



Director _____ *Yury Pautov*

Silver Taiga Foundation Progress report for 2017

General Contents:

Primary activity

1. Contribution to establishment of Protected Areas on the basis of pristine forests (Yu. Pautov)..... p. 2
2. Landscape-ecological background for intensive sustainable forestry and FSC planning (N. Shuktomov, Yu. Pautov)..... p. 4
3. Model River Mezen – cooperation with local communities (V.Semyashkina, N. Shilov)..... p. 6
4. Model River Mezen – restoration of fish resources (N. Shilov)..... p. 9
5. Evaluation of the long-term impact of forestry (logging) on soil and water resources (A. Borovlev, Yu. Pautov)..... p. 11
6. Forest communities and sustainable use of forest landscapes. Interaction of forest communities and large forest business (V. Semyashkina, A. Shuktomova, O. Sazhina)..... p. 13
7. Consultations and training (Yu.Pautov)..... p. 15

Supplementary activity (in case additional financing is involved)

8. Regional Komi Model Forest Development program (Yu. Pautov)..... p. 16
9. Initiation of volunteer movement (O. Sazhina)..... p. 17
10. Support of FSC certification in Russia (Yu. Pautov)..... p. 18

Approved by the Coordination Council of Silver Taiga Foundation:

Coordination Council Chairman _____ / *Majewski Przemyslaw*

Member of Coordination Council _____ / *Karpachevskiy Mikhail*

Member of Coordination Council _____ / *Levy Marcelo*

Member of Coordination Council _____ / *Sedusova Natalia*

1. Contribution to establishment of Protected Areas on the basis of pristine forests (Yu. Pautov)

Objectives for 2017-2019:

To search and strength compromise solutions on conservation and sustainable use of HCVF II – Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) in the Komi Republic by reserving the most valuable parts of IFL to create protected areas (PA) and to spread positive experience in the neighbouring regions.

Planned activity for 2017:

- Drafting of the summary report based on the results of the 2016 international expedition to the central part of the Verkhne-Vashka Intact Forest Landscape to specify the environmental value of the planned-to-be Osa complex reserve. Submission of the report to the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic and PA Center of the Komi Republic to reserve the area for the PA establishment – *February-March 2017*.
- Clarification and alignment of boundaries of the planned-to-be Osa complex reserve with forest fund lessees, Committee for Geology of the Komi Republic, the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic – *March 2017*.
- Preparation and conduct of public hearings with stakeholders and affected parties on establishment of the Osa Complex Reserve in the CORE of the Verkhne-Vashka Intact Forest Landscape (jointly with the PA Center of the Komi Republic) – *March-May 2017*.
- Drafting and agreement of the Regulation on the Osa Complex Reserve (jointly with the PA Center of the Komi Republic and the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic) – *May-November 2017*.
- Monitoring of leasing and use of Intact Forest Landscapes based on ERS data in the Komi Republic as part of the preparation and arrangement of the voluntary forest certification of enterprises in Komi – *throughout the year*.
- Creation of the data base on the condition and use of Intact Forest Landscapes and Intact Forest Massifs (IFM) and its allocation at the Silver Taiga Foundation's WEB mapping tool, agreement of the data posted with the website of Russian NGOs (WWF Russia, NGO Transparent World, SPOK) - *www.hcvf.ru – November 2017*.
- Writing an article on detection of the most environmentally valuable plots of IFLs in order to reserve them in advance to create PA (jointly with WWF Russia, GREENPEACE Russia, FSC Russia) – *February-May 2017*.
- Participation in the High Priority Investment Project Committee at the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic – *throughout the year*.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

1. Preparation of the *Environmental and Economic Justification for the Osa Complex Reserve in the Core of the Verkhne-Vashka Intact Forest Landscape (within the boundaries of the Komi Republic)*, its submission to the Ministry of Industry, Natural Resources, Energy and Transport of the Komi Republic to initiate the procedure of establishment of a regional PA, obtainment of official positive feedback of the Ministry of Industry and the PA Center of the Komi Republic – *February-May 2017*.
2. Presentation of the *Environmental and Economic Justification for the Osa Complex Reserve in the Core of the Verkhne-Vashka Intact Forest Landscape* at the meeting of the Public Environmental Council at the Administration of Udora district of the Komi Republic, obtainment of official positive feedback of the Public Environmental Council with regard to the reserve establishment – *May 2017*.
3. Preparation, agreement, promotion at the FSC International level and actual adoption by the FSC Board of Directors of Motion 36 Clarifying the Term “Vast Majority of Intact Forest Landscape” included in Motion 65 of the 2014 FSC General Assembly (during preparation to the General Assembly). Motion 36 was discussed at three international meetings in the process of preparation for the 2017 FSC General Assembly and was adopted by the FSC Board of Directors on the eve of the General Assembly in Vancouver. As a result, the International Generic Indicators stipulate the possibility to have an extended interpretation of

the term “vast majority” of IFL” in the national standards based on local conditions – *April-October 2017*.

4. Agreement and signing of the Moratorium Agreement on Preservation of Intact Forest Landscapes and Intact Forest Areas between Mondi Group and Non-Governmental Environmental Organizations (WWF Russia and Silver Taiga Foundation). This agreement became the result of the 10-year-long focused efforts of the Silver Taiga Foundation aimed at identification, agreement and allocation of most environmentally valuable parts (Cores) of Intact Forest Landscapes near the borders of the Komi Republic with Arkhangelsk and Kirov Regions and Perm Krai as potential Pas – *October-December 2017*.
5. Participation in the tender at the All-Russia Science and Research Environmental Institute under the umbrella of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the RF and award of the Contract on services to prepare a package of materials and documents required to set up the Koygorodsky National Park in the Komi Republic – *December 2017*.

