



Director \_\_\_\_\_ Yury Pautov

## Silver Taiga Foundation Progress report for 2013

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**Primary activity****1. Contribution to establishment of Protected Areas on the basis of pristine forests (Yu. Pautov).****Objective:**

1.1. Search and strengthening of compromise solutions on conservation and sustainable use of pristine forests in priority districts of the Komi Republic and dissemination of positive experience in the Arkhangelsk region.

**Planned activity:****Koigorodsky district**

1.1.1. Coordination with the Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resource Usage in the Komi Republic, Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resource Usage in Kirov, Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve, and Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation of the procedure for voluntary handover of compartment 13-16, 29-32, 44-48, 59-64, 83-88, 107-112, 147-153, 188-197 of Letskoe forest unit out of OJSC "Mayskles" lease and their inclusion into the territory reserved for Koygorodsky National Park creation.

1.1.2. Elaboration of an ecologic route on the landscape dynamics of south taiga low-disturbed forests in the Koygorodsky National Park.

**Udora district**

1.1.3. Continuation of the negotiations with the stakeholders on protection of the agreed "core" of the Verkne-Vashka massifs of large low-disturbed forest areas (IlimSeverLes, Krasnoborskles, Arkhangelsk Branch of WWF, Forest Committee of the Komi Republic, Ministry of Industry and Energy on the Komi Republic, and others) against industrial development.

1.1.4. Promotion of the proposals on consolidation of a) Pyssa and Sodzimsky regional reserves within the boundaries of the Pyssa massif of large low-disturbed forest areas and b) Ezhugsky and Puchkomsky regional reserves within the boundaries of the Karpogory massif of large low-disturbed forest areas in the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic (State Budgetary Institution "Republic Center of Protected Areas"), Forest Committee of the Komi Republic, administration of the Udora municipal district, and other interested organizations.

1.1.5. Analysis of the current situation on leasing and leaseholders in the neighboring massifs of pristine forests in the Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk region – together with WWF branch in Arkhangelsk.

**Other districts**

1.1.6. Monitoring of the lend-lease and development of the massifs and fragments of pristine forests based on the ERS (earth remote sensing) data for Knyazhpogost, Ust-Vym, Ukhta, Sosnogorsk, Vuktyl, Troitsko-Pechorsk districts within the frameworks of the preparation and carrying out of the voluntary forest certification for the Komi Republic companies.

1.1.7. Coordination of the activity of the Komi regional Working group on development of the risk assessment for FSC controlled wood (jointly with FSC Office in Russia).

1.1.8. Participation in the work of the Committee on priority investment projects at the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Komi Republic.

**General results:****Koygorodok district**

2013 witnessed a series of meetings and consultations with the representatives of the stakeholders at the regional and federal level on evaluation of the possibility and procedure of «moratorium compartments» withdrawal from the lease of OJSC "Mayskles", located on the Letka forestry unit, for state needs and their further inclusion into the territory reserved for Koygorodsky National Park planned for 2016. In particular, the negotiations have been conducted with the following participants:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Komi Republic (Head of international department T.I. Tyupenko, legal department specialists of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Komi Republic);
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic (Head of the forest use management department A.S. Navalikhin);
- Ministry of Natural Resources of the RF (Director of the Department of forest resources state policy and control at Ministry of Natural Resources of the RF A.N. Mariev, Head of Department of state policy in forest use and reforestation P.V. Trushevsky);
- Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve in the Kirov district (Director E.M. Tarasova);
- OJSC "Mayskles" (Head of production and technical department D. Pentegov);
- Letka forestry unit, Komi Republic (Head S.V. Ketov);
- LLC "Lesnaya sertifikatsya" (Director of certification programs A.M. Savulidi).

Based on the results of the conducted consultations the following conclusion was made: in spite of the fact that almost every stakeholder agrees that inclusion of the part of the area leased by OJSC "Mayskles" into the territory of the planned Koygorodsky National Park is expedient currently it's extremely difficult to perform this procedure properly from the legal point of view because of the following circumstances:

- At the present time the indicated territory is leased by OJSC "Mayskles" which has concluded a moratorium agreement with GREENPEACE Russia and Silver Taiga Foundation *on nonperformance of logging works* on this territory during the validity period of FSC forest management and chain-of-custody certificate which expires on March 1, 2017.

- ***The moratorium is observed and controlled*** during the annual audits conducted by the certification body LLC “Lesnaya certificatsiya”.
- Under the legislation in force ***OJSC “Mayskles” can refuse to lease only the whole leased area*** which was tendered, ***but not its part*** as it’s required in this case. ***This is unacceptable for the company.***
- Partial withdrawal of the area leased by OJSC “Mayskles” is possible ***“for the state needs to create new protected areas under federal control”***. Herewith, a ***withdrawal procedure shall be conducted both at the regional (leasing contract) and federal (establishment of protected areas) levels and by different agencies.***
- ***Simultaneously***, the handed over territory ***shall be transferred from one category of lands (commercial forest) to another (protected areas).***
- ***There is no legal entity to which the indicated territory can be handed over*** until the Koygorodok National Park is officially established.
- ***It makes sense to address the issue*** on inclusion of the indicated territory into the new designed federal protected area ***directly during the designing of the Koygorodsky National Park*** by the authorised state engineering company.
- According to the approved plan of the new federal protected areas establishment for the period up to 2020, Koygorodsky National Park has to be created in 2016.

On that ground currently it’s suggested ***not to initiate the above mentioned handover of compartments № 13-16, 29-32, 44-48, 59-64, 83-88, 107-112, 147-153, 188-197 of the Letka forestry unit out of OJSC “Mayskles” lease and their inclusion into the territory of the designed Koygorodsky National Park*** but to come back to this issue when the engineering works in the national park will begin.

### **Udora district.**

In 2013 main attention was paid to settlement of the conflict related to the start of the logging in the Core of Upper-Vashka massifs of large low-disturbed forest areas leased by LLC “Lesozavod №1”. During the previous 2010-2012 LLC “Lesozavod №1” repeatedly received notifications from the Silver Taiga Foundation about the potential problems attributed to the fact that the major part of its leased plot is located within the agreed Core of Upper-Vashka massifs of large low-disturbed forest areas. However, the company management ignored these signals.

In September of 2013 the sawmill plant at Lesozavod №1 was officially launched. However, already in October it faced the deficit of sawlogs caused by refusal of the contracted logging team of the Forest branch of OJSC “Ilim” group in Koryazhma (former IlimSeverLes) to perform the logging works in the Core of Upper-Vashka massifs of large low-disturbed forest areas without securing approval of the Silver Taiga Foundation. In this situation LLC “Lesozavod №1” management addressed a complaint to the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic, Forest Committee of the Komi Republic and directly the Head of the Komi Republic V.M. Gaizer informing them that the Silver Taiga Foundation allegedly prevented the implementation of the Top-priority Investment project of LLC “Lesozavod №1” and the process of the voluntary forest certification of the forest management at the mill.

In the course of two-months intensive negotiations with the management of Lesozavod №1, representatives of the Forest branch of OJSC “Ilim” group in Koryazhma, OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”, Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic, Forest Committee of the Komi Republic, GREENPEACE Russia, WWF Russia an extended meeting of the stakeholders aimed at settlement of this conflict was prepared and conducted with the participation and support of the Head of the Komi Republic V.M. Gaizer on November 12, 2013 in Syktyvkar. Based on the results of this meeting Moratorium agreement was concluded between LLC “Lesozavod №1”, Silver Taiga Foundation and Branch of WWF in Arkhangelsk. According to this agreement the company refuses to carry out logging on the major part of the leased area within the boundaries of the of Upper-Vashka massifs of large low-disturbed forest areas (The Agreement is attached).

### **Detailed results**

- A. Coordination of the clarified boundaries of the moratorium on logging within the area leased by LLC “Karpogoryles” in the core of the Karpogory pristine forest massif (220-222 compartments of the Chuprovskoye district forestry unit of the Ertomskoye forestry unit, Udora region, Komi Republic) within the frameworks of the company certification audit (*January-March of 2011*).
- B. Consultations with the management of the Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve focused on the cluster area Tulashor, the territory of which in the Kirov region is adjacent to the designed Koygorodok National Park in the Komi Republic. The land management file for the cluster area Tulashor is not finalized yet but the Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve management is ready to support the initiatives of the stakeholders from the Komi Republic in the change of the boundaries of the Koygorodok National Park (*March-April of 2013*).
- C. Consultations with the management of the audit company “Lesnaya sertifikatsiya” (A. Savulidi and V. Sysoev) on the results of re-certification of OJSC “Mayskles” leasing a part of the Koygorodok massif of HCVF in the Letka forestry unit of the Komi Republic. The discussion was focused on the “Mayskles” moratorium on logging in this massif. The leased area in compartments 13-16, 29-32, 44-48, 59-64, 83-88, 107-112, 147-153, 188-197 of the Letka forestry unit has been identified as HCVF-II within the frameworks of OJSC “Mayskles” recertification (*until March of 2017*).
- D. Consultations with the management of Production Technology Department of OJSC “Mayskles” (D. Pentegov), Forest Committee of the Komi Republic (A.S Navalikhin) and legal department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Nature Protection of the Komi Republic on the procedure of the voluntary refusal of OJSC “Mayskles” of leasing the compartments 13-16, 29-32, 44-48, 59-64, 83-88, 107-112, 147-

