conservation and sustainable use of pristine forests in priority regions of the Komi Republic and to spread positive experience in Arkhangelsk region.

Planned activities:

Koigorodok region

1.1.1. Continuation of negotiation process on enlargement of the planned Koigorodok National Park area by resignation from leasing area by logging company MayskiLes.

1.1.2. Agreement on strategic and middle-term projects aiming for establishment and common planning of Koigorodok National Park in the Komi Republic and Reserve “Nurgush-Tulashor” in Kirov region.

1.1.3. Development of proposals on infrastructure and trails for ecotourism in both areas.

Udora region

1.1.4. Continuation of multi-stakeholder process about protection and use of Timan, Pyssa, Karpogorskij and Verhnievashkinskij Massifs of large, untouched areas.

1.1.5. Development of proposals about establishment (also enlargement, connecting) of regional Protected Areas within Timan, Pyssa, Karpogorskij and Verhnievashkinskij Massifs of large, untouched areas and submitting the proposals to relevant ministries, state agencies and other interested organizations.

1.1.6. Analysis of current situation about leasing and leaseholders of neighboring areas of untouched massifs of pristine forests in the Komi Republic and Arhangel'sk Oblast – together with WWF branch in Arkhangelsk.

1.1.7. Participation in pan regional Working Group on establishment of Protected Area in Verhnievashkinskij Massifs of pristine forests on the border of Komi and Arkhangelsk regions – together with WWF branch in Arkhangelsk.

Other regions

1.1.8. Actualization of maps of pristine forests, based on remote sensing, for Kniazhpogost, Ust Vym, Ukhta, Sosnogorsk and Troicko-Pechorsk rayons of the Komi Republic.

General comments:

1.1. Search and strengthening of compromise solutions region by region.

In 2011 the main attention was paid to development of proposals on creation of new regional Protected Areas (reserves) and thereby conservation of large massifs of HCVF in the Udora region on the boarder between the Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk region. Silver Taiga Foundation organized 2 expeditions to Karpogor and Pyssa massifs of HCVF within the framework of collaboration with UNDP –GEF project in the Komi Republic. The experts of the Arkhangelsk WWF office took part in the expeditions. Based on the results of the expeditions proposals on creation of the joint regional reserves on the territory of Pyssa and Karpogor HCVF massifs were worked out. The proposals were presented to UNDP project and the Ministry of Environment of Komi. The main part of the processed field materials was handed over to the Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” for correction of the GRID.

Detailed results:

- A. A moratorium on logging on the area leased by LLC “Karpagoryles” in the Karpogory massif of pristine forests – Chuprovskeye district forestry unit of Ermomskoye forestry unit of the Udora region, Komi Republic has been achieved (March of 2011)
- B. An expedition to the western part of the Karpogory massif of pristine forests (Ezhugsky complex reserve and the adjacent territory) has been organized. During the expedition the part of the massif with the most difficult access located in the basins of the rivers Zyryanskaya Ezhuga, Kurmysh, Severnaya Tsebyuga have been investigated. The expedition confirmed a high ecological value of this massif and its meaning for the traditional nature use by the local population, as well as a low economic efficiency of logging there due to the mass drying of the most productive spruce forests on the watershed areas. Based on the results of the expedition a report has been prepared and presented to the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center, Ural branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Creation of the Karpogory complex interregional reserve through the consolidation of the existing republican Ezhugsky and Puchkomy reserves by attachment of the most ecologically valuable central part of the Karpogory massif of pristine forests to them is recommended in the report. The recommendations on establishment of the consolidated reserve are also provided to the Ministry of Environment of the Komi Republic. The report and recommendations based on the expedition results are available on the website www.silvertaiga.ru (June – November of 2011)
- C. An expedition to the southern part of the Pyssa pristine forests massif has been organized (Sodzimsky complex reserve and the adjacent territory). During the expedition the part of the massif with the most difficult access located in the basins of the river Sodzim was investigated. The expedition confirmed a high ecological value of this massif and a low economic efficiency of logging there due to the mass drying of the most productive spruce forests on the watershed areas. Based on the results of this expedition and the previous expedition to the Pyssa massif of pristine forests carried out by the Foundation (2009-2010) a report has been prepared and presented to the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center, Ural branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Creation of the complex interregional reserve “Watershed of the rivers Pyssa and Sodzim” through the consolidation of the existing republican Pyssa and Sodzimsky reserves by attachment of the most ecologically valuable central part of the Pyssa massif of pristine forests to them is recommended in the report. The recommendations on establishment of the consolidated reserve are also provided to the Ministry of Environment of the Komi Republic. The report and recommendations based on the expedition results are available on the website www.silvertaiga.ru (June – November of 2011)
- D. Joint consultations with the Arkhangelsk Office of WWF were carried out with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Timber Industry Complex of the Arkhangelsk region (Yu.Trubin) and lease holders of the Verkhne-Vashka massif of HCVF in the Arkhangelsk region. The consultations were devoted to the issue of granting to this massif a status of interregional Protected Areas. Negotiations are ongoing.
- E. Jointly with the Arkhangelsk Office of WWF the new boundaries of the moratorium in the Verkhne-Vashka pristine forest massif were agreed with OJSC “Ilimseverles”, OJSC “Lesozavod № 2”, LLC “Krasnoborskles” leasing the forest fund in the Verkhne-Vashka massif of HCVF (in the Arkhangelsk part of the massif)
- F. A meeting with the Deputy Director of LLC “Lesozavod №1” (Priority investment project) renting the forest fund in the Verkhne-Vashka massif of HCVF (in the Komi part of the massif) was conducted. During the meeting justification of the value of this HCVF massif was presented to the management of the enterprise and they were suggested to cancel the lease of the most valuable central part of the Verkhne-Vashka massif. On the 23 of September of 2011 Managing Director of Lesozavod №1 F. Ibragimov addressed Silver Taiga Foundation with an official letter containing the requirement “to cancel the status of HCVF on the part of the