The activity under this section was conducted in line with the plan. The plan is fulfilled. The detailed results are presented in the Russian version of the report.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Koigorodok and Udora districts of Komi
- All-Russian Research Institution
- BPAN project
- FSC Office in Russia
- Greenpeace Russia
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center
- Lesozavod №1 logging company
- Maiskles logging company
- Ministry of Industry and Nature of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World”, Moscow
- Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve, Kirov region
- PA Center of the Komi Republic
- State Forestry Units in Koigorodok, Letka and Priluzje
- WWF Russia.

2. Landscape-ecological background for intensive sustainable forestry and FSC planning (N. Shuktomov, Yu. Pautov)

Objectives for 2017-2019:

- 2.1. Support of forest management planning to meet the requirements of the effective National FSC standard and the draft of the new National FSC standard.
- 2.2. Analysis of the compliance of environmental requirements and restrictions of the draft of the new National FSC standard with the Regulations of the Intensive Forest Management developed for the Dvina-Vycheгда forest area.
- 2.3. Drafting of the Intensive Forest Management landscape plan with the account of the FSC certification requirements for the pilot landscape area at Syktyvkar and Sysola forestry units.
- 2.4. Launching and filling of the web data service for sharing Silver Taiga's project imaging data. Creation and maintenance of data base for Intensive Forest Management testing grounds in the Komi Republic for monitoring and assessment of the developed Regulations of the Intensive Forest Management.
- 2.5. Development of the basic training course in forest management planning and arrangement under Intensive Forest Management for forestry sector employees.

Planned activity for 2017:

2.1. Support of forest management planning to meet the requirements of the effective National FSC standard and the draft of the new National FSC standard.

- Arrangement of field demonstration sites to hold the field training course for machinery operators and logging planning foremen in compliance with the requirements of the effective Russian National FSC standard – *May-September 2017*.
- Monitoring of key forest biotopes and key elements of the forest left through different methods in the period from 2008 to 2017 – *June-August 2017*.

2.2. Analysis of the compliance of environmental requirements and restrictions of the draft of the new National FSC standard with the Regulations of the Intensive Forest Management developed for the Dvina-Vycheгда forest area.

- Comparative analysis of the compliance of the draft of the new National FSC standard with the Regulations of the Intensive Forest Management developed for the Dvina-Vycheгда forest area – *February-April 2017*.
- Preparation of the analytical note on compliance of environmental requirements of the draft of the new National FSC standard with the Regulations of the Intensive Forest Management developed for the Dvina-Vycheгда forest area – *May 2017*.

2.3. Drafting of the Intensive Forest Management landscape plan with the account of the FSC certification requirements for the pilot landscape area at Syktyvkar and Sysola forestry units.

- Selection and alignment of the pilot area for landscape planning under the Intensive Forest Management at Syktyvkar and Sysola forestry units – *March-May 2017*.
- Development of base material for subsequent landscape planning under the Intensive Forest Management at the pilot area – *March-May 2017*.

2.4. Launching and filling of the web data service for sharing Silver Taiga's project imaging data. Creation and maintenance of data base for Intensive Forest Management testing grounds in the Komi Republic for monitoring and assessment of the developed Regulations of the Intensive Forest Management.

- Development of the platform and filling of the web data service for sharing Silver Taiga's project imaging data – *February 2017*.
- Collection of materials and building-up of the data base for Intensive Forest Management testing grounds in the Komi Republic (jointly with Tekhkarta and Mondi Syktyvkar) – *June-November 2017*.

2.5. Development of the basic training course in forest management planning and arrangement under Intensive Forest Management for forestry sector employees.

- Development of the basic training course, its alignment with stakeholders and partners of the project – *May-October 2017*.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

1. 12 field-training trips on logging planning and arrangement were prepared to meet the requirements of the Russian National FSC standard for five harvesting divisions of Mondi Syktyvkar. The course was attended by 159 machinery operators and forest foremen of Mondi Syktyvkar and its contractors, as well as delineation experts and representatives of forestry units – *May-September 2017*.
2. An updated list of biodiversity conservation items to be maintained during wood harvesting operations in the Komi Republic was prepared and submitted to the Forestry Administration of the Komi Republic to be attached to new regulations for forestry units. The updated list of biodiversity conservation items is adjusted for the conditions of 5 forest vegetation zones of the Komi Republic – *June-July 2017*.
3. Analysis of compliance of environmental limitations of the new FSC Standard with the Intensive Forest Management regulations developed for the Dvina-Vycheгда taiga forest area was implemented. The Analytical Note based on the materials of the analysis was drafted and shared at the Foundation’s website – *May-December 2017*.
4. The methods for monitoring of conservation of Key Forest Biotopes and Key Elements at logging sites including in-house and field parts, samples of field trip forms and a detailed instruction on how to fill them in were developed and tested. The methods were shared at the Silver Taiga Foundation’s website.

The activity under this section was conducted in line with the plan. The plan is fulfilled. The detailed results are presented in the Russian version of the report.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Forestry Units in Priluzje, Sysola and Ust-Nem
- FSC Russia
- Greenpeace Russia
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center
- Luzales logging company
- Ministry of Nature of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World”, Moscow
- Skanex – cartographic company, Moscow
- Syktyvkar Forest Institute
- Tekhkarta – cartographic company, Syktyvkar
- WWF Russia.