- 153, 188-197 and their inclusion into the territory reserved for creation of the Koygorodok National Park (*February-April of 2012*). No feasible solutions found.
- E.** Consultations with the Director of the Department of the state policy and regulation in the field of forest resources of the Ministry of natural resources and environment of the Russian Federation A.N. Mariev and Head of the Department of the state policy in the sphere of the use and reproduction of the Ministry of natural resources and environment of the Russian Federation P.V. Trushevsky on assessment of the possibilities to include the “moratorium” compartments of OJSC “Mayskles” into the territory reserved for creation of the Koygorodok National Park. It was suggested to bring up this issue during the designing of the national park by the authorized project engineering company.
  - F.** Selection of the demonstration areas and their partial on-site inspection for laying an ecological route on the landscape dynamics of the south taiga low-disturbed forests along the truck haulroad of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” Noshul – Koygorodok adjacent to the boundaries of the designed Koygorodok National Park. Preparation and detailed description of the route was shifted to the next year due to the fact that the Foundation employees were highly loaded by excursions and courses during the summer-autumn period of 2013 and also because of the renewal of the existing demonstration routs and experimental polygons in the Komi Model Forest.
  - G.** Monitoring of HCVF-II (low-disturbed forest) based on the LANDSAT images in the Kortkeros, Ust-Kulom, Udora, Koygorodok, Priluzje, Sysola districts on the leased areas of the certified companies OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”, OJSC “Lesozagotovitel'naya kompaniya”, OJSC “Luzales”, and OJSC “Mayskles”. The monitoring results were presented during the consultations with the auditors of the certification bodies NEPKON and “Lesnaya sertifikatsiya” carrying out annual control audits (*regularly – on request*).
  - H.** Consultations for the Production Technology Department of LLC “Luzales” on the procedures of identification and submission of the materials on HCVF and representational areas of the forest ecosystems found and preserved in the leased base of the company – *December of 2013*.
  - I.** Consultations with the Republican Center of Protected Areas on the possibility of creation of interregional Protected areas based on the Karpogory and Upper-Vashka pristine forest massifs – jointly with the Arkhangelsk branch of WWF – *November 11, 2013*.
  - J.** Meeting with the forestry department of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” on implementation of FSC certification ecological requirements during the planning of logging and logging itself on the area leased by the company. Following the results of the meeting minutes of the meeting including the parties obligations were prepared (jointly with the consulting center TEFRA) – *March of 2013*.
  - K.** 3 rounds of consultations with the management of LLC “Lesozavod №1”, Forest Committee of the Komi Republic, Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic have been conducted. One of the meetings took place at the Head of the Komi Republic V.M. Gaizer on October 21, 2013. The discussion was focused on the possibility of logging and wood supply by LLC “Lesozavod №1” from the Core of Upper-Vashka massif of large low-disturbed forest. Following the results of the consultation an extended meeting of the stakeholders in the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic was suggested.
  - L.** An extended meeting of the stakeholders on conservation of the Core of Upper-Vashka massifs of large low-disturbed forest areas in the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic with participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic, Forest Committee of the Komi Republic, Republican Center of Protected Areas, GREENPEACE Russia, WWF Russia, Arkhangelsk Nature Protection initiative, Silver Taiga Foundation, LLC “Lesozavod №1”, Forest branch of OJSC “Ilim” group in Koryazhma, OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”. Following the results of the meeting 3 options of compromise solutions on the change of the configuration and conservation of the Core of Upper-Vashka massif were suggested – *November 12, 2013*.
  - M.** Conclusion of the “Agreement on conservation of high conservation value forests (HCVF) in the leased forest fund of LLC “Lesozavod №1” between the company management, Silver Taiga Foundation and WWF branch in Arkhangelsk” – *November 22, 2013* (agreement is attached).

**Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):**

- Administration of the Koygorodok district;
- Administration of the Udora district;
- Association of Wood Industry in the Komi Republic;
- FSC Office in Russia;
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic;
- GREENPEACE Russia;
- Koygorodok 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;
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” (Moscow);
- Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve – Kirov;
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”;
- “Republican Center of Protected Areas”, Komi Republic;
- Syktyvkar State University;
- «TEFRA» – consulting center – Syktyvkar;
- UNDP-GEF Project in the Komi Republic;
- WWF Russia.

## 2. Ecosystem and landscape background for forestry and FSC planning (*E. Popova, Yu.Pautov*).

### **Objective for 2011-2013:**

- 2.1. Development of ecosystem and landscape base for forestry planning and for the purpose of certification using GIS and remote sensing technology.

### **Planned activity 2013:**

- 2.1. Organization of an educational tour for 3 Foundation specialists to Sweden (Umea) in April of 2013 in order to study the experience and technologies applied for detection and consideration of ecologically important and vulnerable landscape elements for planning of nature use.
- 2.2. Identification of potentially significant small-size areas by means of the high resolution images (0,5 m. and higher): social (cemeteries, former settlements, forest huts, recreational areas, etc.) and ecological (temporary waterways, small gullies, waterlogged areas, forest lakes, etc.)
- 2.3. Evaluation of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” logging plan and forestry management on pilot areas concerning FSC requirements compliance (Together with OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” Sustainable Forestry Management and Certification Department and LLC “Tekhkarta”).
- 2.4. Obtaining of shape-files with detailed hydrographic network for pilot areas and analysis of the obtained materials in comparison with ERS data of medium and high resolution (jointly with Territorial Fund of Information of the Komi Republic)
- 2.5. Organization of 1-2 expeditions to selected pilot areas for clarification and verification of ERS high-resolution data and evaluation of their efficiency for landscape planning
- 2.6. Preparation of a draft version of “Recommendations on monitoring of the forest ecological values on the FSC-certified territories” for planners of different preparation level (basic, medium, advanced)
  - 2.6.1. Preparation of an algorithm on use of ERS materials for monitoring of the forest use with account of the foreign experience and advanced technologies;
  - 2.6.2. Preparation of a landscape-ecological planning algorithm for forest management and forest use organization;
  - 2.6.3. Preparation of an algorithm of ERS materials use for landscape-ecological planning of forest use.
- 2.7. Development of an educational course on landscape-ecological planning of forest management and organization of forest use with the help of ERS materials
  - 2.7.1. Identification of the current knowledge level of the planning specialists and determination of the training need for the specialists based on the obtained information.
  - 2.7.2. Preparation of the first draft of the field educational course on landscape-ecological planning and its coordination with the stakeholders.
  - 2.7.3. Preparation of the educational materials and demonstration areas in the Komi Model Forest on the topic of landscape-ecological planning of forest use.

### **General results:**

In February of 2013 an analytical report on “Assessment of compliance of the logging planning and fulfillment on the leased areas of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” in the Noshulsky and Smolyansky forestry units of the Komi Republic to the FSC certification requirements” was provided to the forestry department and certification group of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”. The report includes the description of the violations and deviations from the FSC certification requirements during the planning and construction of the logging roads, planning and withdrawal of the logging sites for wood felling execution, timber harvesting itself, planning and fulfillment of further reforestation on the logging areas. They were detected during the field works within the frameworks of the HCVF project in 2012-2013.

Based on this report a common meeting with the forestry department of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” under the chairmanship of Deputy Director for Forestry A. Bender was organized on March 6, 2013. During this meeting Silver Taiga Foundation proposals on the procedures of the forest use planning and organization on the landscape basis using LANDSAT space images with account of spatial detection and conservation of the ecologic territory framework were reviewed. Following the meeting results a common minutes of the meeting including the parties’ obligations was prepared (jointly with the consulting center TEFRA).

In April of 2013 an educational trip of three Foundation employees (N. Shuktomov, E. Popova, Y. Pautov) to the Department of the Forest Resource Management of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Umea) and Model Forest Vilhelmina in Sweden was organized. The trip was aimed at studying the experience and technologies applied for detection and accounting of ecologically important and vulnerable landscape elements for nature use planning. The Foundation employees got familiar with the use of various types of ERS - radar images, space images of high and medium resolution, high resolution images made by pilotless aircraft. Besides, they had a look at the programs enabling automatic decoding of space images – split of forest territories into “stows” (solid forest areas) with further selection of the usage mode for every area and had a chance to witness a daily practical use of these materials for planning and control of different nature use types (wood harvesting, control over various objects construction, deer farming, recreation, etc).

Based on the results of this trip a conclusion was made that by now neither the forestry agencies nor the forest users of the Komi Republic have sufficient normative and legislative, informational, procedural, technical, and technological framework, as well as practical experience and knowledge for landscape ecological forestry planning as in Sweden. At the present time it makes sense to develop an algorithm of such

planning based on the ERS sources available in Internet and manual classification and decoding of space images.

In order to assess the possibility of manual classification and decoding of different resolution space images a detail rendering of four forest compartments for the territory of the pilot area on the watershed of the Yn river was made based on the medium resolution Landsat space image, high resolution Bing space image, and comparison of the obtained GIS layers of these compartments with the forest inventory data as this data is currently taken as the main data source during the wood harvesting planning.

A comparative analysis brought the following conclusions:

- None of the three mentioned sources gives 100% information for the landscape ecological planning. Nevertheless, combination of these sources allows the planning on quite a high level.
- Medium resolution Landsat images can be used as a basis for planning as they allow detecting an ecological framework of the territory and further monitoring of anthropogenically violated areas. The following is clearly seen on the Landsat images:
  - Outlines of natural environmental disturbances (fires, windfalls), homogeneous forest areas.
  - Natural areas not covered with forest (these are mainly swamps, fresh fire sites, water bodies, and meadows typical for the Komi Republic conditions).
  - Natural open forests with lichen pine forest and bog moss pine forest prevailing there with a stock volume up to 150 cubic meters per hectare.
  - Fresh and overgrown fellings (by straight-line boundaries and roads availability).
  - Flood-lands of brooks and temporary streams (non-fire spruce forest).
  - Linear objects of anthropogenic origin (main roads and winter logging roads, electric power lines, etc).
  - Other objects of anthropogenic origin.
  - Medium resolution Landsat images do not allow to split the forested area by types and stages of forest dynamics.
- High resolution images allow to study the territory in much more detail and to supplement the ecological frameworks with smaller objects, for example:
  - Small swamps and woodsides (on the image they look like light spots).
  - Forest stands plots different from the others by their natural composition.
  - Planning of the haul roads and logging sites location is more efficient with the help of high resolution images after identification of the ecological frameworks of the territory.
- Forest management plan enables clarification of the information about the composition and age of the forest stands on the planning territory.
- Neither of three spatial data sources allows full identification of social HCVF. Consultations with the local residents are an essential part of the planning process.
- Identification of the key biotopes by means of the space images is also possible only partially and requires clarification at the stage of logging places demarcation.

Based on the comparative analyses of the sources of spatial data about the forest use territory an algorithm of landscape ecological planning of forest management has been made. Wood harvesting planning on the basis of this algorithm ensures compliance with the requirements of the voluntary forest certification according to FSC system.

#### **Detailed results:**

- A. An analytical report with description of the violations and deviations from the FSC certification requirements detected during the field works within the period from 2012-2013 was developed and provided for consideration to the employees of the Forestry Department and Certification group of OJSC "Mondi Syktyvkar"- February of 2013. Based on this report a common meeting with the forestry department of OJSC "Mondi Syktyvkar" was organized. During this meeting the procedures for identification and conservation of the ecological frameworks of the territory during the construction of logging roads and forest use planning was discussed. Following the meeting results a common minutes of the meeting including the parties' obligations was prepared – *March of 2013*
- B. Negotiations with the management of Territorial Fund of Information of the Komi Republic regarding the possibility of obtaining shape-files with detailed hydrographic network of the pilot areas for further analyses of the received materials and comparison with ERS of medium and high resolution were conducted. It has been found during the negotiation that due to the confidentiality of the indicated data its obtaining and usage by the Foundation employees is impossible – *February of 2013*.
- C. An educational trip of three Foundation employees - Nikolay Shuktomov, Elena Popova, Yury Pautov to the Department of the Forest Resource Management of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Umea) was conducted. The possibilities for acquisition, further analyses, and usage of different remote sensing data (high and medium resolution space images; radar images; high resolution images received from the pilotless aircraft), as well as up-to-date software for automatic ERS decoding were studied - *April 15-19, 2013*.
- D. A detailed digitizing of four compartments of the Ust-Nemsky pilot area aimed at the assessment of the possibility of the territory split into stows (solid forest areas with the same usage mode) and identification of the ecological frameworks of the territory was made – *September-October of 2013*.
- E. The methods of receiving the free high resolution space images via SAS Planet program was studied – *September-October of 2013*.