- Verkne-Vashka massif rented by the enterprise”. In response Silver Taiga Foundation sent a reasoned answer with a proposal to Lesozavod №1 to cancel the lease of this part of the massif. The negotiation with the management of LLC “Lesozavod №1” was not continued yet (June – October of 2011)
- G. Two meetings with the management of CJSC “Centrwoodkom” (Deputy Managing Director V. Soldatenkov, Managing Director S. Voznyak) leasing the forest fund used for the priority forest project in the Ust-Kulom, Ukhta, and Ust-Vym regions of the Komi Republic have been held in view of the intentions of CJSC “Centrwoodkom” to certify the forest management in accordance with the FSC system. The maps with the indicated HCVF in these regions have been presented to the management of the enterprises and collaboration within the framework of preparation to certification was suggested to them (August – September of 2011).
- H. Consultations with E. Tarsova – Director of Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve in the Kirov region have been carried out. From the southern side the territory of this reserve is adjacent to the planned “Koygorodok” National Park. Materials containing justification of establishment of the Koygorodok National Park and creation of the cluster “Tulashor” were presented to the management of the reserve. Negotiations about development of a joint management plan for control over both protected areas were stopped in 2011 due to the fact that the land allocation for the newly organized Tulashor cluster of the reserve adjacent to the planned Koygorodok National Park. The Nurgush reserve does not yet have any specialists responsible for the new cluster of the Tulashor reserve (March of 2011).
- I. Negotiations with the audit company “Forest certification” and management of OJSC “Mayskles” renting a part of the Koygorodok massif of HCVF in the Letka forestry unit of the Komi Republic devoted to the cancellation of a lease on the area of Mayskles where the moratorium on logging was imposed. In December of 2011 and January of 2012 negotiations were continued within the framework of recertification of OJSC “Mayskles”. Decision about cancellation of a lease has not yet been made due to a complicated procedure of transfer of the leased forest fund part for the planned new federal specially protected natural area.
- J. A base field camp has been prepared in the Northern part of the planned Koygorodok National Park for organization of educational excursions to the pristine forests of the National Park (August of 2011)
- K. An educational tourist route 8 km in length along the northern part of the Koygorodok National Park has been prepared. A 2-day field excursion for the group of foresters from Latvia was organized in the Koygorodok National Park (August – September of 2011)
- L. A field ecological evaluation of two large HCVF areas in Ust-Nemskoye forestry unit belonging to the base leased by OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” (“red squares”) was made. Based on the evaluation materials the boundaries of the HCVF cores subject to conservation and an ecological framework in the selected “red squares” were agreed (jointly with LLC “Tefra” and Certification and Forestry Management department of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”)
- M. The results of the agreed decision on voluntary moratorium of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvksar” on the logging in the leased “red squares” of Ust-Kulom region of the Komi Republic were presented at the special UNDP project meeting in January of 2012 (jointly with LLC “Tefra” and Certification and Forestry Management department of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”)
- N. Presentation of the joint position of the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic and Silver Taiga Foundation in conservation of the large low-disturbed massifs of pristine forests in the Komi Republic at the international conference in Arkhangelsk – June of 2011
- O. Presentation of the practical experience of the Komi Republic in conservation of biodiversity at the international seminar BEPAN in Syktyvkar – June of 2011

- P. Participation in the Conference devoted to HCVF and presentation of the experience in conservation of HCVF in cooperating with international financial institutions – Moscow, December of 2011.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Koigorodok region
- Administration of Udora region
- Association of Wood Industry in the Komi Republic
- CJSC “Centrowoodkom”
- FSC Office in Russia
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- Greenpeace Russia
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center, Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- Koigorodok Forestry Unit
- Letka Forestry Unit
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Nature Protection of the Komi Republic
- Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Komi Republic
- National FSC Initiative in Russia
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” (Moscow)
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”
- Reserve “Nurgush-Tulashor” – Kirov
- UNDP-GEF Project in the Komi Republic
- WWF Russia

2. Ecosystem and landscape background for forestry and FSC planning (Y. Pautov)

Objective for 2011-2013:

2.1. To develop ecosystem and landscape base for planning in forestry and in certification purposes with use of GIS and Remote Sensing technologies.

Planned activities 2011:

- 2.1.1. Selection of suitable areas for testing and implementation of the project (basins of 2 rivers of middle size in lowland of the Komi Republic).
- 2.1.2. Establishment of data base for ecosystem-landscape planning considering selected areas and different scales (1:25000, 1: 50 000, 1:-100 000).
 - Topographic maps,
 - Materials from remote sensing,
 - Forestry maps,
 - Geological maps,
 - Landscape maps,
 - Hydrological maps,
 - Maps of current and planned road system,
 - Other relevant maps and related data.
- 2.1.3. Collection of historical data on traditional use of forest and other natural resources in selected areas.
- 2.1.4. Analysis of remote sensing data for evaluation of ecosystem and ecological characteristics of the landscape and for identification of water network of the basin.
- 2.1.5. Organization of regional seminar on “Methods of monitoring of flora and fauna on certified areas” together with FSC Russia and WWF Russia.
- 2.1.6. Development of draft on “Recommendations on monitoring of ecological values of forest on FSC certified areas” together with FSC Russia and WWF Russia.
- 2.1.7. Organization of regional seminar on “Planning of sustainable forest use on landscape base” together with “Green Forest” Foundation and Pskov Model Forest.

General results

Two territories were chosen for the project implementation. They are different in landscape, forest, typological, natural-historical views. First territory – basin of the river Sedka – first order stream of the river Luza in the Priluzje forestry unit of the Komi Republic. Second territory – basin of the river Yn – first order stream of the river Nem, which joins the river Vychegda in Ust-Nem forestry unit of the Komi Republic. For both territories space images, topographic maps, forest plans, taxation databases and other informational and cartographic documents were selected. There were field expeditions organized to each territory in order to evaluate relevance and accuracy of collected informational materials. As per the basin of the river Sedka an evaluation of topography description accuracy based on materials of radar mapping as well as accuracy of taxation values of standing timber according to the forest management materials and materials of the satellite observations with resolution of 5m was executed. Filed data are under processing. The main part of the processed field data was handed over to NP «Transparent world» for GRID correction.

Detailed results.

- A. Made a review of the ESA-project report on utilisation of radar satellite survey of the Earth for the purposes of landscape planning of forest management. Shown that radar observations provide low quality of standing timber taxation values determination, but quite acceptable quality of the territory relief evaluation with this method.
- B. Pilot territories for the landscape planning project were selected. The first territory – basin of the river Sedka – first order stream of the river Luza in Priluzje forestry of the Komi Republic. The second territory – basin of the river Yn – first order stream of the river Nem, which joins the river Vychegda in the Ust-Nem forestry of the Komi Republic.
- C. Collection and classification of different cartographic, forest management, historical materials and RSD for the pilot territories was carried out.
- D. 4 field trips to the selected pilot areas were organized. 3 trips – to the basin of the river Sedka in Noshulskiy district forestry unit of the Priluzje forestry unit (August – October 2011) and 1 trip to Smolyanskoe district forestry unit of the Ust-Nem forestry unit (September 2011)
- E. An evaluation of accuracy of forest stands taxation values determination based on the materials of forest management for both pilot areas was carried out. More than 60 quadrats with instrumental measurements of taxation values were involved (materials are under processing).
- F. An evaluation of the territory relief determination accuracy using different methods, including radar observations (68 GPS-points) was implemented in order to evaluate determination accuracy of absolute and relative height by different methods (data is under processing).
- G. 2 meetings with participation of TIF of the Komi Republic, consulting center «Tefra» and LLC «Tehkarta» as per organization of cooperation in the project on landscape planning (September – October 2011) were arranged
- H. Interregional seminar on the topic «Methods of monitoring of flora and fauna on certified territories» jointly with FSC Russia and WWF Russia was arranged on 27-28.01.2011.
- I. The 1st draft of the guidelines on organization of flora and fauna monitoring on certified territories - jointly with FSC Russia and WWF Russia was prepared. (March – May 2011)
- J. Participation in the interregional seminar of NGO on biology of nature and forest protection and joint planning of nature conservation activities in the city of Petrozavodsk (October 2011)

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Consulting center «Tefra» - Syktyvkar
- European Space Agency
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- Forest Institute in Syktyvkar
- FSC Russia
- Greenpeace Russia
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” in Moscow
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”
- Priluzje forestry unit
- Skanex – cartographic company – Moscow
- Tehkarta – cartographic company – Syktyvkar
- Territorial Fund of Information on natural resources and environmental protection of the Komi Republic
- Wildlife Fund “Green Forest” and Pskov Model Forest
- WWF Russia

3. Model River Mezen - Cooperation with local communities

(V. Semiashkina)

Main objective:

To restore fish resources in Model Rivers and to manage them sustainable way in cooperation with local population and other interested parties.