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

Objectives for 2017-2019:

- 3.1. Creation of public awareness of the problems related to fishery resources and possible solutions. Ensuring access to this information for the local population.
- 3.2. Assisting to development of sustainable river resource management methods among local users based on the awareness of the local residents and joint discussion of the current problems (including Mezen districts of Arkhangelsk region).
- 3.3. Informative, tutorial and organizational support to local entrepreneurs and tourism development and recreational river use initiators.
- 3.4. Development of cooperation between the municipalities along the Mezen (Udora district of the Komi Republic, Leshukonskoye and Mezen districts of Arkhangelsk region).
- 3.5. Development of public self-government and cooperation between residents of settlements along the Mezen (within districts and between them). Distribution of the project experience related to public self-government development with other districts of the Komi Republic.
- 3.6. Support of the environmental, educational, exploration and regional study work with students and youth in the sphere of the project activities (cooperation with schools and vocational education institutions).
- 3.7. Preparation of proposals for the regional legislation with the account of the role of traditional river resource management to ensure sustenance of the local population.
- 3.8. Distribution of the information about the project and its findings (media support of the project).
- 3.9. Launching a project page at the website www.silvertaiga.ru to accumulate and distribute the results of the project and other materials related to the project subject.

Planned activity for 2017:

3.1 Creation of public awareness of the problems related to fishery resources and possible solutions. Ensuring access to this information for the local population.

- Layout preparation and publication of the *Mezen: River Resource Sustainable Management Issues* book – collection of articles about the condition of fishery resources, local traditions of natural resource management and the Model River Mezen project – *March-April 2017*.
- Manufacturing of the transportable informative banner on the Model River Mezen project (copywriting, photos, design, etc) – *May 2017*.
- Publication of the informative brochure about the project – *May 2017*.
- 1-day workshop for Udora district teachers about the Mezen river ichthyofauna – *September 2017*.
- Creation of public awareness through the network of libraries. Jointly with Udora central library and Leshukonskoye and Mezen district libraries – *throughout the year*. Including:
 - participation in the World Fish Migration Day – *May 2017*.
 - opening of summer reading halls in villages and settlements of the district with thematic educational activities targeted at different groups of population – *June-August 2017*.
- Meeting students originating from Udora district who study in Syktyvkar to involve them into the project – *February 2017*.
- Theme programs arranged by the student volunteer propaganda team in populated areas of Udora district – *summer months of 2017*.
- Organization and arrangement of the intervillage Mezen Day celebration with the participation of Udora and Leshukonskoye districts residents (jointly with the administrations of the settlements, the Komi Voytyr Interregional Public Movement, Udora central library) – *August 2017*. Conducted at different places simultaneously: environmental marathon (river bank cleaning event), photo exhibition, discussion ground, folk craft fair, videos and films), etc.
- 6 issues of the thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper – *throughout the year*.
- Interdistrict photo contest (with the best pictures published in the wall calendar).
- Publication of the 2018 wall calendar with some popular information about the Mezen river ichthyofauna – *November-December 2017*.

3.2. Assisting to development of sustainable river resource management methods among local users based on the awareness of the local residents and joint discussion of the current problems.

- The round table meeting *Role of the River Resources in Local Economy and Sustainment of the Population: Mezen District. Retrospect, current condition and issues* in Mezen district, Arkhangelsk region – *February 2017*.
- Coordination of the activity related to Koslan round table meeting (*17 November 2016*) and Mezen round table meeting (*February 2017*) resolution implementation.
- Coordination of the project Working Group activity. Preparation and arrangement of 2 Working

Group meetings – *March (results of the trip to Mezen district, detalization of 2017 plans), December (results of the year, perspective planning).*

- Search and preparation of materials on the successful experience of the river resource management by communities in other districts and countries, and their publication at the website and supplement to the district newspaper.

3.3. Informative, tutorial and organizational support to local entrepreneurs and tourism development and recreational river use initiators.

- Rural tourism development workshop for residents of villages along the Vashka River (presentation of actual experience of rural tourism facilitators in near-Mezen populated areas, a master class on making souvenirs). Jointly with the Komi Voytyr – *March 2017.*
- Expanding contacts with rural entrepreneurs of Pinega and Leshukonskoye districts of Arkhangelsk region to exchange experience in recreational river resource usage, exchange tourist groups, develop a walk-through tourist route along the Mezen – *throughout the year.*
- Workshop in Koslan to train the representatives of territorial self-governments and local activists to manage projects (project planning and development, fund raising, etc.). Jointly with the Komi Voytyr – *April 2017.*
- Support and assistance for development and implementation of local projects, tutorial support for authors of rural public initiatives in grant competitions. Jointly with NGOs the Indigenous Women of Komi and the Komi Voytyr – *throughout the year.*

3.4. Development of cooperation between the municipalities along the Mezen (Udora district of the Komi Republic, Leshukonskoye and Mezen districts of Arkhangelsk region).

- A trip for the project Working Group to Mezen district of Arkhangelsk region to meet local residents in the district villages – *February 2017.*
- Interdistrict round table meeting on the history of economic and cultural contacts of near-Mezen residents in Arkhangelsk region and Komi, and perspectives of their interaction under the project in the central library of Mezen – *February 2017.*
- Interregional workshop to exchange experience in the project promotion with the involvement of librarians from Udora and Leshukonskoye districts – *August 2017.*

3.5. Development of public self-government and cooperation between residents of settlements along the Mezen (within districts and between them).

- Publications about the role of rural public self-governments in developing local communities in near-Mezen districts, distribution of the experience related to self-government development and cooperation in other rural areas in Udora district and other districts of Komi and Arkhangelsk region.