- F.** Digitizing of the high resolution images aimed at the analysis of the possibilities to identify potentially significant small areas: social (cemeteries, former settlements, forest huts, recreational spots, etc) and ecological (temporary streams, small gulleys, overmoistened plots, forest lakes, etc) by means of the high resolution images was made – October-November of 2013.
- G.** The first draft of the algorithm “Landscape-ecological planning using earth remote sensing data and other cartographic information” for timber cutters was developed. It consists of the following sections:

**General provisions**

- Data sources for the landscape-ecological planning.
- Peculiarities of the work with the main data sources.
- Landscape-ecological planning stages.
- Appendix 1. Algorithm for the downloading of the medium resolution Landsat space images.
- Appendix 2. Algorithm for the processing of the medium resolution Landsat space images.
- Appendix 3. Algorithm for the downloading of the high resolution space images via SAS Planet program.

– December of 2013

\* Planned field trips to the pilot areas were cancelled due to the high workload of the employees and lack of an urgent need of additional field studies.

**Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):**

- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic;
- FSC Russia;
- GREENPEACE Russia;
- Institute of Biology of Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences;
- Komi Republic Forestry Committee;
- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic;
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” (Moscow);
- OJSC “Mondi MSY”;
- Priluzje Forestry Unit;
- “Skanex” – cartographic company – Moscow;
- Syktyvkar Forest Institute;
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences;
- Territorial Fund of Information of the Komi Republic;
- “Tekhkarta” – cartographic company – Syktyvkar;
- “TEFRA” – consulting center – Syktyvkar;
- Ust-Nemsky Forestry Unit;
- WWF Russia.

### **3. Model River Mezen – cooperation with local communities** (V. Semyashkina, N. Shuktomov).

#### **Main objective:**

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

#### **Objectives for 2012-2013:**

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

#### **Planned activities for 2013:**

- 3.1.1. To provide access of the local population to the information on sustainable nature use and project problematics. Creation and dissemination of informational materials.
  - 6 publications of thematic supplement to the local newspaper of the Udora district, 3500 copies each;
  - informing local population through district village libraries (according to a separate plan);
  - preparation, publishing and distribution of a thematic information booklet on the topic of poaching on the Mezen (photographic materials + comments + children's drawings);
  - preparation, publishing and distribution of a brochure on the results of the Mezen salmon population monitoring (using the data obtained during the expeditions of the last years + data of the Federal State Budgetary Institution “Komirybvod” from 1986 + evidence of the local residents;
  - publishing of the “Fisherman handbook” (a series of pocket brochures containing fishing rules).
- 3.1.2. Assistance in creation of platforms for joint discussions of project topics, monitoring results, project fields realization together with local population:
  - Continuation of the activity of the Model river project Working group, integration of the Arkhangelsk region representatives into the Working group.
  - Development of a formal partnership: correction and signing of a multilateral agreement on a joint activity; involvement of the partners from the Arkhangelsk region as the parties.
  - Organization and carrying-out of a meeting-dialogue with participation of the local residents, FSBI “Komirybvod” and administration of the Udora district for development of the proposals on support of the traditional nature use on the “pilot” area of one of the Mezen tributaries.
- 3.1.3. Development of the proposals on improvement of the legal and organizational frameworks for the leased river areas management:
  - Working meetings of a small group on development of sustainable management of recreational river resources.
  - Working meetings of a small group on development of sustainable management of the fishing grounds of the AgroUdora cooperative.
  - Work of a small group on conservation of traditional fish resources management on the “pilot” river area (local population fishing necessary for support of the villages’ stability).
- 3.1.4. Assistance in cooperation development within a local community and coordinated participation of local communities in sustainable river resources management. Organization of cooperation with local population and local self-government bodies of neighboring to Mezen districts of the Arkhangelsk region.
  - Holding the meetings with the population and representatives of the villages and settlements administrations of the Leshukonsky district of the Archangels region aimed at informing the villagers about the objectives and progress of the project and creation of a public opinion for support of the fish protection and public participation (rural settlements “Vozhgora”, “Koynas”, “Tsenogora”, “and Leshukonskoye”).
  - Joint meeting of the representatives of NGOs acting in the districts along the Mezen aimed at development of collaboration and participation in the project initiatives implementation.
  - Acquaintance with the experience in organization of territorial public self-government in the neighbor districts of the Arkhangelsk region and adaptation of this experience in the Udora district (a round table in the Leshukonsky district with participation of the Udora district representatives; a seminar for the local population on the territorial self-government in the rural settlement Polshaya Pyssa with the villages Politovo, Malaya Pyssa, and Petrakovo).
- 3.1.5. Informative and awareness-raising activities in local schools:
  - Support of the research local history work aimed at the study of the nature use history in the districts near the Mezen in the rural schools.
  - Support in the organization and holding a children ecological expedition “Live, spring!” with participation of the schoolchildren from Politovo, Pyssa, Usogorsk.
  - Adaptation of an educational program on basic economics for the rural schoolchildren in 2 schools of the Udora district – Glotovo, Usogorsk.



- A contest among the lesson plans or out-of-school activities plans developed by the teachers of the Udora and Leshukonsky districts schools on the topic “Tsar Fish - Mezen salmon”.
- 3.1.6. Support of the contacts with the Russian and international projects on conservation and reproduction of salmon species (project on the Kola Peninsula in the Murmansk district; project on Sakhalin, and others)
- 3.2.1. Informing the society about fish resources problems and project progress.
- Informational support of the project implementation.
  - Public discussion of the fish resources-related issues on web-site [silvertaiga.ru](http://silvertaiga.ru) and republican mass media.
  - Preparation of a museum exposition on the history of the river resources management in the district center Koslan – jointly with the Udora district local history museum. Development of a thematic excursion. Organization of informational meetings in the museum for the visitors of the museum and population.

### **General results**

2013 was the final year of the first project implementation stage (2011-2013). These are the local communities which played an important role in the achievement of the main results of this stage. The materials have been collected and an objective picture of the Mezen fish resources condition and use has been obtained. Besides, a degree of an anthropogenic impact on the condition of the river and its tributaries has been determined. Conclusions required for further implementation of the project objectives have been made based on the field studies, observations during the expeditions and monitoring of the Salmon spawning grounds – representatives of the local population took part in all these events. Meetings with the local communities have also played an important role in the materials collection.

Access of the local population to the information about the Mezen fish resources condition and river resources management problems have been ensured for the local population within the frameworks of the project. Platforms for public discussion of the problems have been organized. The access of the local residents to the information and possibility of public discussions of the nature use problems were to a large extent ensured thanks to the regular issue and distribution of the 4-page thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper. The access of the local population and local self-government bodies to the information about the resources condition, objectives, and project implementation progress was also provided through the meetings with the population.

An interregional collaboration (Komi – Arkhangelsk region) on the restoration and sustainable management of the Mezen population of the Atlantic Salmon initiated within the project frameworks at the end of 2012 was supported at the government level in 2013.

The preparatory work on a gradual transition to a sustainable river resources management has been planned and conducted with the population in several directions.

The first direction is related to the support of the sustainable management of the local user – “AgroUdora” cooperative engaged in commercial fishing on the fishing grounds (FG) of the Mezen tributary Irva river. Due to the fact that the main problems and obstacles in the advancing towards the sustainable management here are in a considerable degree attributed to the gaps and discrepancies in the legislation proposals for the new law on amateur fishing, which is under preparation, have been submitted. Besides, the cooperative work has been supported informationally and methodically.

The second direction of the activity was focused on the facilitation of the sustainable recreational fishing organization. The activity of the “AgroUdora” cooperative members and enterprising local residents on the development of the rural tourism and recreation as a possible option of the sustainable river resources management were supported within the project frameworks. Difficulties in the development of the sustainable river management are determined by the lack of a sufficiently strong and perspective local business entity, as well as an ambiguous attitude of the population to the business entities “from outside”. Unfortunately, search of potential local entrepreneurs and all the more their preparation is a long-term task. An educational work on the basic economic literacy has been started among the rural schools pupils within the project frameworks.

The proposals on the legislative recognition of the traditional use of river resources as one of the use types (along with the commercial and amateur fishing) were also included in the list of the project proposals to the new law on amateur fishing under preparation (the proposals have been forwarded to the State Council of the Komi Republic).

Special attention was paid to conservation, restoration and further sustainable management of the Atlantic Salmon population in the Mezen during the reporting year. A watershed approach to the Mezen fish resources management is very poorly expressed, administrative and institutional disunity is prevailing, which has an especially negative impact on the condition of the Atlantic salmon population as a migratory species. Therefore, the work aimed at making the population of the districts situated near the Mezen living in three administrative districts of two constituents of the Russian Federation understand the necessity and importance of the cooperation became an important part of the project. So far, the collaboration was organized at the information exchange level – through the newspaper and during the meetings and expeditions. Unfortunately, the chances for more active contacts are quite limited because of the poorly developed road network and transportation problems. Nevertheless, 2013 witnessed the first steps towards the exchange of experience in public participation and public self-government. Besides, the procedure of joint development of the interregional program has been started.

The representatives of the local communities, NGOs, and local business entities, as well as the administration of the Udora district have been taking part in the Working group activity throughout the whole

year. Thus, both the detail planning of the project stages and its implementation were conducted with direct involvement of the local population. So, the project Working group ensured observance of the main principled approaches to the project implementation – partnership and collaboration.

In 2013 collaboration with schools, educational institution of further education and Udora department of public education was continued.

Rural libraries of the Udora district have also actively participated in the outreach and awareness-raising work on the project topic. In 2013 a district Museum of History and Local Lore joined this activity.