Detailed objectives:

- 3.1. To develop cooperation with local population based on awareness of existing problems and based on program of restoration of fish resources.
- 3.2. To inform society about problems with fish resources and about progress of Model River Project.

Planned activities:

Objective 3.1.: To develop cooperation with local population based on awareness of existing problems and based on program of restoration of fish resources.

- 3.1.1. Involvement of local population to participate in Model River project.
- 3.1.2. Securing benefits for local population outgoing from the program of fish restoration.
- 3.1.3. Working together with village cooperatives on sustainable management of river resources.
- 3.1.4. Working together with villages on their integration and on sustainable management of river resources.
- 3.1.5. Informative and educative work with local schools on sustainable use of natural resources, history of use of the resources, awareness of responsibility for the resources.
- 3.1.6. Information to local population by local newspaper about the project, problem analysis and discussion with local population.
- 3.1.7. Development and printing of booklets about the project objectives for all inhabitants of Udora region.
- 3.1.8. Providing detailed information about use of fish resources for river users.
- 3.1.9. Providing detailed information about results of monitoring of fish resources and the project progress.

Objective 3.2.:To inform society about problems with fish resources and about progress of Model River Project.

- 3.2.1. Publication of analytical papers in Republican and local newspapers.
- 3.2.2. Information assistance to the Model River project progress.
- 3.2.3. Organization of public discussion about problems of fish resources.
- 3.2.4. Cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

General results and comments:

Meetings and discussions with local population at the stage of project preparation showed that in the existing conditions of high unemployment and extremely low salaries of the local population, fish resources is a very important source of life support and survival for the local population. In addition, fishing is one of the main types of traditional activities of the local population. Meantime there are a lot of problems in the local nature use. They are related first of all with the fact that current laws do not take into account the interests of the local population, as a result traditional nature use is outside the legal field. Second, mindset of the local population complies with their position outside the legal field. They allow overfishing, run

exhausting nature use as they are equal in rights with arriving users of resources and in comparison with them they have less financial and technical possibilities to organize fishing. Besides the local inhabitants do not completely understand that resources are limited and they bear responsibility for their condition.

The roots causes of these problems are low living standards, poor information awareness of the local population, imperfection of legislation in respect of taking into account the interests and peculiarities of the lifestyle of local population. One more factor is the rooted within many years psychology of people as «conquerors of nature» and consumers of natural resources.

The work during the first year of the project implementation was organized with respect to these cause and effect relationship. The main task of this stage was to involve the local population into functional cooperation within the project framework on the basis of understanding of the problem, targets and objectives of the project, and also own long-term interests.

To fulfill this target the representatives of non-governmental organizations and local business entities (social movement «Komi Voityr», community «Udorachi», cooperative «AgroUdora»), as well as local self-government bodies representing a position and interests of the local population of the Udora region of the Komi Republic were included in the Working group. As the work group was created for detailed working out, planning and coordination of the project implementation process, its members representing the local population are involved in the project at all its stages – at the planning stage, joint discussions of detailed plans, and evaluation of the results of practical activities. Moreover, the most active representatives of local population directly participate in execution of the project activities: field expeditions, organisation and carrying out of informational meetings in the villages, informational and educational work with school children.

The first results in provision of an access to information about targets, objectives and activities of the project to locals population, local self-government bodies were achieved (meetings with population; publications in mass media).

Local population was given a possibility to participate in the discussions on the project topic and the project implementation: meetings in villages were held, meeting–dialogue on saving Atlantic salmon with participation of local community members took place, a discussion on the pages of thematic supplement to the Udora region newspaper was initiated. Both the activities arranged within the project framework, and already existing platforms (for example, meetings of the cooperative «AgroUdora») are used for this purpose.

Local initiatives aimed at organization and development of rural tourism as a possible option of sustainable management were supported within the framework of the project (an educational seminar and consultations for local population targeted at informational and methodic support of the initiatives were conducted).

To develop cooperation within the local community rural deputies were familiarized with the possibilities of the territorial public self-government, including introduction of the experience in self-government development in some villages of the neighbor region (Arkhangelsk region).

Informational and awareness raising work with schools was started. The contacts were established and the information exchange with the local self-government bodies of Leshukonskiy and Mezenskiy districts of the Arkhangelsk region started.

Detailed results:

- A.** Representatives of the local population are included in the project working group and participate in its work.
- B.** Meetings with the population of the villages located along the Mezen aimed at informing of the population about the project objectives and joint discussion of the situation (in villages Glotovo, Chernutyevo, Bolshaya Pyssa, Selyb, Politovo, Patrakovo). During a joint discussion of the fish resources condition a public opinion on the necessity to support protection and other parallel activities is gradually formed, which is important for further fulfillment of project objectives.
- C.** A core group and members of the cooperative «AgroUdora» were familiarized with the targets and objectives of the project, main fields of activities within the project framework; and they support initiatives of the project (a project presentation and discussion of its initiatives, as well as problems of the local nature use were discussed at the cooperative meetings, board meetings, during the meetings in villages where cooperative areas were established).
- D.** A seminar for village deputies on the issues of territorial self-government «Self-government as a condition for village sustainable development» was carried out, 25 participants (February 2011).
- E.** An educational seminar devoted to the topic «Organization of business in the sphere of rural and nature tourism» was conducted for guides and owners of guest houses of the Udora region, members of the cooperative «AgroUdora», 18 participants (May 2011).
- F.** 4 editions of the thematic Supplement to the newspaper of Udora region «Vyl Tuijod» were prepared, published and disseminated (jointly with editorial office). Quantity of each edition amounts to 3500 pcs.
- G.** 500 pcs. of each edition of the Supplement «Model River Mezen» was sent to the rural settlements of the Leshukonsky and Mezensky districts of the Arkhangelsk region.
- H.** Representatives of local population and Silver Taiga Foundation took part in the interregional congress «Introduction of effective mechanisms of cooperation between the authorities, business and civil society» (Karpogory, Arkhangelsk region, February 2011). The project was presented to the congress participants – representatives of Leshukonsky, Mezensky and Pinezhsky districts of the Arkhangelsk region and Udora region of the Komi Republic.
- I.** A competition among the school children creative works on the topic “River of my childhood” with further publication of the most interesting works was organized. The competition is aimed at attraction of the attention of young people and school children to the value and problems of the river Mezen and destined to contribute to understanding by the community of the river role in life of the local population, as well as understanding of the necessity of joint actions aimed at preservation of the Mezen, restoration of its resources and their further sustainable management.
- J.** Material for the publication «Komi of Udora and fish dialectic of the river Mezen» with retrospective analysis of the peculiarities of traditional nature use by the local population of the Udora region was prepared.
- K.** Materials for an informational booklet (handbook) about the rules of the river resources use were prepared (jointly with Udora department of FSA «KomiRybVod»). The booklet will be published in 2012.

- L. More than 20 publications about the project objectives and the project implementation process were made during 2011 in Republican mass media (in the newspaper «Komi Mu», on the web-site of the information agency «Komiinform», at the internet sites finnougr.ru, 7x7-journal.ru etc.).