3.6. Support of the environmental, educational, exploration and regional study work with students and youth in the sphere of the project activities (cooperation with schools and vocational education institutions).

- Support of summer environmental and regional study expeditions held for schoolchildren and river bank cleaning activities (jointly with the Usogorsk Children's Activity Center; Ozherelye Udory – tour company, and rural schools) – *June-August 2017.*
- Facilitation of the summer ichthyologic school for Udora district students. Jointly with the secondary schools and PA Center of the Komi Republic – *июнь 2017.*
- The essay contest *River of My Childhood* for schoolchildren in Mezen district – *September-December 2017.*
- The district exploratory environmental and regional study conference *Istoki* for schoolchildren. Jointly with PA Center of the Komi Republic and district department of education – *December 2017.*

3.7. Preparation of proposals for the regional legislation with the account of the role of traditional river resource management to ensure sustenance of the local population.

3.8. Distribution of the information about the project and its findings (media support of the project).

- Publications in the Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk region mass media.
- Media support of the project at www.silvertaiga.ru.
- Launch of the special section – a target web resource for accumulation and distribution of information about the project – at www.silvertaiga.ru.
- Participation in the geographical workshop held monthly by the Komi branch of the Russian Geographic Society with the presentation about the project.
- Participation in the Interdistrict environmental multi-festival in Pechora with the presentation about the project activities – *April 2017.*
- Participation in regional and interregional conferences with reports on the issues of river resource management and the project status.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

1. The project initiated, arranged the inter-village Mezen Day event in Bolshaya Pyssa for the first time, it involved residents of other settlements of Udora district and Leshukonye district adjacent to it (jointly with administrations of Udora district, administrations of villages, the Komi Voytyr interregional public movement and Udora Centralized Library System) and some informative, exhibitory, entertainment and other thematic grounds. It was a large-scale event (with over 300 participants) and it allowed to ensure comprehensive presentation of the objectives, areas of focus and activities under the project, excite and engage new participants. *August 2017.*
2. Public awareness of the project is ensured – a portable banner to be used at meetings at various locations was made, an information booklet about the project displaying its targets and objectives, its progress and successful initiatives in brief was produced, the thematic supplement *Model River Mezen* to the Udora newspaper is continued to be published and distributed in three districts of the project.
3. The list of partnering entities and individuals participating in the project's activities was extended (the new partners include libraries of Leshukonye district, Arkhangelsk region, Recreational Center of Bolshaya Pyssa, Recreational Center of Vozhgora, Udora community in Syktyvkar, authors of photos and texts for the 2018 calendar, etc.).
4. Recognizability of the project has grown in districts owing to regular meetings of various types, information exchange, the inter-village Mezen Day event, inter-district photo contest *I Live on the Mezen River Bank*, distribution of the thematic supplement *Model River Mezen* and jointly published wall calendar *Along the Mezen*.

The activity under this section was conducted in line with the plan. The plan is fulfilled. The detailed results are presented in the Russian version of the report.

Note: *Out of the actions planned for 2017 the following actions were postponed to 2018 for various reasons (mainly due to the need of agreement with partners): workshop for Udora school teachers on the Mezen ichthyofauna, schoolchildren's arts and crafts contest River of My Childhood, designing of a layout for and publishing of a book Mezen – a collection of articles on the Mezen river ichthyofauna, up-to-date condition of its fishery resources, history of fishing at the Mezen, traditions of nature use by local residents and initiatives of the Mezen River Project.*

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administrations of the rural settlements of Komi and Arkhangelsk region
- Administration of Leshukonskoye and Mezen districts of Arkhangelsk region and of Udora district of Komi
- Agroudora – agricultural consumer cooperative
- Editorial offices of “Vyl Tuyod”, “Zvezda” and “Sever” newspapers, Komi Gor radio
- Education Departments of the Administration of Leshukonskoye and Udora districts
- Federal Institution of Water and Fishery Management (Komirybvod)
- Library in Leshukonskoye district
- Mezen central library
- Mezen local history museum
- National Museum of Udora district
- Ozherelye Udory, Udora tour company
- PA Center of the Komi Republic
- Regional public movement “Native Women of Komi”
- Udora secondary schools
- Udora centralized library system
- Udora NGO “Udorachi”
- Interregional Public Movement “Komi Voytyr” (NGO)
- Usogorsk Children's Activity Center

4. Model River Mezen – restoration of fish resources (N. Shilov)

Objectives for 2017-2019:

- 4.1. Continued development, approval and started implementation of the interregional program of the salmon conservation in the Mezen river (hereinafter the Program) initiated by the project.
- 4.2. Monitoring of fishery management projects implemented at the Mezen river.
- 4.3. Continued annual monitoring of the spawning quality and salmon spawning ground condition.
- 4.4. Joint fishery protection actions (State Aquatic Bioresources Inspection of the Komi Republic, State Inspectorate for Small Vessels).
- 4.5. Support to projects on non-migratory fish recruitment.
- 4.6. Development and introduction of proposals to amend the Fishing Rules for the Northern Fishery Basin with account of the opinions of the population and users.
- 4.7. Bringing in the sustainable fishery resource management experience from other regions.

Planned activity for 2017:

4.1. Continued development, approval and started implementation of the interregional program of the salmon conservation in the Mezen river (hereinafter the Program) initiated by the project.