### **Detailed results:**

- A. 6 editions of the thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper have been prepared and distributed in the Udorsky, Leshukonsky, and Mezensky districts - 3500 copies of each edition.
- B. Informing of the local population through the rural libraries was established. A conference on the results of the work on the project was conducted with the readers of the library in the Udora district – *February 20, 2013*.
- C. *During the summer months of 2013* “summer reading rooms” were operating in the settlements Usogorsk and Blagoevo. The libraries employees and volunteers held contests and other activities devoted to the project topic for children and adult population.
- D. A common project “Agitbrigada” (Propaganda team) has been implemented together with the libraries. Within the frameworks of this project the employees of the Koslan central library and volunteers - students and pupils – visited the villages of the district with thematic outreach and awareness-raising program. In a period of two weeks an ecological propaganda team “Zelyony desant” (Green troopers) visited seven settlements of the Udora district – *August of 2013*.
- E. “A fisherman handbook” was created and handed over for publishing (a “pocket-sized” handbook on fishing rules) – *December of 2013*.
- F. An information poster on the poaching problem on the Mezen is under preparation for publishing. Photo materials and data from the expeditions, as well as children drawings presented at the district contest conducted within the frameworks of the project have been used for its preparation (instead of the planned booklet on the poaching problem).  
*Implementation of this plan item was delayed due to lack of the necessary statistical material. Due to the same reason a brochure on the results of the monitoring of the Mezen Salmon population was not published in 2013 as planned (the data available in FSI “Komirybvod” does not show the whole picture; the trends based on the results of the monitoring carried out within the frameworks of the project will be obvious not earlier than after 5-6 years of observation).*
- G. Activity of the project Working group ensuring observance of the main principled approaches to the project fulfillment – partnership and cooperation - was continued. A representative of the Leshukonsky district of the Arkhangelsk region was included into the Working group. The following issues were considered at the meetings on June 6, 2013 and November 22, 2013:
  - Sustainable resources management. From the experience of the river resources management (by example of Poland).
  - Recreational fishing development in the Komi Republic. From experience of the work of LLC “Koin” (Knyazhpogost district).
  - The results of the Interregional working meeting “On the condition of the Atlantic Salmon population in the basin of the Mezen river and possible methods of the resource recovery”, Syktyvkar, May 30, 2013.
  - The results of the monitoring of the conditions and efficiency of the Atlantic Salmon natural reproduction in the Mezen river basin.
  - Organization of the nonmigratory fish species monitoring by the “Agroudora” cooperative.
- H. Discussion of the problems related to the imperfection of the legal and organizational frameworks for management of the leased river plots was organized during the working meetings in small groups. Improving proposals were prepared – *February of 2013, June of 2013*.
- I. The proposals were presented at the Parliament hearings on the draft law of the RF “On amateur fishing” organized by the Committee on Natural Resources, Nature Management and Ecology, State Council of the Republic of Komi. Remarks and clause-by-clause proposals to the draft law are executed and handed over to the State Council of the Komi Republic. *February 13, 2013*.
- J. Meetings with the population and representatives of the administration of the villages of the Leshukonsky district in the Arkhangelsk region were held. The meetings were aimed at their informing about the project objectives and implementation progress, as well as creation of public opinion for support of the fish protection and public participation (*February 2-10, 2013*):
  - with the residents of the rural settlements Yuroma, Leshukonskoye, Tsenogora, Koynas, Vozhgora; Beloshchelye and Ust-Nizema villages, Zubovo settlement, and others;
  - with the employees of the administration of the municipal unit “Leshukonsky district”;
  - in the editors office of the district newspaper “Zvezda” (“Star”)
  - with the activists of the territorial public self-government (TPSG).
- K. A seminar on territorial public self-government was conducted for the population of the Bolshaya Pyssa, Malaya Pyssa, Politovo, Latyuga, Patrakovo villages (*March 1, 2013*).
- L. The experience of territorial public self-government organization in the neighbor districts of the Arkhangelsk region and Syktyvdinsky district of Komi was introduced to the residents of the Udora district. Round tables and meetings on the experience exchange were organized jointly with “Komi

- Voytyr” in the settlements of the Udora district (Chernutyev, Koslan, Usogorsk). *March of 2013.*
- M.** An ecological and local lore search expedition “Salmon, live!” was organized jointly with the Usogorsk Children art house. The team of pupils from Usogorsk and Politovo villages visited four district settlements – Muchkas, Patrakovo, Latyuga, and Bolshaya Pyssa. There the old-timers briefed expedition participants on the history of the Mezen fish resources management and they cleaned the river bank from rubbish. *June of 2013.*
- A.** An educational program on basic economic literacy for village pupils was introduced to the teachers from the district schools. After the ongoing customizing the program will be implemented in the secondary school of the Glotovo village.
- N.** A contest among the lesson plans and out-of-school activities on the topic “Tsar Fish - Mezen Salmon” was conducted. 15 teachers from five schools took part in this competition. Themed evenings, presentations, quizzes and other activities were held in schools based on the developed scripts (*April-November of 2013*).
- O.** Information on the projects implemented in Russia and related to conservation and reproduction of the Salmon species (“Save Salmon together”, “Establishment of Salmon councils’ network” projects and others – through the contacts with the non-governmental organizations “Sakhalin Salmon Initiative”, “Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North”, NGO “Boomerang” Club, and others) has been collected.
- P.** The report “Interregional cooperation is the most important condition of the Mezen Salmon conservation” devoted to the initiative on development of the interregional program of Atlantic Salmon resource restoration and conservation in the Mezen river was prepared and presented at the interregional conference in the Ukhta city. *October 10-12, 2013.*
- Q.** The project was presented in the report “Sustainable development of rural communities: nature use problems and socio-economical initiatives of the Silver Taiga Foundation” at the republican ecological conference and the international conference “Ecology and sustainable socio-economic development of the North” in the Tana municipality (Finnmark, Norway) – in the frameworks of the Norwegian-Russian collaboration in the Barents region. *August 22, 2013 and October 23-26, 2013.*
- R.** The project was presented to the Syktyvkar scientific community at V geographic readings named after Professor V.A. Vityazeva focused on the economic and geographic aspects of the current state of the Northern Dvina and Pechora river basins – *April 5, 2013.*
- S.** The materials have been collected and the museum exposition on the river resources management history is under preparation jointly with the Udora district museum of local lore. Thematic excursions based on this exposition will be suggested to the schoolchildren and adult population of the district.
- T.** The project implementation progress was covered on the web-site [silvertaiga.ru](http://silvertaiga.ru), in the thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper, Leshukonsky district newspaper “Zvezda” (“Star”), republican newspapers “Komi Mu” and “Respublika” (“Republic”), on the informational portal “Finno-Ugric world” (<http://www.finnougr.ru>), and web-site of the Komi branch of the Russian geographical society (<http://komi.rgo.ru>), etc.

**Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):**

- Administration of the Leshukonsky district of the Arkhangelsk region;
- Administration of the Mezensky district of the Arkhangelsk region;
- Administration of the Udora district of the Komi Republic;
- Agricultural consumer cooperative “AgroUdora”;
- Center of Sustainable Development under Syktyvkar State University;
- Department of Education of the Udora district Administration;
- Local community of indigenous people “Udorachi” (NGO);
- Municipal intersettlement cultural institution “Udora district National museum”;
- Usogorsk students activity center;
- Udora division of interregional public movement “Komi Voityr” (NGO);
- Udora centralized library system;
- Udora division of the Federal State Institution “Komi Basin Authority for Fisheries and Conservation of Aquatic Biological Resources” (FSI “Komirbyvod”);
- “Vyl Tuyod” newspaper office.

#### **4. Model River Mezen – restoration of fish resources** (*N. Shuktomov, V. Semyashkina*).

##### **Main objective:**

To restore fish resources in Model Rivers and to ensure sustainable management of these resources in cooperation with local population and other interested parties.

##### **Detailed objectives for 2011-2013:**

- 4.1. To develop effective cooperation between interested parties.
- 4.2. To establish cooperation with users of different river sections and provide them with necessary knowledge on fish resources management.
- 4.3. To select pilot areas of the Model River Mezen for detailed implementation of the project.
- 4.4. To determine fish population monitoring method and to measure a starting fish population level.
- 4.5. To develop recommendations on maximum permissible catch limit for different sections of the river.
- 4.6. To agree on efficient measures for fish protection, especially for Atlantic salmon, and support implementation of these measures.
- 4.7. To contribute to organization of work on restoration of non-migratory fish species.
- 4.8. To start the “Salmon Return” project and work out the details of this project.

##### **Planned activities for 2013:**

- 4.1.1. Development of a formal cooperation on selected problems:
  - with FSBI «KomiRybVod» - on organization and implementation of salmon monitoring and protection; development of recreational fishing on “Mezensky № 1” area;
  - with cooperative «AgroUdora» - on information and consulting support of the rational management development on the leased areas; organization of a joint monitoring of fish resources on the leased river sections;
  - with the Department of State control, supervision and protection of water biological resources of the Komi Republic – on organization of joint actions on protection of fish resources; organization and implementation of a monitoring, development of public control;
  - with community of indigenous people “Udorachi” and SBI RK “Republican center providing protected areas functioning and natural resources management» – on selection of pilot river area for organization of traditional use to satisfy the needs of the local population.
- 4.2.1. Arrangement of educational seminars for users (leaseholders, local population) on the following subjects: “What the sustainable management of resources is. Introduction of successful experience in sustainable management (in Russia, in the world)”, “Training on monitoring methods”:
  - collection and systematization of materials;
  - development of training seminars programs;
  - definition of target groups.
- 4.3.1. Selection of a pilot area on the Model River Mezen for detailed implementation of the subproject on traditional management, its justification and approval by the interested parties:
  - Selection of 2 -3 possible alternatives of a pilot area based on the proposals of the interested parties;
  - Field inspection of the proposed Mezen tributaries for justification of the selected pilot area – June-August, 2013;
  - Search of legitimate form of traditional management organization on this area.
- 4.4.1. Adjustment of Atlantic salmon monitoring methods used within the frameworks of the project, as well as promotion and support of organization of the annual monitoring of fish resources in the Mezen river.
  - Approval of proposed methods by all interested organizations;
  - Training of the interested parties on use of the proposed methods;
  - Organization and support of the annual monitoring according to the uniform methods.
- 4.4.2. Organization of monitoring on the river Irva by the members of “AgroUdora” cooperative on the basis of commercial fishing.
  - Preparation, approval and execution of monitoring methods;
  - Coordination of the responsibilities on collection, processing and storage of information with interested parties;
  - Holding a practical seminar on monitoring methods for “AgroUdora” cooperative members (with the involvement of the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences)
  - Monitoring introduction;
  - Informing of the project stakeholders, local population and society about the monitoring results (publications in mass media).
- 4.6.1. Support of protective activities of the Udora department of state control, supervision and protection of water biological resources of the Komi Republic and FSBI “KomiRybVod”.
- 4.1.1. Development of proposals on elaboration of salmon restoration state program (“Salmon return” subproject) by the Working group.
  - Organization and carrying out a joint meeting concerning the necessity to develop a

multiregional program of salmon population restoration in the Mezen river. Participants – representatives of Dvinsko-Pechorskoye territorial administration of Rosrybolovstvo (Russian Federal Fishery Agency), Fishery agency of the Arkhangelsk region, Northern branch of PINRO (Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography), Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, FSBI “KomiRybVod”, Ministry of Agriculture and food of the Komi Republic, Ministry of natural resources and environment protection of the Komi Republic, Administrations of the Udora, Leshukonskiy and Mezen districts. Organizational and technical support – Ministry of agriculture and food of the Komi Republic.

- Arrangement of field expeditions aiming to monitor reproductive part of salmon population.

### **General results**

In 2013 the work on the development of the effective collaboration between the stakeholders was continued. The partners from the Arkhangelsk region were involved in the project implementation. Currently, the project Working group consists of the representatives of the local population, Udora branch of the Interregional Public Movement “Komi Voytyr”, indigenous people community “Udorachi”, Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Department of water resources of the Komi Republic, Department of aquaculture and fishery of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Komi Republic, FSBI “KomiRybVod”, “AgroUdora” cooperative, administration of the municipal district “Udorsky”, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic, Republican Center of Protected Areas, Department of state control, supervision and protection of water bioresources of the Komi Republic, Silver Taiga Foundation, as well as business (an entrepreneur from the Leshukonsky district of the Arkhangelsk region).