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Leshukonsky region
- Administration of Mezensky region
- Administration of Udora region
- Agricultural consumer cooperative «AgroUdora».
- Children's art house (Usogorsk)
- Department of state control, supervision and protection of aquatic bioresources in Udora region.
- Editorial of the newspaper «Vyl Tuijod».
- Hunting and fishing society «Udorach»
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Syktyvkar)
- Komi State Academy of the Civil Service and Management
- Local community of indigenous people «Udorachi»
- Non-profit organization «Business training centre "Predprinimatel" (Arkhangelsk)
- Udora department of the FSA «Komi basin authority on fishing and conservation of aquatic biological resources (FSA «KomiRybVod»)
- Udora regional representative office of the inter-regional public movement «KomiVoityr»

4. Model River Mezen – Restoration of fish resources (P. Majewski)

Main objective:

To restore fish resources in Model Rivers and to manage them sustainable way in cooperation with local population and other interested parties.

Detailed objectives:

- 4.1. To establish functioning cooperation among interested parties.
- 4.2. To establish cooperation with local managers of different sections of the river and to supply them with necessary knowledge on fish resource management.
- 4.3. To select pilot sections of the Model River Mezen for detailed implementation of the project.
- 4.4. To determine method of monitoring of fish population and to measure starting level of fish population.
- 4.5. To develop recommendations on catch limit for different sections of the river.
- 4.6. To agree on efficient measures for fish protection, especially for Atlantic Salmon, and to support their implementation.
- 4.7. To contribute to organization of work on restoration of non-migratory fish.
- 4.8. To start project “Salmon Return” and to develop details of this project.

General comments:

1. Illegal fishing. Our 3 field expeditions covering more than 800 km of Mezen river revealed very high level of illegal fishing almost everywhere in the Mezen river and its tributaries. It is organized both by poor villagers which have not reasonable legal access to fishing and by new reaches enjoying illegal fishing. It seems that limitation of the illegal harvest is a condition number one for fish restoration project. With this level of illegal fishing any other management measures cannot give expected results. It seems that short- and long-term measures reducing illegal pressure on fish population should be next project priority.

2. Village access to fish resources. Current leasing system is providing two options: sportive fishing or commercial fishing. Both options do not fit to the need of local population which needs to fish for them self for sustaining reason and is not ready at this stage to invest into sport fishing or to organize commercial fishing on very remote areas. Currently it is solved the way that villages are fishing illegal way in accordance to their needs, contributing strongly to over-fishing and to destructive methods of fishing.

3. Regulations. At the same time whole river management is overregulated and untangled by rules which are not fitting to current situation. For example: 1) lease owner is not allow to control other fishermen on lease territory, 2) visitors to the lease area have more freedom in fishing than lease owner, 3) fishing quotas for lease area are based on hectares of water and not on real state of the fish population, 4) lease owner is obliged to use minimum 70% of quotas without consideration of population level and economic sense. Inadequate regulations and frequent changes in fishing rules make difficult any planning by local lease owners and by our project. Regulations are coming top-down with little consideration for local situation. In the field of management of fish resources by local managers our planning has been too optimistic. They are struggling mainly with paralyzing regulations; management of fish resources is far not priority for them at this stage. It seems that it should be the same conclusion for our project. First of all we should argue for

reasonable leasing conditions. Taking into account federal level of decision making it can be not easy. In this situation it is very important to be more united among river stakeholders, to bring more foreign experience and to publish in mass media the paradoxes of fish regulations.

4. Cooperation of main stakeholders. Despite of declarations main stakeholders are still far from cooperation and very far from common analyses and common programs. It seems that our project should put more attention to stimulate such cooperation.

5. Monitoring. It turns up that regular monitoring of fish resources does not exist. Monitoring standards are poorly developed and means allocated for this are minimal if any. We think that without adequate monitoring it will be very difficult to get and allocate funding and energy into management of fish resources. It seems that our project should work more in this direction in the future.

6. Salmon. This migratory species is over-harvested, mainly illegally, along migratory way. At the same time the salmon is treated here as king fish and rise up much of interest and emotions. Many citizens, fishermen and decision makers are aware and worried about collapse of river fish resources. Mass media are voluntarily passing messages, publications and programs initiated by the project. It seems that salmon can be a flagship species driving attention and effort in better management of fish resources.

Detailed results:

1. Partnership building. State Fish Agency “Komirybvod”, State Fishery Controlling Agency “Komirybnadzor”, cooperative “Agroudora” and representatives of local population became core group of organizations contributing strongly to the project. It seems also that local population and their representation (authorities, cooperative and NGOs) and both state agencies are seriously interested in sustainable management of fish resources. Agreement about cooperation has been signed between “Komirybvod” and Silver Taiga Foundation. Other agreement about cooperation of river stakeholders is under development. Other organizations either support the project, but they are going to participate without strong contribution, other are demonstrating interest, but they do not plan to contribute. Details above concern the Komi Republic. Potential partners from Arkhangelsk region, verbally are interested in the project, however they are not coming for meetings, even if it the travel costs are paid by the project. It seems that the project and Silver Taiga are not known enough in the Arkhangelsk oblast and we should go there with presentations to activate potential partners. It is especially crucial for salmon project because the salmon is harvested both in Mezen and on the White Sea under management of authorities of Arkhangelsk region. Contact with international organization North-Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) has been established.
2. Cooperation with lease owners of different sections of the river. The contact and first step of cooperation have been established with local cooperative Agroudora leasing some sections of the Irva tributary and with Udora branch of State Agency “Komirybvod” leasing 100 km section of Upper Mezen River. Both organizations are untangled by inadequate regulations and plagued by illegal fishing (see point 1, 2 and 3 of General comments). Without solving these constraints other fish management measures have not too much sense and should be shifted for more suitable days. Other sections of the river have been allocated yet, but new lease owners will meet the same problems as already existing.
3. Monitoring effort. Monitoring of fish population is a key issue for sustainable management of fish population. The monitoring of fish resources has been abandon or very limited in post-Soviet era. In the Mezen conditions there are potentially 4 main monitoring methods.

- A. Electro-fishing which is American and European standard for fish monitoring, but is not used in the Komi Republic.
- B. Fish sampling with net and rod.
- C. Inventory of salmon nests during spawning period used in many salmon countries and in the Komi Republic
- D. Recording fishing results.

Project is intending to introduce and stimulate monitoring as background for fish management. State Fish Agency “Komirybvod” is main interested organization. The method A, B and C were planned to be tested this year.

Method A, electro-fishing, the most promising, turned up to be the most difficult to be implemented. 1) Organization using this type of equipment should have special permission and the application should be made 14 months before fishing. 2) Equipment is produce abroad and to be imported needs custom special clearance because it is on the list of prohibited equipment and serious custom fee has to be paid. Organization buying this equipment should document research objectives and permission to use. Everything together was undoable before summer season and it is under question for next season.

Method B, fish sampling with net and rod, has been traditionally used in the Komi Republic. During summer season it has been tested during field expedition (10 participants +TV group of 3) in Aug 2011 with main support of Institute of Biology of RAC. Results of testing are presented in the report produced in Nov 2011 by fish researcher Alexander Zakharov. The methods have been consulted in the field by two fish biologists from Poland - Piotr Debowski and Tomasz Mikolajczyk.