- Organization and facilitation of the interregional Working Group meeting – *November 2017*.
- Development of the Program section *Analysis and Assessment of the Scope of Illegal Atlantic Salmon Catch from the Head to Mouth of the River* – *February 2017*.
- Development of the Program section *Analysis of Fishery Statistics* – *April 2017*.
- Introduction of the proposal on seasonal restriction of visits to the Udora complex reserve in the high season of spawning of the Atlantic salmon. Creation of awareness among the population of Mezen district – *May 2017*.
- Development of the plan of areas for young fish release for Mondi Syktyvkar based on the local population interests, opinions of scientific community and other stakeholders – *September 2017*.

4.2. Monitoring of fishery management projects implemented at the Mezen river.

- Practical workshop on monitoring methods for the AgroUdora cooperative members – *August 2017*.
- Assessment of the situation related to extraction and preservation of aquatic bioresources in Mezen district of Arkhangelsk region – *February 2017*.
- Financial support to the AgroUdora cooperative for it to participate in grant contests to strengthen its facilities – *November 2017*.

4.3. Continued annual monitoring of the spawning quality and salmon spawning ground condition.

- Inspection of salmon spawning grounds in the basin of the Mezen river with the purpose of their description (jointly with the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center) – *June 2017*.
- Publication of the guidebook and photo data in spawning redd accounting method – *August 2017*.
- Presentation of the report on the applied method of spawning redd accounting and first findings at the conference in salmon species. Karelia – *September 2017*.
- Report on the method of spawning redd accounting at the scientific council of PINRO – *throughout the year*.
- Organization and facilitation of the workshop on monitoring method and salmon redd identification for users (lessees, local population and other stakeholders) in order to train highly skilled specialists for monitoring and other field activities under the project – *September 2017*.
- Field expeditions with the purpose to monitor reproductive part of the salmon population – *October 2017*.

4.4. Joint fishery protection actions (State Aquatic Bioresources Inspection of the Komi Republic, State Inspectorate for Small Vessels).

- Informative and consulting sessions with residents of populated areas along the Mezen – *June 2017*.
- Prevention of illegal fish catchment – *June 2017*.
- Provision of information on changes in the Fishery Rules to the Udora population – distribution of information in populated areas – *throughout the year*.

4.5. Support to projects on non-migratory fish recruitment.

- Maintenance of populations of target fish species at fishery plots leased by the AgroUdora cooperative: participation in fish stock replenishment activities (if the permission for young fish release is obtained) – *June 2017*.
- Improvement of fishery plots of the AgroUdora cooperative (if the permission is obtained) – *July 2017*.
- Financial support to the Komi branch of Glavrybvod with the purpose to launch a stationary fish breeding module in Koslan – *February 2017*.

4.6. Development and introduction of proposals to amend the Fishing Rules for the Northern Fishery Basin with account of the opinions of the population and users.

- Proposals to the State Council of the Komi Republic regarding amending the Fishing Rules – *throughout the year*.

4.7. Bringing in the sustainable fishery resource management experience from other regions.

- Studying the experience of salmon population recruitment in Karelia – *March 2017*.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

1. Growing cooperation with the AgroUdora cooperative – Udora organization dealing with fish catch and sales:
 - ✓ Fishery monitoring continues.
 - ✓ Fishery water improvement actions were held at fishery plots.
 - ✓ Development of facilities of the cooperative with the Foundation's support with the help of grant projects.
 - ✓ Young pikes were released at the cooperative's fishery plots
2. Continued monitoring of quality and conditions of the salmon spawning with preliminary training of the monitoring participants. At the moment, we have accumulated data on the spawning quality and conditions for the last 7 years. The first results of the monitoring of the Atlantic Salmon redds were presented and discussed at the international conference *Salmonids: Biology, Preservation and Restoration* held in Petrozavodsk.
3. The method of the Atlantic Salmon spawning redd accounting was developed, and 100 copies of it were published. The edition describes the specifics of the species reproduction, spatial distribution of redds and practices used in detail. The edition raised interest among representatives of the scientific community, industry related sciences and environmentalists.
4. The Silver Taiga Foundation and Mondi Syktyvkar developed the scheme for young fish release to compensate for the damage to aquatic bioresources in Udora and agreed it with the interested parties.

The activity under this section was conducted in line with the plan. The plan is fulfilled. The detailed results are presented in the Russian version of the report.

Note: the trip to observe the method of salmon eggs incubation in artificial redds planned for March 2017 was cancelled due to absence of any order for such activities.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administrations of Leshukonskoye and Mezen districts of Arkhangelsk region
- Administration of Udora district of Komi
- Agroudora – agricultural consumer cooperative
- Entrepreneurship – leasers of river stretches
- Glavrybvod, Komi branch
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center
- Komi Voytyr and Udorachi Udora NGOs
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Komi
- Ministry of Nature of the Komi Republic
- Sevrybvod, Federal State Institution
- State Aquatic Bioresources Inspection of the Komi Republic
- PA Center of the Komi Republic

5. Evaluation of the long-term impact of forestry (logging) on soil and water resources (A. Borovlev, Yu. Pautov)

Objectives for 2017-2019:

- 5.1. Assessment of long-term logging impact on the water regime of the rivers.
- 5.2. Assessment of long-term effect of soil disturbance from mechanized equipment on fertility and condition of secondary stand of timber emerging at logged areas.
- 5.3. Assessment of intensity and duration of erosion processes at logged areas and their influence on hydrological parameters of water streams.