Same as in the last year the work was organized in four main directions:

- on the leased area in the upper reaches of the Mezen (monitoring + development of recreational fishing);
- on the fishing grounds of the “AgroUdora” cooperative on the Irva river – tributary of the Mezen (commercial fishing + monitoring with participation of the cooperative members);
- on the pilot area for restoration of the traditional use (fishing of the local population necessary for support of the villages sustainability);
- on development and implementation of the subproject “Salmon return”

For the purpose of the recreational management development the initiative of the leaseholder (FSBI “Komirybvod”) engaged in organization of the amateur fishing on the fishing grounds (FG) in the upper reaches of the Mezen on stocking of this river area with fish has been supported. The cooperation with the entrepreneur I.I. Korbut engaged in the organization of the recreational fishing in the Arkhangelsk region has been established. Further support of the sustainable recreational fishing development will be carried out mainly with the Arkhangelsk partners because the use of FSBI “Komirybvod” in the upper reaches of the Mezen for this purpose is suspended at the moment. Collaboration with FSBI “Komirybvod” will be continued in respect of monitoring in the upper reaches of the Mezen, as well as organization of the artificial reproduction of the nonmigratory fish species on this area.

Cooperation with the local cooperative “AgroUdora” was continued. The educational seminars on the topics “Sustainable river resources management” and “Monitoring of the fish population condition on the Irva river” have been conducted for the “AgroUdora” brigades working on the Irva river - tributary of the Mezen (Glotovo rural settlement). Consultancy support on different issues was also provided to the cooperative.

This was the implementation of the direction focused on the support of the traditional river resources use which turned out to be the most difficult. The first reason is imperfection of the legal framework and excessive resources management centralization. Another reason is unreadiness of the local population to the changes: residents of the remote villages, the ones for whom the continued possibility of traditional use is especially important, take advantage of their remoteness from the supervision agencies and fish at their own convenience until now. On the one hand, they do not see any possibility of legalizing this activity; “entering” the traditional rights into the legislation. On the other hand, they are not ready for this themselves, because they do not trust the supervising authorities. The work in this direction is in process. Perhaps the situation will change to a certain extent after adoption of a new law “On amateur fishing”. Possible practical actions in this direction have been discussed within a small working group and also with the specialists of the Republican Center of Protected Areas, and representatives of the local population. It was suggested to try solving of the problem, at least partially, by means of revival of the community use in the remote small villages.

2013 witnessed a rapid development in the direction focused on conservation, restoration, and further sustainable management of the Atlantic Salmon population in the Mezen. Implementation of this direction had started during the previous years with the field research expeditions to the upper reaches of the Mezen and its tributaries, surveying expeditions from the riverhead to the mouth of the river, holding of seminars on familiarization with the experience in Salmon population restoration and management in other countries, support of the fishery supervision protective activities, and monitoring on the spawning grounds. Besides, the whole time attempts have been made to organize the cooperation on this issue with the Arkhangelsk region due to the fact that Salmon is a migratory species and the problem of its conservation and sustainable management cannot be solved in the Udora district taken individually. The working meetings of the stakeholders, representatives of two regions (dialogue about Salmon), problem discussion by the Working group members carried out during the preceding years resulted in the Address to the Head of the Komi Republic with the initiative on the interregional Salmon program development.

In May of 2013 a joint meeting “On the condition of the Atlantic Salmon population in the Mezen river basin and possible resource restoration methods” was held with the support of the republic government. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the State Council of the Komi Republic, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Products of the Komi Republic, Center of Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic, Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Federal State Unitary Enterprise Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO) (Arkhangelsk), Interregional Public Movement “Komi Voytyr”, indigenous people community “Udorachi”, FSBI “Komirybvod”, administration of the municipal district “Udorsky” and “Leshukonsky”, Department of state control, supervision and protection of water bioresources of the Komi Republic, Silver Taiga Foundation. The meeting participants have agreed upon the necessity of consolidation of the stakeholders efforts for conservation and restoration of the resource. They have also concurred that the development of a target interregional program on Salmon conservation and reproduction can help to reach this goal. The required components (sections) of the future interregional program have been defined at the meeting. Coordination Council and Interregional working group have been created and commenced their work.

Thanks to this project initiative a platform for further work in this direction has been established; the project support has been gained on the part of the Heads of the regions. Besides, the project has won recognition at the regional and municipal levels.

### **Detailed results**

- A.** An interregional working meeting on establishment of a target interregional program on Salmon conservation and reproduction was held jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Products of the Komi Republic. Representatives of the stakeholders from the Arkhangelsk region and Komi Republic took part in this meeting – *May 30, 2013*.
- B.** An Interregional Working group and Coordination Council were established, the main Interregional program sections were defined. *June – September of 2013*.
- C.** The first meeting of the Interregional Working group was conducted. The content of the main Program sections were discussed there and the people responsible for their detail development were defined – *November 15, 2013*.
- D.** Partners meetings in small groups have been held: on Salmon conservation (on development of proposals for the interregional program); on traditional use of fish resources (a possibility of a practical example creation on one of the Mezen tributaries); on development of the sustainable fish resources management (cooperative on the Irva river); on development of the sustainable recreational river resources use (fishing grounds in the upper reaches of the Mezen – Verkhnemezensky №1”).
- E.** Collaboration with FSBI “Komirybvod” based on the bilateral agreement on the project objectives implementation has been continued.
- F.** A target audience for educational seminars was determined; an educational seminar on the topic “Monitoring of the fish population condition in the Irva river” was developed (with participation of the candidate of biological sciences E.I. Boznak, Syktyvkar State University). *August of 2013*.
- G.** An educational seminar “Monitoring of the fish population condition in the Irva river” was held for the users - “AgroUdora” cooperative members in the Glotovo village – *October 31, 2013*.
- H.** A seminar on the topic “What is sustainable resources management. Acquaintance with a successful experience in the sustainable river resources management (Russian, international)” was prepared. The seminar was held for the project Working group participants and “AgroUdora” cooperative members – *June 6 and October 31, 2013*.
- I.** Traditional fishing problems and possible mechanisms of the pilot areas selection were discussed with the Head of the Center of Protected Areas S.U. Tsogoev. Conclusion: under the conditions of management centralization and imperfection of the legislation there is no possibility for organization of the legal traditional fish resources management. Further search of a legitimate form of traditional management is required – *January 22, 2013*.
- J.** Proposals on the Salmon reproductive population monitoring methods were discussed together with the employee of the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences Ph.D A.B. Zakharov. It was suggested to “legalize” the monitoring methods developed within the frameworks of the project: FSBI “Komirybvod” jointly with the Foundation are to develop a guidance manual on the reproductive Salmon population monitoring – *January 24, 2013*.
- K.** During 3 autumn expeditions to the upper reaches of the Mezen and its tributaries Upper and Lower Puzla, Yolva, and Pyssa conducted in October of 2013 a monitoring of the Salmon reproductive population was carried out. The main participants of the monitoring were the following: representatives of the FSBI “Komirybvod”, community of indigenous people “Udorachi”, Silver Taiga Foundation, Vychegda-Mezen subdivision of state control, supervision and protection of water bioresources, Udora district Committee for Environmental Conservation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic, as well as one volunteer. The expedition participants have used in practice the monitoring methods; they evaluated the volumes of the Salmon population reproduction on the spawning grounds and analyzed the poaching situation on the survey plots.

Main conclusions:

- monitoring was conducted according to the same methods on all areas;
- 62 «hills», 117 «pits», 10 «trial pits», 5 full-grown Salmons were found;
- in spite of the conducted activities aimed at poaching prevention its level does not go down;

- a long-term monitoring covering a full Salmon life cycle (5-6 years) is required for more objective and detailed conclusions.

During the organization of the annual monitoring expeditions the project team faced the problem of lack of qualified specialists able to carry out such type of monitoring and the necessity of training such specialists at the educational seminars in future. – *September 29 – October 6, 2013.*

- L.** On the basis of the data collected during the expeditions special sketch maps have been created for every area. Informational support has been provided to FSBI “Komirybvod”: annual Salmon monitoring data has been prepared and handed over.
- M.** Assistance was lent to the Udora Department of state control, supervision and protection of water bioresources in organization of spawning grounds protection on the upper Mezen.
- N.** Support was given to the Udora branch of FSBI “Komirybvod” in organization of the test grayling reproduction on the temporary fish-breeding point situated in the upper reaches of the Mezen.
- O.** Representatives of the project Working group took part in the regular annual meeting of the “AgroUdora cooperative. They carried out a consultation on the debatable issues related to fish resources use organization – *December 13, 2013.*

**Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):**

- Administration of Leshukonskiy district, Arkhangelsk region;
- Administration of Mezen district, Arkhangelsk region;
- Administration of Udora district;
- Agricultural consumer cooperative “AgroUdora”;
- Department of state control, supervision and protection of water bioresources of Directorate of Federal Services for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Control, Komi Republic;
- Department of Water Resources of Dvina-Pechora Basin Water Directorate, Komi Republic;
- FSBI «Komi Fishery Department» (FSBI «KomiRybVod»);
- FSBI «SevRybVod»;
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Syktyvkar);
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic;
- Ministry of Agriculture for the Komi Republic, department of aquaculture and fishery;
- NGO of Udora district – “KomiVoityr”;
- NGO of Udora district – “Udorachi”;
- SBI KR «Republican center providing conservation areas functioning and natural resources management»;
- Syktyvkar State University;
- Udora district Committee for Environmental Protection.

## 5. Consultations and training (*E. Popova*).

### **Objectives:**

- 5.1. Forest stakeholders have access to the consultations on certification and sustainable forest management.
- 5.2. Forest stakeholders are getting new knowledge and experience based on organized training seminars and demonstration plots in Komi Model Forest.

### **Planned activities:**

- 5.1.1. Consultations on FSC-certification and other questions connected with sustainable forest management for logging companies, the Forestry service, audit companies on request.
- 5.2.1. Organization and holding of field seminar on natural forest dynamics and biodiversity of taiga for the State Forestry Service of Latvia in Komi Model Forest.
- 5.2.2. Organization and holding of introduction courses for students of Syktyvkar Forest Institute on the subject: "History of forest management in the Komi Republic. Natural forest dynamics and biodiversity of taiga» in Komi Model Forest.
- 5.2.3. Organization and holding of three seminars "Introduction to the problems of Model forests. Biodiversity and natural dynamics of taiga" in Komi Model forest for groups from Finland, Poland and Sweden (within the cooperation in the "Baltic landscapes" project).
- 5.2.4. Development of a new demonstration route on forestry landscape planning.
- 5.2.5. Holding of introduction seminar on the subject: "Sustainable forest management. Voluntary forest certification" for students of Syktyvkar State University with a specialization in Environment.
- 5.2.6. Training of 1-2 guides (among local population of the Priluzye district to conduct introduction seminars in Komi Model forest).
- 5.2.7. Other seminars on request.