Method C, inventory of salmon nests, has been made during field expedition (6 participants) in Sep 2011 covering Nizhniaja Puzla, Vierhniaja Puzla, Upper Mezen and Yolva Mezenskaya. Timing, costs, means and reality of the monitoring have been evaluated.

It seems that electro-fishing and salmon nest inventory are the most promising, however both of them need means, funding and devotion of the monitoring organization.

4. Field, overview expedition (4 participants), covering the Mezen River from Usogorsk to Sula outlet, tributaries of Kurmysh, Pizhma Mezenskaya, Nizma and Sula, has been organized in Jul 2011. The participants became acquainted with river and its tributaries, evaluated human disturbance with special attention to illegal fishing, overviewed tourist values and situation of the villages. Totally 463 km have been visited. Illegal fishing has been documented by photo and cartography due to unexpected frequency, size and undisturbed performance.
5. Salmon protection improvement. Support for **field expedition to remove stone barriers** build up for illegal fishing of salmon on Nizhniaya Puzla river has been provided. The barriers have been removed. **Working meeting on salmon protection improvement** has been organized in Nov 2011 in Syktyvkar. It gathered 15 participants from the Komi Republic and 1 participant from Arkhagelsk oblast.
A seminar on world and Baltic Salmon situation has been organized in Syktyvkar with two Polish fish biologists – Piotr Debowski and Tomasz Mikolajczyk - as lecturers, Aug 2011.
6. Cartographic and Photo data have been collected during field expeditions in Jul, in Aug and in Sep 2011.
7. TV program on fish resources and problems of their use and monitoring needs has been produced with support of the project in Aug 2011.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Udora region
- Cooperative “Agroudora” operating along rivers.
- Dept. of Ichthyobiology & Fisheries, Agricultural University in Cracow, Poland
- Federal Fishery Supervision of the Komi Republic – “KomiRybNadzor”
- Fish Resource Agency of the Komi Republic “KomiRybVod”
- Inland Fisheries Institute, Department of Migratory Fishes, Gdańsk, Poland,
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- Ministry of Agriculture for the Komi Republic, department of aquaculture and fishery.
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic
- NGO of Udora region – “KomiVoityr”
- NGO of Udora region – “Udorachi”

5. Forest communities and use of natural resources (V. Semyashkina)

Objective:

To provide an example of rural community integration around economic stabilization based on sustainable use of natural resources in the villages of the Komi Republic selected for the participation in the project “Forest Village”.

Objectives for 2011:

- 5.1. To improve the economic situation based on natural resources – approach adapted to local conditions.
- 5.2. To develop new methods of village integration and to establish positive examples.
- 5.3. To disseminate positive experience.
- 5.4. To support traditional rights for traditional use of natural resources by local communities.
- 5.5. To learn international experience of northern forest-based communities, including both indigenous and local populations in Canada and in Sweden within Circumboreal Initiative.

Planned activities for 2011:

- 5.1.1. Development of proposals for efficient use of local natural resources.
- 5.1.2. Sustainable management in forestry and its contribution to the local economy.
- 5.1.3. Support for protection and development of traditional use of natural resources.
- 5.2.1. Support, strengthening and dissemination of public review in forestry.
- 5.2.2. Organization of Forest Dialogue as a perspective platform for the cooperation of forest stakeholders.
- 5.2.3. Support for establishment and activity of the Community Forest Councils as a platform for cooperation of forest stakeholders.
- 5.2.4. Support for development of village self-government.
- 5.2.5. Support for dissemination of education and integration program “Village environment”.
- 5.3.1. Dissemination of gathered experience on local and regional levels.
- 5.3.2. Dissemination of gathered experience by a network of NGOs and by other initiatives.
- 5.4.1. Support for protection and development of traditional use of natural resources.
- 5.4.2. Support for the process of cooperation building between local communities and large industry based on sustainable development principles.
- 5.5.1. Participation in a seminar of Circumboreal Initiative during Global Forum in Spain.
- 5.5.2. Contribution to common planning of further cooperation.

General results:

January – April 2011 – final stage of the project **“Forest Village. Integration of Rural Communities around Economic Stabilization Based on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.”** The main activities during this period aimed at the supporting of the implementation of final recommendations, project best practices, and also business ideas of rural entrepreneurs, which appeared during the elaboration of project proposals, in project “forest villages”.

In order to promote economic stabilization in “forest villages”, the project continued to be implemented in three directions: a) contributed to the policy correction of large forest industry acting in rural districts towards recognition of local population interests and support of “forest village” economies; b) supported the possibilities of traditional nature use protection, which plays a very important role in local

population livelihood; c) helped inhabitants of forest villages to become familiar with new fields of work (contributed to rural economy diversification).

The project contributed to the development of cooperation between large forest industry OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” and local communities. Mondi Syktyvkar took the first practical steps for the implementation of recommendations of Forest Dialogue initiated by the project in December 2009, related to the development of business social partnership with rural districts. In particular, a standard agreement taking into consideration not only village social infrastructure support (as it had been earlier), but also, first of all, contributing to the creation of jobs in other sectors of economy instead of reduced ones in logging was executed. In accordance with the agreements concluded by Mondi Syktyvkar with all the rural municipal districts of the Komi Republic, on the territory of which the company is involved in logging operations, in 2011, more than a half of money (out of RUB 36 mln. in total) was steered to the development of small businesses and creation of new jobs (mostly in agriculture product processing). Also, the recommendation on the obligatory public consultation on project agreements and public control of their execution, organized by the interregional social movement “Komi Voityr” and indigenous people’s community “Udorachi”, was implemented. Such an approach was implemented for the first time in the whole history of socio-economic partnership contract conclusion between Mondi Syktyvkar and Komi Republic districts.

In 2011, activities supporting traditional forest use, which appeared to be important not only in one of the most remote pilot “forest villages” of Udora district (Bolshaja Pyssa), but also in other villages with a high level of unemployment and absence of transportation with the district center all year round, were continued. In 2011, geography of these activities was expanded including all the remote settlements of Udora district, and also a part of villages of Ust-Kulom district.

Activities connected with the development of local people’s familiarity with new fields of work aimed at the search of possibilities of economically viable use of non-timber forest products and organization of tourism in “forest villages”. On the basis of the analytical report “Investigation of non-timber forest products as an element of the economic base of villages in the Komi Republic” prepared within the project and results of the study tour to the Tomsk region, publications to the republican and Russian mass media were prepared. This turned attention of the republican ministries to inefficient use of non-timber forest products in the republic and positive experience of other regions. The issue of food forest product deep processing was discussed in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Komi Republic. As a result, entrepreneurs and companies purchasing from the population and processing wild-growing herbs were included in the list of those who can obtain state subsidies for technical re-equipment. Until recently, such subsidies could be received only by the enterprises producing and processing meat and milk. Subsidies can be provided on a competitive basis. Such financing will help rural entrepreneurs working in the mushroom-berry business to transfer from the intermediate functions to the processing of mushrooms and berries in the district, which will increase the efficiency of this type of nature use for the rural population. The first competition was held in the republic in June 2011. As a result of this competition, the subsidy for the technical re-equipment was received by several entities including Spasporub Consumers’ Cooperative (Spasporub is one of the project “forest villages”).