Planned Activity for 2017:

5.1. Assessment of long-term logging impact on the water regime of the rivers.

- Analysis of data from gauging stations at the Prupt, Voch, and Lopyu (Verkhnyaya Vychegda) for the 30-year period to evaluate the changes of the hydrological regime of rivers and catchment basins caused by logging activities (jointly with the Meteorological Office of the Komi Republic) – *February-March 2017*.
- Assessment of logging effect on the condition of pilot water streams with the statistical analysis (representative slope model) of hydrological, climatic and experimental data of the changed parameters of river catchment basins with various logging patterns – *February-April 2017*.
- Development of the digital elevation model (DEM) for pilot water courses to assess the scale and nature of drainage processes in partnership with the department of land hydrology, St. Petersburg State University – *February-March 2017*.

5.2. Assessment of long-term effect of soil disturbance from mechanized equipment on productive capacity and condition of secondary stand of timber emerging at logged areas.

- Assessment of long-term effect of soil disturbance from mechanized equipment resulted from clear extensive felling 20-40 years ago, and their influence on the structure and productive capacity of secondary timber stands (based on literature data and ERS material analysis) – *throughout the year*.
- Selection of pilot catchment basins to assess the influence of up-to-date technology (harvesters and forwarders) on soil disturbance during logging activities – *March-May 2017*.
- Field trips to take images of pilot areas logged in different years with pilotless aircraft and subsequent data processing – *May-September 2017*.
- Field research of regenerative processes in disturbed soils at areas logged in different years (in cooperation with the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center) – *May-August 2017*.
- Analysis of statistical data of logging activities based on landscape images in high detail and field research – *September-November 2017*.

5.3. Assessment of intensity and duration of erosion processes at logged areas and their influence on hydrological parameters of water streams.

- Selection of pilot sites with marked soil erosion at areas logged in different years, their examination and description – *May-June 2017*.
- Assessment of intensity and duration of erosion processes (regeneration rate of eroded logging areas) at pilot sites, estimation of the amount of solid runoff to water courses caused by erosion – *June-November 2017*.
- Comparison of erosion intensity at pilot catchment basins with the use of water turbidity analysis method in pilot water courses – *June-November 2017*.
- Drafting of the scientific article on the findings of the field research on soil disturbance and erosion at areas logged in different years – *November-December 2017*.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

1. Long-term hydrological data of the Vychegda basin rivers under study was conducted. Trends of various hydrological indicators of catchment basins of the Prupt, Voch, Lokchim, Lop-Yu and the upper reaches of the Vychegda were evaluated. Based on the results of the analysis increased mean values of discharge of river water following 1970s, as well as higher mean flood runoff values for the stated rivers were found, which correlates to the increased area of clean felling at their catchment basins. Key findings of the research are planned to be published as a scientific article.

2. The GIS method for cartographic assessment of logging impact on the catchment area – representative slope model to evaluate areas with the highest probability of soil erosion at logging sites was developed. The method was tested at the pilot catchment basin of the Sedka river (Priluzye forestry). The final version of the catchment area classification is posted at the web GIS server¹. The results of the work were presented at the all-Russia workshop *Environment of the Homeland* (Kirov, 2017) and published in the collection of articles.
3. Based on the results of the overview of scientific data and own research materials, a method of assessment and minimization of logging impact at catchment basins of forest rivers with an area up to 2,000 km² was offered. The method is based on the synthesis of the basin approach to forest management planning and the representative slope model. The findings were presented at the Forests of Russia international scientific and technical conference (St. Petersburg, 2017), published in the collection of works of the conference and offered to the management of the Forest Management department of Mondi Syktyvkar at a meeting devoted to the results of field training trips for the company's experts in 2017.
4. Tests of the method of detection of various soil disturbances at logging areas with the help of a drone were conducted. Different types of soil disturbance, erosion processes occurring at slopes, areas of suspended solids carryover were detected, described and classified in Priluzye, Udora, Kortkeros and Ust-Kulom districts. An article on the findings obtained is planned to be published.

The activity under this section was conducted in line with the plan. The plan is fulfilled. The detailed results are presented in the Russian version of the report.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Federal Institution of Water and Fishery Management (Komirbyvod)
- Institute of biology of the Komi Scientific Center
- Meteorological center of the Komi Republic
- Ministry of Nature of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World”, Moscow
- Poznan University of Natural Sciences, Poland
- State University in St. Petersburg
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Syktyvkar State University
- Tekhkarta – cartographic company, Syktyvkar

¹ <http://silvertaiga.nextgis.com/resource/0>

6. Forest communities and sustainable use of forest landscapes. Interaction of forest communities and large forest business (V. Semyashkina, A. Shuktomova, O. Sazhina)

Objectives for 2017-2019:

- 6.1. Involvement of the local population to the process of forest landscape management in the area of its inhabitation.
- 6.2. Assistance to development of the forestry business social responsibility policy targeted at the population of forested areas.
- 6.3. Preservation of remote forest village residents' capacity to practice traditional forest and river resource management.
- 6.4. Development of the Forest Dialogue as the democratic form of managing forest landscape natural values.

Planned Activity for 2017:

6.1. Involvement of the local population to the process of forest landscape management in the area of its inhabitation.

- Launch of the informational web resource distributing data to district mass media of the Komi Republic to inform local population about the activity of Public Forest Councils, successful examples of public involvement and development of local territorial self-governments – *throughout the year*.
- Workshop on social aspects of the FSC certification for the engaged local residents and rural administrations (Priluzye and Koygorodok districts) – *May 2017*.
- Round table meeting on the activity of Public Forest Councils. Exchange of experience between Forest Councils of different districts – *June 2017*.
- Publication of the *Lesnoy Sovet* thematic supplement to the *Znamya Truda* newspaper (Priluzye district), 4 issues – *throughout the year*.
- Creation of public awareness about the project via school forestry units. Meetings with the participants of school forestry units (FSC Friday, PA of the district, etc.).