### **General results:**

For many years Silver Taiga Foundation has been carrying consultations and educational seminars on the sustainable development topic. The last two years witnessed a dramatic drop of the demand for consultations in the field of the voluntary forest certification on the part of the logging companies. On the one hand, it is related to acquisition of sufficient knowledge and experience by the companies; on the other hand – appearance of other consultants at the market of these services in the Komi Republic and beyond its boundaries.

At the same time, a demand for field seminars holding on the territory of the Komi Model Forest on the part of the foreign partners has increased due to the implementation of the international "Baltic landscapes" project.

### **Detailed results**

- A. A seven-day field educational seminar on the topic "Best practices of sustainable forest management and use" was organized and held for 25 teachers of the Russian Forest Universities on the Komi Model Forest territory (jointly with WWF Russia) – *May of 2013*.
- B. A seven-day field educational seminar on the topic "Landscape-ecological peculiarities of the pristine taiga forest" was organized and carried out for ten employees of the Forest Service of the Komi Republic (Forest Committee and forest units) on the territory of the Pechora-Ilych Reserve – *July of 2013*.
- C. A two-day field survey seminar on the topic "History of the forest use in Komi. Peculiarities of the taiga forest" was held for 15 employees of the SFI "Center of Protected Areas" of the Komi Republic in the Komi Model Forest – *July of 2013*.
- D. A consultation on the certification of OJSC "Mondi Syktyvkar" was held for the audit company "NEPKON" – *July of 2013*.
- E. An seven-day field educational seminar on the topic "Komi Model Forest: history, experience, and main achievements" was organized and held on the Komi Model Forest territory for 10 representatives of the State forest service of Poland within the frameworks of the cooperation on the "Baltic Landscapes" project – *August of 2013*.
- F. An eight-day field educational seminar on the topic "Komi Model Forest: history, experience, and main achievements" was organized and held on the Komi Model Forest territory for 5 representatives of the Poznan University of Natural Sciences (Poland) within the frameworks of the cooperation on the "Baltic Landscapes" project – *September of 2013*.
- G. An educational seminar on "Problems and perspectives of forestry intensification in the Komi Republic" with participation of the demonstration objects on the territory of the Priluzje forestry unit (Komi Model Forest) were organized and held for ten employees engaged in the Komi Republic forestry – *August of 2013*.
- H. Seven one-day excursions on the topic "Man and forest: history of relations" to the Komi Model Forest were organized and held for 220 first-year students of the Syktyvkar Forest Institute – *September of 2013*.



- I.** Consulting of LLC “Urteks-Plus” on voluntary forest certification issues was conducted – September of 2013.
- J.** Consulting of LLC “Luzales” on HC VF conservation and identification of the representative areas leased by the company were carried out – November-December of 2013.
- K.** Presentation about the possibilities of the educational routes developed by the Silver Taiga Foundation in the Komi Model Forest and Pechora-Ilych Reserve was made for the teachers of the Sysola district of the Komi Republic – *April of 2013*.
- L.** Presentation about the possibilities of the educational routes developed by the Silver Taiga Foundation in the Komi Model Forest and Pechora-Ilych Reserve was made during the interdistrict seminar-workshop “An ecological path on the protected area” for the teachers of the Komi Republic - *June of 2013*.
- M.** Presentation about the possibilities of the educational routes developed by the Silver Taiga Foundation in the Komi Model Forest and Pechora-Ilych Reserve was made during the international tourist forum “Hedgehog” – *September of 2013*.

**Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):**

- Audit company “NEPCON”;
- Bergslagen Institute (Sweden);
- Forest service of Poland;
- JSC Mondi Syktyvkar – pulp and paper mill;
- JSC State forests of Latvia;
- Syktyvkar Forest Institute;
- Syktyvkar State University.

**Supplementary activity** (in case additional financing is involved)**6. Forest communities and use of natural resources. Cooperation between forest communities and large forest business** (*V. Semyashkina*).**Objectives for 2012-2013:**

- 6.1. Preserving the possibilities of traditional natural resources use by the local population in remote forest villages.
- 6.2. Development of a policy of forest business social responsibility in respect of the forest communities
- 6.3. Support of the self-organization process and development of local self-government, development of cooperation within the rural community.
- 6.4. Development of Forest Dialogue as a form of democratic debates on natural resources management.

**Planned activities for 2013:**

- 6.1.1. Creation of a unified map of traditional forest use territory in the Udora district – with indication of the territories most intensively exploited for traditional use and most important for local residents.
- 6.1.2. Mapping of territories of traditional forest use by residents of Tydor village (Priluzye forestry) – together with public Forest Council.
- 6.1.3. Preparation of analytical note to the Committee of natural resources and environment of the State Council of the Komi Republic and to the executive committee of the social movement “Komi voytyr” with justification of the importance of traditional use of natural resources for life support of the residents of remote forest villages – based on results of mapping of territories of traditional forest use and interviews of the residents of villages in Udora, Ust-Kulom and Kortkeros districts .
- 6.2.1. Monitoring of the influence of logging companies’ activities to socio-economic situation in rural districts (jointly with forest councils of the Priluzye, Udora and Kortkeros districts, with local self-government bodies).
- 6.2.2. Assistance in awareness of local population and in development of a dialogue (support in publishing the «Forest Council» newspaper in the Priluzye district).
- 6.3.1. Information and methodic support of territorial public self-government development in the rural settlements of the Komi Republic.
- 6.3.2. Support of initiatives to develop territorial public self-government in the Udora and Sysola districts – seminars and consultations.
- 6.4.1. Organization of Forest Dialogue as a functioning platform for thorough discussions of forest and river resources management issues with participation of a wide circle of representatives – local community, business, state institutions, local governments, science, NGOs.
- 6.4.2. Promotion of the joint discussion results.

**General results:**

Started during the previous years’ activity on identification and mapping of the traditional nature use territories aimed at their legalization and conservation by means of coordination with the logging business acting on this territory is still in-demand. However, due to the lack of the target financing of the activity planned in this section in 2013, the work on the conservation of the traditional nature use territories was conducted only in three settlements having disputable situations related to the forest areas use.

The local initiatives on the public control of the impact of the logging companies’ activity on the socio-economic situation in the rural districts have been supported. The collaboration with the Public Forest Council of the Keros village (Kortkeros district) and OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” on settlement of the problems related to the use of forest areas on the territory of this rural settlement has been continued. The information on the results of this work has been presented to the commission on nature use and ecology of the State Council of the Komi Republic in order to pay attention of the legislators to the significance of the traditional nature use for the livelihoods of the remote forest villages’ residents.

The attention of the participants of the republican ecological conference (August 22, 2013) was paid to the local nature use problems. These problems have also been reviewed by the delegates of the Interregional Public Movement “Komi Voytyr” conference with participation of the Foundation representative in the Ust-Kulom district.

Development of the interaction between the local communities and large business remains relevant for the rural districts on the territory of which the industrial logging is ongoing. In order to introduce in more detail such forest use regulation mechanism as certification according to the FSC system to the representatives of the population the participation of the activists from the forest districts of Komi in the educational seminar organized by the Russian national office of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has been supported. The issues related to the public participation in the forest management have also been brought up on other platforms, as well as in mass media.

Information and procedural support of the territorial public self-government appeared to be within the frameworks of the “Model river Mezen” project in the rural settlements of the Udora district.

**Detailed results:**

- A.** A filed examination of several logging sites logged during the last seasons (2011 - 2012) was carried out jointly with the Forest Council of the village Keros and representatives of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”. The claims related to the availability of the ground wood on the former industrial sites, residual (not removed) wood in the forest, maintenance of the public roads used for timber hauling were communicated to the loggers. The results of the public control and alternate solutions of the detected problems were jointly considered during the meeting in the administration of the rural settlement. *June of 2013.*
- B.** The report “Problems of the local nature use and socio-ecological initiatives of the Silver Taiga Foundation” was prepared and presented at the republican conference on August 22, 2013. It contained the proposals addressed to the State Council of the Komi Republic and relevant government institutions. In particular, it was suggested to take measures on the legislative solution of the problem at the federal or republican levels (*to initiate a development and adoption of the Law of the Komi Republic “On traditional nature use” or give a chance to exercise the traditional rights for hunting and fishing by means of “reservation” of the forest areas or otherwise, but at the legislative level*). Industrial companies were recommended to conclude the voluntary agreements with the local communities concerning the relations on the use of the territories important for the local population (*until the legislative solution of this issue*). Etc.
- C.** Local activists from the forest districts of Komi - Priluzje, Udora, and Kortkeros – have taken part in the educational seminar organized by the Russian national office of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in the Ustyansky district of the Arkhangelsk region. They have also participated in the work of the round table “Forest sector of the North-West of Russia and participation of the population in the forest management”.
- D.** The report on the problems of the local nature use and possible mechanisms for solving of these problems has been presented to the delegates at the conference of the NGO “Komi Voytyr” in the Ust-Kulom district.
- E.** The report “Promotion of the collaboration development between the forest relations participants: from the experience of the Silver Taiga Foundation” was presented at the seminar organized by the Russian FSC office in the Arkhangelsk region.
- F.** In 2013 publication of 2 editions of the “Forest Council” Supplement to the Priluzje district newspaper was supported.
- G.** The initiative of the first Forest dialogue at the municipal level has been supported – Forest dialogue “Forest relations: problems and solutions” was held jointly with the public Forest Council, administration of the Municipal District “Priluzsky” and Priluzje forestry unit in the village Objachevo *December 6, 2013.*

**Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):**

- Administrations of “forest” districts and rural villages of the Komi Republic;
- Commission on Ecology and Nature Management of the Public Chamber of the Komi Republic;
- FCS national Working group;
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic;
- OJSC Mondi Syktyvkar;
- NGO – “Komi voytyr” – branches in forest regions of the republic;
- NGO of Udora district – “Udorachi”;
- Regional Social Movement “Indigenous Women of Komi”;
- Public Forest Council of the Priluzje municipal district;
- Public Forest Council of the rural settlement Keros (Kortkeros district).

**7. Regional program of the Komi Model Forest development in the Komi Republic for 2013 – 2015.** In case the funding is available (*Yu. Pautov*).

**Objectives:**

- 7.1. Organizational and methodical support of the Model Forest development.
- 7.2. Landscape ecological planning of the Model Forest management taking into consideration contemporary requirements on the basis of GIS technologies and Earth remote sensing (ERS) materials.
- 7.3. Economic feasibility of the forestry intensification.
- 7.4. Increase of the qualification of the Komi Republic forestry specialists.
- 7.5. Participation of the local population in sustainable forest management.