In 2011, new rural entrepreneurs – organizers of rural tourism - continued to be supported. A cycle of educational seminars (72 hours) for guest house owners and rural tour organizers was held in cooperation with the social movement “Indigenous Women of Komi” and Republican Academy of Civil Service. It will give a possibility to rural entrepreneurs to participate in competitions for receiving grants provided by the Komi Republican Ministry of Economic Development for tourism development.

The project contributed to the development of cooperation between settlement and village inhabitants and exchange of problem solving experience. Forest Dialogues, meetings and seminars of target groups of young people, rural women, teachers, deputies, and entrepreneurs from different “forest villages” contributed to the supporting, strengthening, and distributing of public opinion related to the issues of forest management and forest use. In 2011, Community Forest Councils, created in 2 rural districts, continued their activities. In cooperation with the Priluzje and Letka Forest State Units, an issue-related district newspaper The Lesnoy Sovet supplement was issued. At the initiative of the Chairman of the Komi Republic State Council, who underlined the positive experience of Priluzje Community Forest Council, similar social structures should be developed in other regions of the Komi Republic.

The project contributed to the development of contacts of rural inhabitants with other districts and regions (rural districts of the Arkhangelsk region), supported rural social initiatives, and developed rural residents’ interest to their villages (with the help of the distributed educational development program “Village environment”; support of pupils’ research; development of regional trips and tours; preparation of booklets related to the history of “forest villages”).

So as to support local government on the settlement level and on the level of separate “forest villages”, seminars and trips to the Arkhangelsk region were organized for getting acquainted with the experience of territorial public self-government. The project initiatives made the Komi Republic State Council pay attention to the necessity of territorial public self-government support. The issue was discussed at the hearings with the participation of municipality council chairmen in May 2011.

In addition to the educational program “Village environment”, which was implemented in rural schools with the help of the project, geography teacher E. Romaniuk (Pechora district), supported by the project, developed the Program of economic education for village children.

During the implementation of the project “Forest Village”, scientific and educational organizations, NGOs, business and state structure representatives united around its initiatives. Creation of such discussion grounds as Forest Dialogue and mutual actions aimed at project implementation allowed cooperating organizations to consider themselves representatives of one network, important for the public and able to influence on the situation.

Detailed results.

- A.** On the basis of local residents’ interviewing, in 2011 the role of traditional nature use in rural population livelihood was evaluated for 2 villages of Udora district (Vazhgort and Puchkoma) and 3 villages of Ust-Kulom district (Nizhniy Voch, Verkhniy Voch, Vol). The territories of traditional nature use important for local residents were mapped. This information was provided to a logging company. In case territories of traditional nature use coincide with the company leased territories, this will be taken into consideration in the harvesting process.
- B.** In Ust-Kulom and Priluzje districts, public discussion of the social partnership projects between municipal districts and Mondi Syktyvkar was organized in cooperation with local authorities and Mondi.
- C.** In Priluzje district, 4 issues of The Lesnoy Sovet – issue-related supplement to the local newspaper, where all the stakeholders, including local population, discuss forest management issues on the territory of their district (3.5 thousand issues, 1 printed sheet), were prepared and published.
- D.** A meeting of the project Working Group, settlement heads, and business initiative representatives from “forest villages” named “Local nature use activation projects in ”forest villages” was held (February 2011).
- E.** Business engineering training seminar and consultations for potential entrepreneurs from “forest villages”

- were carried out so as to prepare business plans for the participation in competitions for the Komi Republic Ministry of Economic Development subsidy (grant) reception.
- F.** In cooperation with the regional social movement “Indigenous Women of Komi”, 3 inter-district seminars aimed at rural tourism experience exchange were organized. Seminar themes: “Rural tourism and development of the territory: proposals, problems, solutions, first experience” and “Organization of business activities in the field of tourism at the municipal level”.
 - G.** The manual “Recommendations on the organization of rural guest houses” was issued and disseminated.
 - H.** A practical seminar – discussion for settlement deputies and rural active representatives “Territorial public self-government and support of local initiatives” was held with the participation of the representatives of territorial public self-government from the Arkhangelsk region.
 - I.** Representatives of 2 project “forest villages” (from Ust-Kulom and Priluzje districts) took part in the meetings in the nearby Lensky district of the Arkhangelsk region, where they got acquainted with the work of rural territorial public self-government bodies.
 - J.** Forest Dialogue named "Forest Village: Ways out of the Crisis, Problems and Conditions for Development" (results of the project implementation and perspectives of “forest village” development) was conducted with the participation of all the project districts and other stakeholders.
 - K.** Together with Mondi Syktyvkar, a Forest Dialogue "Cooperation of large forest industry with local population in the socio-economic sphere. Positive experience and possibilities of improvement" was prepared (December 2011).
 - L.** Informational booklets about 7 “forest villages” and project initiatives in these villages were issued.
 - M.** Successful project experience was presented at the international scientific conference “Commercial exploitation of the North and important issues of ethnoecology” in February 2011 (Syktyvkar) – in two presentations “Preservation of traditional nature use of local population within commercial exploitation of the North” and “Educational program “Village environment” and propaganda of non-destructive nature use”. The reports were published in the proceedings of the international workshop conference (Syktyvkar, 2011).
 - N.** Project initiatives aimed at the development of public participation in the decision-making process and problems connected with it, including imperfection of legislation, were presented at the round table “Environmental law” within the All-Russian conference “Legal system as an element of sustainable development of the subject of the Russian Federation” (Syktyvkar, November 17-18, 2011).

Cooperating organizations:

Local governments (deputies) and administrations of rural districts and settlements:

- Administrations of Priluzje, Koigorodok, Ust-Kulom, Kniazhpogost, Pechora, and Udora districts (participation in Forest Dialogues, organizational and informational support).
- Local governments (deputies and administrations) of Verkhholuzje, Chornish, Spasporub, Kazhim, Voldino, Bolshaja Pyssa, Priuralskoye, and Turia (participation in Forest Dialogues, issue-related seminars and trainings, organizational support).
- Administrations of municipalities “Town of Koryazhma” and “Lensky District” of the Arkhangelsk region (information exchange related to the issues of territorial public self-governance; getting acquainted with the practical experience of the Arkhangelsk region with the help of seminars for the local population).

Governmental authorities:

- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic (participation in the discussion of project proposals related to the territories of traditional forest use, participation in Forest Dialogues).
- Ministry of Economic Development of the Komi Republic (participation in the discussion of project proposals, Forest Dialogues, and rural tourism seminars).

Scientific and educational institutions:

- Institute of Socio-Economic and Energetic problems of the North of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Syktyvkar (analytical research and prognostication, participation in Forest Dialogues).
- Komi State Academy of Civil Service and Management (participation in Forest Dialogues, organization of seminars and trainings for rural settlement deputies, elaboration of term and graduation projects related to “Forest Village”).
- Syktyvkar State University (elaboration of term and graduation projects related to “Forest Village”, preparation of publications).