6.2. Assistance to development of the forestry business social responsibility policy targeted at the population of forested areas.

- Monitoring of logging companies' activity on social and economic environment in rural districts – jointly with Public Forest Councils – *throughout the year*.
- Data exchange, cooperation with companies' professionals (certification and environmental protection departments) – *throughout the year*.

6.3. Preservation of remote forest village residents' capacity to practice traditional forest and river resource management.

- Training for representatives of Public Forest Councils in competent allocation of social HCV sites and their agreement with certified companies and forestry units – *throughout the year*.
- Mapping of forested areas significant for the local residents (hunting grounds, places for mushrooms and berries collection, etc.) in the areas of Mondi Syktyvkar's operation jointly with the locals – *throughout the year*.

6.4. Development of the Forest Dialogue as the democratic form of managing forest landscape natural values.

- Republican Forest Dialogue in social aspects of FSC certification jointly with Mondi Syktyvkar and Arkhangelsk branch of WWF – *April 2017*.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

- Information and consultation support of Forest Councils operating in the Komi Republic and active groups of other public organizations interested in sustainable development of forests got more systematic and productive owing to workshops, round table meetings, training courses on social aspects of forest certification, mapping of social HCVF, use of GIS technology to ensure public monitoring of nature management that were held for local residents throughout the year (over 10 events were arranged).

- Contact was established with school forestry units and the regional Association of Foresters and the first joint activity was held with them (a tour of the forest path and role game informing the children about forest certification).
- Forest Dialogue initiated by previous projects was supported and continues its operation as a productive ground for discussions and opinion exchange for all forest relations stakeholders and a democratic form of forest landscape environmental values management. At the two-day regional Forest Dialogue “FSC Certification: Local Communities and Logging Companies” held in May, social aspects of forest certification were discussed by local residents and representatives of the region’s forest district administrations, as well as the technical committee and coordination council of the National FSC Working Group, scientific and public organizations of neighbouring Kirov and Arkhangelsk regions (the total number of participants amounted to 60).
- Publishing of the Forest Council thematic supplement to the Znamya Truda newspaper (Priluzye district) was resumed, some copies are circulated in other forest districts as well. 4 issues of the supplement were designed, published and distributed.

The activity under this section was conducted in line with the plan. The plan is fulfilled. The detailed results are presented in the Russian version of the report.

Actions under the section **Forest Communities and Sustainable Use of Forest Landscapes. Cooperation of Local Communities and Big Forestry Businesses** were implemented under the international Barents-Baltic “Nature and Man” Program (BBNP) with the support of WWF, and under contracts with Mondi Group (the project *Ensuring Efficient Cooperation of Mondi Syktyvkar with Local Communities to Meet FSC Social Requirements*).

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administrations and Deputies Councils of the forest districts of Komi
- Administrations of the rural settlements of Komi
- District newspaper offices
- Forestry Units of Komi
- FSC Russia
- Regional public movement “Native Women of Komi”
- Republican forestry specialists community
- Interregional Public Movement “Komi Voytyr” (NGO)
- School forestry units
- Udora NGO “Udorachi”
- WWF Russia, Arkhangelsk branch

7. Consultations and educational seminars (Yu. Pautov)

Objectives:

- Forest stakeholders have access to the consultations on certification and sustainable forest management.
- Forest stakeholders are getting new knowledge and experience, based on the organized educational seminars and demonstration routes in the Komi Model Forest.

Planned activity for 2017:

- 7.1. Consulting sessions in FSC certification and other issues related to sustainable forest management for logging companies, forest organizations and audit companies (upon their requests) – *throughout the year*.
- 7.2. Three field workshops on landscape and environmental planning and biodiversity conservation for Mondi Syktyvkar's forest foremen, harvester and forwarder operators in Udora and Ust-Kulom districts (upon request) – *July-October 2017*.
- 7.3. Preparation of demonstration routes in Syktyvkar forestry unit on the history of forest management in the Komi Republic. Introductory courses for Syktyvkar Forest Institute students devoted to the topic of *History of Forest Management in the Komi Republic* (upon the Institute's request) – *September 2017*.
- 7.4. A field workshop on natural forest dynamics and biodiversity of taiga for students of University of Bern (Switzerland) in Komi Model Forest (upon request) – *July 2017*.
- 7.5. Other workshops upon request.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

- 12 field training trips on logging planning and arrangement were prepared to meet the requirements of the Russian National FSC standard for five harvesting divisions of Mondi Syktyvkar. The course was attended by 159 machinery operators and forest foremen of Mondi Syktyvkar and its contractors – *May-September 2017*.
- HCVF 3 type (Fir and spruce forest) was mapped at the leased area of Mayskles and agreed with interested parties – *July 2017*.
- A field training trip on meeting environmental requirements of the Russian National FSC standard during planning and felling operations was conducted for 16 experts of the logging company SLDK – *June 2017*.
- A field trip on natural forest dynamics and biodiversity of taiga forests was conducted for a group of students (22 people) from the University of Bern (Switzerland) in the Priluzye Model Forest – *July 2017*.
- A field workshop *Regularities of the Landscape and Environmental Dynamics of the Pristine Taiga Forests* was held in the Pechoro-Ilych Reserve for 9 employees of Mondi Syktyvkar – *July 2017*.
- Lectures and field trips were arranged as part of the international Summer Forest School (12 participants from Germany and Sweden) at demonstration routes of the Priluzye Model Forest (jointly with Syktyvkar Forest Institute, Mondi Syktyvkar, and Komi Forest Fire Fighting Center) – *September 2017*.
- A workshop called Potential of Forest Resources and Management Data Obtaining Through Earth Remote Sensing was arranged for the members of Arkhangelsk environmental NGO Etas and employees of the Onezhskoye Pomorye National Park – *April 2017*.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Audit companies
- Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Sevlespil logging company
- Syktyvkar Forest Institute
- Syktyvkar State University.