**Planned activity 2013**

- 7.1.1. Agreement and approval of the Regulation on Regional Council of the Komi Model Forest.
- 7.1.2. Preparation and approval of the Order of the Head of the Komi Republic “On the Regional Council of the Komi Model Forest”.
- 7.1.3. Agreement and approval of the Program of activities of the Komi Model Forest for 2013 by the Regional Council.
- 7.1.4. Preparation and approval of the Order of the Head of the Komi Republic “On the Working group of the Komi Model Forest”.
- 7.1.5. Agreement and approval of the financial sources and mechanisms for the Komi Model Forest projects with the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic.
- 7.1.6. Development of creative interagency teams for implementation of the agreed projects of the Komi Model Forest in 2013 and for the period until 2015.
- 7.2.1. Creation of a relevant database for forest use landscape ecological planning in the Komi Model Forest.
- 7.2.2. Comparative evaluation of different sources of spatial data with respect to their availability, relevance, accuracy, reliability and cost for the medium term (3-10 years) and short term (1-2 years) forest use planning.
- 7.2.3. Field testing of different sources with respect to the reliability and accuracy of spatial information transfer for the purposes of forest planning.
- 7.2.4. Development of optimization proposals for different sources of landscape spatial data for the medium term and short term of forest use planning.
- 7.2.5. Field testing of suggested algorithms for the short term forest use planning of the certified enterprises – tenants of the Komi Model Forest.
- 7.2.6. Development of optimal algorithms of medium term and short term forest planning on the basis of ERS and GIS data taking into consideration the relevance of materials, cost, and efficiency of works.
- 7.2.7. Efficiency evaluation of different methods of forest exploitation and forestry management project development on the basis of forest management and ERS materials.
- 7.2.8. Development of the methods of forest use and forestry scenario planning on the basis of GIS technologies.
- 7.2.9. Approbation of medium term and short term planning methods of forest use and forestry using GIS technologies and ERS materials.
- 7.2.10. Development of a forest use landscape ecological planning training course on the basis of GIS technologies and ERS materials.
- 7.2.11. Preparation of demonstrational sites and materials for the training course in the Komi Model Forest.
- 7.3.1. Collection and systematization of economic evaluation materials for the intensive forestry model in the Komi Republic, Russian taiga zone, Scandinavia, and Latvia.
- 7.3.2. Evaluation of economic, legal, technological, and infrastructural restrictions to intensive forestry introduction in the Komi Republic.
- 7.3.3. Development of suggestions with respect to economically viable scenarios of intensive forestry in the Komi Republic.
- 7.3.4. Adaptation of intensive forestry regulations to the conditions in the Komi Republic (reforestation, non-commercial thinning, commercial thinning, and reforestation cutting).
- 7.3.5. Economic evaluation of developed regulations.
- 7.3.6. Approbation of developed regulations in the Komi Model Forest (establishment of test areas and sites).
- 7.4.1. Update of taxation data related to demonstrational test fields and sites, cleaning of routes if needed (with the participation of Syktyvkar Forest Institute students).
- 7.4.2. Preparation of demonstrational materials on the basis of up-to-date materials and satellite images.
- 7.4.3. Creation of new demonstration objects on the following topics:
  - Intensive forestry;
  - Landscape forestry planning;
  - Local population traditional nature use (ethnic route –traditional Komi village in the forest landscape);
  - Minimization of forest use ecological influence on soils and water resources;
  - Primary forest natural dynamics (on the territory of the planned “Koygorodok” National Park);
  - Ecology of taiga forests – introductory ecological route for Syktyvkar Forest Institute and Syktyvkar State University students near Syktyvkar.
- 7.4.5. Equipment of the infrastructure on the routes and sites (benches, bonfire sites, tables, pavilions, bridges, etc.).

- 7.4.6. Development of a plan of seminars and master classes (together with Syktyvkar Forest Institute management).
- 7.4.7. Introduction of the training course “Basic forest-related knowledge for forestry specialists” with the involvement of specialized forestry enterprise employees.
- 7.4.8. Creation of the regular Forest forum on sustainable forest management for the managing personnel of the Republic of Komi forest service (in cooperation with the Forest Committee).
- 7.4.9. Organization of traveling seminars and experience exchange for forest specialists coming from abroad on the basis of the Komi Model Forest (based on requests).
- 7.4.10. Distribution of information via the Internet (including the Internet forum on sustainable forest management).
- 7.5.1 Support of the Public Forest Council activities in the Priluzje district. Organization of experience exchange between public Forest Councils of the Priluzje and Udora districts.
- 7.5.2 Support of the regular issuing of the supplement to the district newspaper “Lesnoy Sovet” and other forms of the informational work with the population.
- 7.5.3 Detection of territories of traditional nature use by the local population of forest villages. Suggestion of preservation mechanisms for the local population traditional nature use territories in the areas with industrial exploitation (search of compromises).
- 7.5.4 Organization of annual Forest Dialogues as a working republican platform for the comprehensive discussion of forest and river resources with the participation of various representatives – local population, business, state structures, local self-government, science, and NGOs. Promotion of the discussion results for making management decisions.

### **General results**

In 2013 start-up of the Second World Bank project on sustainable forest management in Russia (fire prevention project) was planned. Within the frameworks of this project the Komi Republic was defined as one of 5 pilot regions. Unlike other pilot regions of the project, in the Komi Republic activities on support of the Komi Model Forest financed from the World Bank project budget have been planned and agreed with the Forestry Agency of the Russian Federation (Federal Forestry Agency). Total amount of the Model Forest financing was planned at the level of \$ 200 000 annually. On this basis, a large volume of organizational and forest holding activity was planned to be performed in the Komi Model Forest. However, due to the inclusion of the Federal Forestry Agency to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation at the end of 2012 and further change of its functions, World Bank project start-up was postponed indefinitely yet again. Financing of the Komi Model Forest from the World Bank project haven't started. Therefore, almost no activities planned for 2013 have been conducted.

Nevertheless, in 2013 the government of the Komi Republic allocated funds from the Republican budget according to the Article “Development and implementation of the model solutions on sustainable forest management in the Komi Republic” for the first time in the history of the Komi Model Forest development (since 1997). The funds were allocated through the Ministry of Finance of the Komi Republic on competition basis. The competition was held by the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic within the frame of two tenders based on the competitive bids placed by the different interested organizations. Silver Taiga Foundation has taken part in both tenders and won both. The Foundation competitive bids have been focused on the renewal of the demonstrational routes and experimental polygons of the Komi Model Forest. During the fulfillment of the competition tasks by the Foundation employees with involvement of the partners and volunteers a large amount of work on description of 60 forest objects on five demonstrational routes and four experimental polygons of the Model Forest has been done.

- inventory of the demonstrational forest areas has been performed;
- demonstrational wood samples have been selected;
- paths have been cleared and streams and boggy areas crossings arranged;
- nameplates have been installed on every route;
- 7 color illustrated guide-books on the Komi Model Forest routes and grounds have been published in edition of 500 copies each.

All materials have been handed over to the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic as an ordering party and contests organizer.

Besides, the Foundation has organized 2 educational field seminars for the specialists of the Forest Committee and forestry units of the Komi Republic within the frameworks of the Republican state program “Forestry development in the Komi Republic for 2011-2013”.

A field seminar on the topic “Landscape-ecological peculiarities of the pristine taiga forest” was held in June of 2013 for 10 specialists of the Forest Service in the Pechora-Ilych Reserve.

A field seminar on the topic “Problems and perspectives of forestry intensification in the Komi Republic” was held in August of 2013 for 10 specialists of the Forest Service in the Komi Model Forest.

2013 witnessed three meetings of the Initiative Working group on the forestry intensification. During these meetings a draft of the Forestry Intensification Concept in the Komi Republic was developed. It has been submitted for discussion to the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic and other stakeholders.

### **Detailed results**

- A. Regulation on Regional Council of the Komi Model Forest has been coordinated and submitted for approval to the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic.

- B.** Draft Order of the Head of the Komi Republic “On the Regional Council of the Komi Model Forest” have been agreed and submitted to the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic.
- C.** The Program of the Komi Model Forest activity for 2013 within the frameworks of the World Bank Pilot project has been agreed and handed over to the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic.
- D.** “A procurement plan for equipment required for the Komi Model Forest implementation” amounting to \$ 900 000” within the frameworks of the World Bank Pilot Project has been prepared and submitted to the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic. The procurement plan has been forwarded to the Forestry Agency of the RF.
- E.** Draft Order of the Head of the Komi Republic “On the Komi Model Forest Working group” have been prepared and submitted for approval to the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic.
- F.** Participation in two tenders held by the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic on the topic “Development and implementation of the model solutions on sustainable forest management in the Komi Republic” in III and IV quarters of 2013. Total funding allocation on the won competitive bids amounted to 1 mln. RUB. According to the tenders conditions the funds have been spent on the renewal of the demonstrational routes and experimental polygons of the Komi Model Forest. During the works the taxation information have been updated or additional description of 60 demonstrational routes have been prepared, the routes and grounds infrastructure has been renewed or constructed anew, 7 guide-books on the Komi Model Forest demonstrational routes and grounds with a circulation of 7\*500=3500 copies have been published.
- G.** A field seminar on the topic “Landscape-ecological peculiarities of the pristine taiga forest” has been conducted in the Pechora-Ilych Reserve for 10 specialists of the Forest Service.
- H.** A field seminar on the topic “Problems and perspectives of forestry intensification in the Komi Republic” has been held in the Komi Model Forest for 10 specialists of the Forest Service.
- I.** Forestry Intensification Concept in the Komi Republic has been developed and presented for discussion to the interested parties.
- J.** “A Forest Dialogue of the Priluzje district” on the problems of forest use control with participation of the local self-government bodies and local population was organized (jointly with the Administration of the Priluzje districted, Forest Committee of the Komi Republic, Priluzje and Letka forestry units) - *December 6, 2013*.
- K.** Participation in the Presentation of the WWF film “I choose forest” and follow-up press-conference in Moscow (jointly with the Director of the Priluzje forestry unit A.I. Kindsfater) – *February 11, 2013*.
- L.** Participation in the roundtable meeting on “Development strategy for the system of the forest management and nature protection norms for the middle-taiga forest district aimed at introduction of the sustainable intensive forestry model” in Saint-Petersburg – *March 18, 2013*.

**Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):**

- Administration of the Udora district;
- Center of Sustainable Development under Syktyvkar State University;
- Consulting center “Tefra”;
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic;
- Letka forestry unit;
- LLC “Lesnaya alternativa” – St.Petersburg;
- LLC “Priluzje forestry unit”;
- LLC “Tekhkarta”;
- NGO “Komi voytyr” – divisions in Priluzje;
- OJSC “Luzales”;
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”;
- Priluzje forestry unit;
- Public Forest Council of the Priluzje district;
- Syktyvkar Forest Institute;
- Territorial Fund of Information of the Komi Republic;
- WWF Russia.

## 8. Initiation of volunteer movement (*E.Popova*).

### **Objective:**

- 8.1. Engagement of volunteers in the Silver Taiga Foundation projects implementation, and also for distribution of information about nature protection and social problems of sustainable development within the framework of the Foundation activity.