Non-governmental organizations:

- Committee to Save Pechora River (monitoring of public hearings in municipal districts, problems of traditional nature use; participation in Forest Dialogues).
- Interregional social movement “Indigenous women of Komi” (participation in Forest Dialogues, mutual actions aimed at support of traditional nature use, development of local communities, and rural tourism).
- Interregional social movement “Izvatas” (participation in traditional forest use preservation).
- Priluzje, Udora, and Pechora district representations of the interregional social movement “Komi Voityr”.
- Karelia regional social environmental organization “SPOK”.
- Environmental center “Strizh” (Tomsk regional NGO).

Business (industrial companies):

- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” (analysis of “conflict points” in large business and “forest village” inhabitant interaction, negotiations aimed at the recognition of local population’s interests in the fields of Mondi activities).
- Logging company “Komilesbiznes” (participation in Forest Dialogues).

6. Model Forest as a neutral platform of forest policy debate

(Y. Pautov)

Objective:

To support Model Forest role as a neutral platform for policy debate.

Planned activities:

- 6.1. Continuation of strategic planning for the Komi Model Forest – development of objectives and activities in the core group.
- 6.2. Participation in important meetings in the Komi Republic and in Russia concerning key issues of SFM.
- 6.3. Dissemination of information by Silver Taiga web-site and local newspaper in Model Forest area.

General results

In 2011, demonstration plots and trails of Priluzje MF were described again, and the information was updated. Updated demonstration materials were prepared. All the plots were cleaned and prepared for excursions. On the basis of updated plots and trails, a sustainable management training course was organized for a group of foresters from Latvia and also for 6 groups from Mondi Syktyvkar with respect to forestry certification. The web-site www.silvertaiga.ru is being updated.

Detailed results

- A. Consultations were given, and training related to forestry certification was organized for Priluzje Forest State Unit specialists (February 2011)
- B. Priluzje Forest State Unit successfully passed the annual group certification audit (April 2011)
- C. On the basis of Model Forest demonstration plots and trails, sustainable forest management training courses were organized for the specialists of Committee of Forest and Forest State Units (Training was carried out by A. Klochikhin and A. Navalikhin on the basis of SilverTaiga materials).

Cooperating organizations (in the alphabetic order):

- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- Forest Institute in Syktyvkar
- Forest State Unit in Koigorodok
- Forest State Unit in Priluzje

7. Consultations and training (Elena Popova)

Objectives:

- 7.1. Forest stakeholders have access to the consultations on certification and sustainable forestry.
- 7.2. Forest stakeholders are getting new knowledge and experience based on organized training seminars and demonstration plots in Komi Model Forest.

Planned activities:

- 7.1.1. Consultancy for State Forest Unit Priluzje on FSC certification based on consultancy agreement.
- 7.1.2. Consultancy for Mondi Syktyvkar on fulfillment of certification conditions based on consultation contract.
- 7.1.3. Other consultancies on FSC and other issues linked to sustainable forest management based on request.
- 7.2.1. Organization of education seminar on “ History and current situation of forest management in taiga of the Komi Republic. Dynamics and biodiversity of pristine taiga” for a group from Latvian foresters in Komi Model Forest and in future Koigorodok National Park.
- 7.2.2. Organization of 2 training seminars for foresters from the Komi Republic in frame of state program “Use, protection and reforestation in the Komi Republic 2011-2013”.
- 7.2.3. Other seminars based on request.

General results:

Silver Taiga Foundation, understanding the importance of consultations for voluntary FSC certification distribution, forestry employees' qualification improvement, and sustainable forest management development in the region, has been organizing consultations and providing educational services for many years already. We are working in the spheres which are difficult for other consultants and services – biodiversity, pristine forests, and social aspects.

In 2011, foundation employees were involved in the planned preparation of such enterprises as OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” and Priluzje Forest State Unit for the annual FSC certification audit.

Foreign experts are still very interested in the seminars on the natural dynamics and biodiversity of boreal forests. In 2011, a group of specialists from Latvia participated in the seminar in Priluzje Model Forest.

One more important work was connected with the inventory of biodiversity and conservation degree (or anthropogenic damage) of large low-disturbed forest territories in Udora district of the Komi Republic, and also preparation of a proposal for existing specially protected natural reservation expansion.

Detailed results:

A. Consulting services related to the fulfilling of voluntary FSC certification standard requirements were provided on the territory of Priluzje Forest State Unit within the frames of forest management group certification – January-March 2011 including the following:

- Lists of discrepancies between national laws and principles and FSC criteria were made up;
- Grouping of HCVF plots in accordance with the classification accepted by the Russian national FSC standard was carried out;
- Two practical seminars “Introduction to the voluntary forest certification” for Priluzje Forest State Unit and employees from leasing companies were prepared and held.

- B.** Seminars “Introduction to the voluntary forest certification” were prepared and carried out for OJSC Mondi Syktyvkar employees – January-October 2011 including:
- Theoretical seminars (basic level) in Finleskom subsidiary offices – 41 people
 - Practical seminars (advanced level) on the basis of Model Forest Priluzje – 48 people
- C.** A seminar “Allotment of logging sites with the usage of Guidelines for biodiversity conservation” was prepared and carried out for three forest allotment specialists – February 2011
- D.** Consultations on the preparation and procedure of voluntary FSC certification were carried out for Centrowoodkom management – October 2011
- E.** Field training seminar “History and present-day condition of the Komi Republic boreal forest use. Dynamics of biodiversity of pristine boreal forest” was organized and held for 12 specialists from Latvian State Forest Enterprise on the basis of Model Forest Priluzje and Koigorodok pristine forest massif – August-September 2011.
- G.** Biodiversity inventory of Protected Areas of republican status in Udora district (Verkhne-Vashkinsky, Ezhugsky, Puchkomy, Pyssky, Sodzimsky, and Udorsky natural reserves) was carried out, and other republican territories and sites perspective for their inclusion in the list of Komi Republican Protected Areas were investigated. The work was executed in cooperation with the Institute of Biology KSC UB RAS within the frames of UNDP/GEF project – June - implementation, including the following:
- The literature and archive data on natural reserve biodiversity and perspectives of inclusion of republican territories and sites in the list of Komi Republican Protected Areas were analyzed.
 - Information gaps on natural reserve biodiversity were defined and the necessity of complex and specialized field scientific research related to biodiversity inventory within the frame of UNDP project was evaluated.
 - Complex scientific and research work aimed at natural reserve species biodiversity inventory was organized and carried out.
 - Field exploration works aimed at the defining of the perspective of primary forest territories, other sites, and natural complexes for their inclusion in the system of Protected Areas of the Komi Republic were organized and carried out, and suggested borders of these territories in Udora district of the Komi Republic were defined and described.
 - Degrees of anthropogenic damage and ecosystem representation, types of vegetation and natural reserve habitats were defined, and proposals on the appropriateness of further functioning of the existing reserves, change of their category (profile), change of borders, and reserve zoning were provided.
 - Key elements of natural reserve biodiversity and conservation sites were defined; mapping was carried out and biodiversity key element status was determined; key species habitat coordinates were defined by the GPS-navigator and they were mapped within natural reserve boundaries; ecological representation gap priorities were defined and established.
 - Proposals on the Komi Republic Udora district natural reserve long-time monitoring organization were developed.

- On the basis of the field work results, a proposal on Udora district natural reserve border expansion was prepared.