Supplementary activity (in case additional financing is involved)

8. Regional program of the Komi Model Forest development in the Komi Republic (Yu. Pautov)

Objectives:

- 8.1. Support of the Komi Model Forest development as an important regional and international initiative on the sustainable forest management.
- 8.2. Usage of the Komi Model Forest educational potential.

Planned activity for 2017:

- 8.1. Round Table meeting for the key partners of Komi Model Forest to discuss the current status and development perspectives of the Model Forest – *April 2017*.
- 8.2. An internal audit on assessment of meeting the Criteria and Indicators of IMFN of Komi by Komi Model Forest (jointly with the Forestry Administration of the Komi Republic, Priluzye forestry unit, Public Forest Council of Priluzye district, etc.) – *April 2017*.
- 8.3. A training course on sustainable forest management for the Forest Committee and professionals of the Komi Republic forestry units at demonstration routes in Komi Model Forest – *September 2017*.
- 8.4. Support of the activity of the Public Forest Council in Priluzye district – *throughout the year*.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

- A field examination of the IFT at the Priluzye Model Forest in the area leased by Luzales was held to identify and protect locations of the Red Book lichen *Sticta wrightii* (one of the 3 last remaining populations of *Sticta wrightii* in Russia) jointly with the Institute of Biology and lichenologists from Belgium – *August 2017*.
- A Skype meeting with the Secretariat of the International Model Forest Network (IMFN – Christa Mooney), Bergslagen Model Forest (Sweden, P. Angelstam), Wilhelmina Model Forest (Sweden, J Svensson), Ilomantsi Model Forest (Finland, Maria Kolstrom) to assess the status and activity of boreal model forests – *April 2017*.
- Support to publishing of 4 issues of the free Forest Council supplement to the *Znamya Truda* newspaper of Priluzye district (jointly with Mondi Group, Public Forest Council of Priluzye district and editorial team of *Znamya Truda*) – *throughout the year*.

Note: Planned sections 8.1 – 8.3 were not fulfilled due to entry of the Silver Taiga Foundation to the register of organizations exercising functions of “a foreign agent” by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation in June 2017.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Luzales logging company
- International Model Forest Network Secretariat
- Ministry of Nature of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Public Forest Council of the Priluzje district

9. Initiation of volunteer movement (O. Sazhina)

Objective:

Volunteers' involvement into Silver Taiga Foundation projects implementation, as well as dissemination of the information on the nature protection and social problems of sustainable development within the frameworks of the Foundation activity.

Planned activity for 2017:

- 9.1. Involvement of initiative and highly motivated people to expand the volunteer movement (up to 10-15 people) – *throughout the year*.
- 9.2. Maintenance of the Silver Taiga's Volunteers web page in the VKontakte social network (vk.com/silvertaiga) – *throughout the year*.
- 9.3. Maintenance of the section devoted to the volunteer movement at the Foundation's website www.silvertaiga.ru – *throughout the year*.
- 9.4. Organization of volunteers to support the Foundation's staff to implement the tasks – *throughout the year*.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

- Higher interest of youth to the Foundation's activity.
- Increasing number of members of the Volunteers of the Silver Taiga Foundation group in VKontakte social network.
- The Foundation's activities are implemented with volunteers involved.
- Over 30 volunteers took part in the organization and arrangement of the inter-village Mezen Day event in the village of Bolshaya Pyssa, Udora district. Both schoolchildren, students and adults were among volunteers.
- Representatives of the Komi Regional Public Organization *Union of Komi Youth MI* are engaged in the Foundation's volunteer movement.
- Arrangement of a working meeting with volunteers from the Raduga agitation team and activists of the Komi Regional Public Organization *Union of Komi Youth MI* – *December 2017*.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Syktyvkar Forest Institute
- Syktyvkar Pedagogical college
- Syktyvkar State University
- Udora centralized library system
- Usogorsk Children's Activity Center.

10. Support of FSC certification in Russia (Yu. Pautov)

Objective:

Dissemination of Silver Taiga Foundation experience in the FSC-certification development in the Komi Republic, ensuring the accessibility of this experience for FSC-certification support in Russia.

Planned activity for 2017:

- 10.1. Silver Taiga Foundation's entry into the International Members of FSC International – *February 2017*.
- 10.2. Participation in the activity of the FSC Russia Coordination Council (V. Semyashkina) – *throughout the year*.
- 10.3. Participation in the workshop for FSC Russia consultants with presentations of the experience in consulting requestors and FSC certificate holders in the Komi Republic (upon the request from FSC Russia) – *March 2017*.
- 10.4. Participation in the General Assembly of FSC International in Vancouver (Canada) – *October 2017*.

Main achievements in 2017 include:

- Participation in the FSC International General Assembly in Vancouver (Canada). Drafting, agreement and promotion of the two Motions of the General Assembly by the Silver Taiga Foundation. Motion 36 “On National Interpretation of the Term *Vast Majority of Intact Forest Landscape*” was adopted by the Board of Directors of FSC, Motion 26 “On Openness of GIS Layers of Certified Areas” did not receive the majority of votes of the Economic Chamber during voting at the General Assembly – *October 2017*.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Mondi Syktyvkar
- FSC Russia
- WWF Russia.