### **Planned activity:**

- 8.1.1. Search of proactive and motivated people (mostly junior and senior students of higher education institutions in Syktyvkar) for the volunteer movement expansion (up to 20-25 people).
- 8.1.2. Organization of educational seminars related to sustainable development and aimed at introducing the main Foundation activities to the volunteers every two-three months.
- 8.1.3. Organization of a one-two-day field seminar "History of forest use in the Komi Republic. Natural dynamics and biological diversity of taiga forests" for volunteers in the Komi Model Forest.
- 8.1.4. Maintenance of the webpage "Volunteers of Silver Taiga Foundation" in the social network VKontakte ([vk.com/silvertaiga](http://vk.com/silvertaiga)).
- 8.1.5. Creation of a section devoted to volunteer movement on the Foundation website [www.silvertaiga.ru](http://www.silvertaiga.ru).
- 8.1.6. Organization of volunteers' work to help in the fulfillment of the following tasks:
- Annual renovation of educational routes in the Komi Model Forest;
  - Preparation of educational routes in the planned "Koygorodok" National Park;
  - Support in the organization of educational seminars;
  - Support in the organization of Foundation events, including working groups, forest dialogues, and seminars;
  - Help in the filling out of the Foundation website [www.silvertaiga.ru](http://www.silvertaiga.ru) sections with information;
  - Participation in the fulfillment of other tasks if needed.
- 8.1.7. Development of an individual volunteer activity program (at volunteer's wish) within the framework of one of the Foundation activities together with the activity coordinator and support of this activity.

### **General results:**

During the first quarter of 2013 a number of activities aimed at involvement of the volunteers into the work of the Foundation were held. In particular, by agreement with the Syktyvkar Forest Institute four master-classes on the topic of sustainable development based on natural resources for the first-fourth year students were carried out. Announcements inviting the students to participate in the Foundation projects have been placed in the buildings of the institutions of higher and professional education. Volunteering information was distributed in the Internet social network "VKontakte".

Unfortunately, the conducted activities did not lead to the expected result and the Foundation has not succeeded in gathering more or less permanent group of volunteers until now. Therefore, part of the activities planned to be conducted with the volunteers turned out to be undemanded. Nevertheless, volunteers were involved in handling the tasks of the Foundation several times throughout a year.

### **Detailed results:**

- A. A meeting with the volunteers for watching and discussion of the movie "I choose forest" was organized - 5 people – *February of 2013*.
- B. Four master-classes on the topic of sustainable development based on the natural resources were conducted for the I-IV year students of the Syktyvkar Forest Institute in the amount of 80 people – *April-May of 2013*.
- C. 15 announcements inviting to participate in the Project activities were placed in the buildings of the institutions of higher and secondary professional education, actions on distribution of the volunteering information in groups in the Internet social network "VKontakte" (groups devoted to nature lovers and the group of chemical-biological faculty of the Syktyvkar State University) were conducted – *April-May of 2013*.
- D. A section devoted to the volunteer movement was created on the Foundation site <http://silvertaiga.ru/page/269/> - *September of 2013*.
- E. Occasional update of the information in the group "Volunteers of the Silver Taiga Foundation" in the social network "VKontakte" ([vk.com/silvertaiga](http://vk.com/silvertaiga)) – *throughout the whole year*.
- F. Work of the volunteers aimed at handling the following tasks was organized:
- Processing (digitizing) of the data on the long-term monitoring of the reproductive Salmon stock in the Mezen river carried out by the Komirbyvod employees – 1 person – January of 2013.
  - Digitizing of the Foundation photos dated 1992-1998 – 1 person – March-April of 2013.
  - Works related to arrangement of the demonstration routes and test grounds in the Komi Model Forest - 1 person – three days – July of 2013.
  - Participation in the expedition on Salmon pits monitoring – 1 person – 7 days – October of 2013.

### **Cooperating organizations:**

- Syktyvkar Forest Institute.

## **9. Development of regional risk assessment for FSC controlled wood in the Komi Republic (E. Popova).**

### **Objective:**

- 9.1. To organize the process of development and approval of regional risk assessment for FSC controlled wood in the Komi Republic.

### **Planned activity:**

- 9.1.1. Distribution of the first version of regional risk assessment among the members of the Working group, collection of comments, their documenting and systematization.
- 9.1.2. Organization of a Working group meeting targeted at the discussion of the first version of regional risk assessment.
- 9.1.3. Distribution of the second version of regional risk assessment among the members of the Working group, collection of comments, their documenting and systematization.
- 9.1.4. Organization of a meeting of the Working group targeted at the discussion of the second version of regional risk assessment.
- 9.1.5. Field approbation of regional risk indicators and subindicators (together with Mondi Syktyvkar).
- 9.1.6. Public discussion of the regional assessment project (forum).
- 9.1.7. Introduction of changes taking into consideration the results of public discussion, development of the second version of regional risk assessment.
- 9.1.8. Handing over of the second version of regional risk assessment to the FCS national Working group for its approval.

### **General results:**

The regional risk assessment development is conducted within the frameworks of the agreement with the Russian National office of FSC Russia. The project was initiated by OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” jointly with the National FSC office.

An active project phase took place in the first half of 2013. Two in-person meetings of the project working group have been held.

For most indicators and sub-indicators a consensus was reached. Collection of an additional information was carried out regarding disputable issues. Indigenous people indicators turned out to be the most controversial. For these indicators the decision is still not taken. Based on the conducted work the second draft of the regional risk assessment was developed.

Project finalization was scheduled to the end of 2013. However, due to the audit of the controlled wood system at the international level, which put at risk the possibility of approval of the regional risk assessment, the project implementation in Komi was suspended until the details are clarified.

In December a decision was taken to continue the implementation of the project on regional risk assessment for the Komi Republic. The target project delivery time is June 1, 2014.

### **Detailed results:**

- A. Distribution of the first draft of the regional risk assessment among the Working Group members was done. Comments are collected and systematized – *January of 2013*.
- B. A meeting of the Working group for discussion of the first draft of the regional risk assessment was organized – 8 people – *February 8, 2013*.
- C. Forwarding of the letters containing debatable issues to the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic, Institute of Biology of the Komi Republic, Human Rights Commission “Memorial”, and Trade union of the forest industry employees was performed. Received materials were collected and systematized – *February of 2013*.
- D. The second draft of the regional risk assessment was prepared– *May of 2013*.
- E. Distribution of the second draft of the regional risk assessment among the Working Group members was done. Comments are collected and systematized – *May of 2013*.
- F. Meeting of the Working group for discussion of the second draft of the regional risk assessment was organized– 7 people – *May 27, 2013*.

### **Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):**

- Committee to Save Pechora River;
- Consulting centre “Tefra”;
- FCS national Working group;
- Institute of Biology KSC UB RAS;
- Local community of indigenous people “Udorachi”;
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”;
- Public Forest Council of the Priluzje district.



## **Information publishing activity** (V. Semyashkina, E. Popova).

### **1. Publications**

- 1.1. Informational booklet "Silver Taiga: Learning from nature" (about the Foundation objectives, projects, and results of its activities for the last 10 years) – at the expense of the *Reserve Fund*.
- 1.2. Thematic informational booklet on the issue of poaching on the Mezen River (pictures + comments + children's drawings) – within the framework of the *"Model river Mezen – Population" project*.
- 1.3. The first two books "Handbooks for fishermen" (series of "pocket" brochures on the rules of fishing) – within the framework of the *"Model river Mezen – Population" project*.
- 1.4. Brochure with the results of Mezen salmon population monitoring (using the data obtained as a result of expeditions during the last years + data of FSBI "Komirbyvod" starting from 1986 + evidence of the local population) – within the framework of the *"Model river Mezen – Fish resources" project*.
- 1.5. Issuing of small edition publications – booklets and activity reports on the fields of activities – *using own facilities (color printer and stitcher)*.

### **2. Work with mass media**

- 2.1. Issuing of 6 editions 3500 copies each of the thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper – *within the framework of the "Model river Mezen – Population" project*.
- 2.2. Support of the issuing of "Lesnoy Sovet" newspaper – thematic supplement to the Priluzje district newspaper, 4 editions – *within the framework of the Komi Model Forest project*.
- 2.3. Preparation and sending of news press-releases on the Foundation activities to mass media.
- 2.4. Preparation of problem-oriented, analytical materials on the Foundation activities and interviews on the burning issues and topics for their publication in republican mass media.
- 2.5. Exchange of informational materials and thematic publications in district newspapers "Sever" and "Zvezda" (Mezensky and Leshukonsky districts of the Arkhangelsk region) – *within the framework of the "Model river Mezen – Population" project*.

### **3. Internet**

- 3.1. Filling of the website [www.silvertaiga.ru](http://www.silvertaiga.ru) news section and other sections with information.
- 3.2. Creation of the website [www.silvertaiga.ru](http://www.silvertaiga.ru) section devoted to the volunteer movement.
- 3.3. Maintenance of the webpage "Volunteers of Silver Taiga Foundation" in the social network VKontakte ([vk.com/silvertaiga](http://vk.com/silvertaiga)).

### **4. Results:**

- A. An informational booklet "Silver Taiga": learning from nature" (on the Foundation targets, projects, and results of the 10-year activity) has been prepared and published – on account of the Reserve Fund.
- B. "A fisherman handbook" ("a pocket-sized" brochure containing fishing rules) has been prepared and handed over for publishing – within the frameworks of the "Model River Mezen - Population" project.
- C. 6 editions of the thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper with a circulation of 3500 copies each has been prepared, published, and distributed – within the frameworks of the "Model River Mezen – Population" project.
- D. Publishing of 2 editions of the "Forest Council" newspaper - a thematic supplement to the Priluzje district newspaper - has been supported – within the frameworks of the "HCVF" project.
- E. 7 guidebooks on the Komi Model Forest demonstrational routes and grounds with a total circulation of 3500 copies have been prepared and published.
- F. More than 20 items of information about the Silver Taiga projects implementation progress have been published based on the Foundation news press-releases in the Republican mass media and news portals [www.bnkomi.ru](http://www.bnkomi.ru), [www.komiinform.ru](http://www.komiinform.ru), [www.finnougr.ru](http://www.finnougr.ru) and others.
- G. Articles on the Foundation projects topic, including the interviews on the burning problems, have been published in the magazine "Sustainable Forest Management", Republican newspapers "Komi mu", "Respublika" ("Republic"), the newspaper of the North-Western federal district "Nevskoye vremya" ("Neva time"), newspaper of the Leshukonsky district of the Arkhangelsk region "Zvezda" ("Star").
- H. 20 publications on the newslines of the web-site [www.silvertaiga.ru](http://www.silvertaiga.ru).
- I. The page "Volunteers of the Silver Taiga Foundation" has been created and maintained in the social network "Vkontakte" ([www.vk.com/silvertaiga](http://www.vk.com/silvertaiga)).