H. A consultation on OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” certification was carried out for the audit company “Nepkon” – July 2011

I. A consultation on OJSC “Sevlespil” certification was carried out for the audit company “Nepkon” – October 2011.

J. Participation in the round table “Problems and perspectives of FSC certification in the Komi Republic” – September 2011.

K. Program on HCVF allotment, conservation, and management on the territory leased by OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” was developed – November 2011.

Cooperating organizations (in the alphabetic order):

- Audit company “Nepkon”
- Institute of Biology KSC UB RAS
- Latvian State Forest Enterprise
- LLC “Centrowoodkom” – deep processing center
- LLC “Geoinforesurs”
- Mondi Syktyvkar – pulp and paper mill
- Private entrepreneur Dobronravov S.N. – forest allotment specialists
- State Forest Unit in Priluzje
- UNDP/GEF Project

8. Transfer of Komi Model Forest experience to Baltic Region

(P. Majewski)

Objective:

8.1. To support Baltic Landscape Project, aiming for integration of countries around Baltic Sea, in its application for 4th Call of Interreg program, by experience of Silver Taiga and Komi Model Forest. Forest.

Planned activities:

8.1.1. Support of development and adaptation of proposal from Belarus to establish Baltic Landscape site based on Model Forest formula.

8.1.2. Baltic Landscape application revision based on evaluation and completing the application with new countries and new partners.

General comments:

The idea of Baltic Landscape Project has been developed in 2007 and at this time Silver Taiga was a Project Partner because Russia was included into the Project. However later on, Russia has not prolonged agreement on cooperation with EU and Russia became ineligible to participate. In this situation the Silver Taiga has been offered to continue cooperation in development of the Baltic Landscape Project on consultation basis. The project has been approved in Sep 2011 and cooperation has been continued.

Detailed results:

- A. Belarus as new country joining the Baltic Landscape Project has been supported in introduction to Model Forest idea, selection of suitable area for Baltic Landscape, planning and development of proposal for BL Project.
- B. New countries – Norway, Latvia and Estonia – has been encouraged to join the project and included into BL application.
- C. BL project application has been revised, improved and equipped with explanatory drawings and submitted to EU Baltic Sea Region Program Interreg in Mar 2011.
- D. BL Project has been approved in Sep 2011 with budget of 3 300 000 Euro and with Dept of Forest Resource Management of Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Umea as Lead Partner.
- E. Silver Taiga has been contracted for new tasks related to BL project initiation – Oct 2011
- F. A program of First Annual Conference of the Baltic Landscape Project has been developed for Feb 2012.
- G. Consultation in Belarus on BL project implementation and Model Forest formula is planned in Dec 2011.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Belarusian State Technological University, Minsk
- Belgosles, Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus,
- Kovdozerski Model Forest, Murmansk, Russia
- Marshall Office in Olsztyn, Poland
- Marshall Office in Poznan, Poland
- Novogrudok Forestry Enterprise, Belarus
- Regional Directorate of State Forest in Olsztyn, Poland

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- Regional Directorate of State Forest in Poznan, Poland
- Swedish Forest Agency in Jonkoping, Sweden
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Umea
- Pskov Model Forest, Pskov, Russia
- University of Applied Sciences, Rovaniemi, Finland
- University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland
- University of Life Sciences, Poznan, Poland

9. Russian and International Model Forest Network

(P. Majewski) (low profile depending on funding)

Objective

Komi Model Forest cooperates with International and Russian Model Forest Network.

Planned activities:

- 9.1. Contribution to work of International Networking Committee.
- 9.2. Contribution to development of Circumboreal Initiative.
- 9.3. Contribution to development of concept of national model forest network in Russia.
- 9.4. Support of new initiatives of MFs in Russia by consultation and advice.

Detailed results:

- A. Yourij Pautov and Przemyslaw Majewski have participated in Global Forum of International Model Forest Network in Burgos, Spain in Mar 2011. Przemyslaw Majewski has been reporting on behalf of Russian and Northern European Model Forest Network.
- B. Yourij Pautov and Przemyslaw Majewski have participated in seminar of Circumboreal Initiative in Burgos, Mar 2011. Crowded seminar did not developed new step in the cooperation. It seems that either other formula of discussion and agreement is needed or planned subject (indigenous communities) is too large. Next meeting is planned to be combined with First Annual Conference of the Baltic Landscape Project in Feb 2012.
- C. Przemyslaw Majewski participated in the Skype meeting of International Networking Committee in Apr 2011.
- D. There is no funding and no movement in development of Russian MFN. Three MFs – Komi, Kovdozerski and Pskov – have been included into program of the BL Project as participants of Annual Conferences.

Cooperating organizations:

- Baltic Landscape Project Members
- IMFN – International Model Forest Network
- International Forest Research Institute in Moscow
- Kovdozerskij Model Forest
- Pskov Model Forest
- WWF Arkhangelsk branch
- WWF Russia Forest Program

10. Carbon integrated forest management

(P. Majewski) (low profile depending on funding)

Objective:

10.1. To find partners and funding for proposal on carbon integrated forest management in the Komi Republic.

Planned activities:

10.1.1. Searching for funding sources.

10.1.2. Maintaining relevant contacts in Russia and in boreal zone.

10.1.3. Participation in relevant conferences and meetings.

General comments:

The carbon in forestry in the Komi Republic has had very low profile in 2011. Also there were little activity on federal level. So far we cannot see interest and funding sources for carbon in forestry in northern forest.

Cooperating organizations:

- Forest Committee in the Komi Republic
- Model Forest Network
- Mondi Group

11. Intensification of forestry in suitable areas of Model Forest

(Y. Pautov) (low profile depending on funding)

Objective:

9.1. To develop and demonstrate measures of intensive forestry, based on planting and thinning, adapted to regional conditions.

Planned activities:

Federal level of forestry is planning development of intensification program for North-West Russia, but it is unclear when funding will be available and for what purposes. In this situation Silver Taiga is ready with frame of the project in Komi Model Forest, but start of the project depends strongly on funding.

9.1.1. Participation in activity of Working Group on Intensification of Forest Management established in Rosleshoz in 2011.

General results

These activities were not financed; therefore, there are no new results. In February 2011 Silver Taiga Deputy Director Y. Pautov was included in the Rosleskhov Working Group dealing with forest use intensification, invited to the meetings of the Working Group three times, but his business trips were never paid by the receiving party. Therefore, he did not take part in the meetings like most "external" members of the Working Group. Also, Y. Pautov was included in the Observing Council of WWF and NGO "Transparent World". Intensive and sustainable forest management in Russia" project and participated in the approval of its priorities at the project start-up seminar in May 2011. At the seminar, which was held on December 24-25, 2011 in Arkhangelsk, a presentation "Legal and economic perspectives and limitations for intensive sustainable forest use development in Russia" was presented by the foundation ecologist E. Popova. Also, consultations related to forestry certification intensification perspectives in the Komi Republic were carried out for KR Forest Committee (A. Klochikhin), Priluzje State Forest Unit (A. Navalikhin), OJSC "Mondi Syktyvkar" (D. Popov), consulting center "Tefra" (D. Kutepov), and LLC "Tekhkarta" (A. Serov).

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Consulting center "Tefra"
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- Koigorodok State Forest Unit
- LLC "Tekhkarta"
- OJSC "Mondi Syktyvkar"
- Priluzje State Forest Unit

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