



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

## Silver Taiga Foundation Progress report for 2018

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### ***Approved by the Coordination Council of Silver Taiga Foundation:***

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## **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 2018:**

- Drafting of the booklet *10 Years of HCVF Project – 10 Years of Cooperation between Mondi Group and Silver Taiga Foundation – February-May 2018.*
- Clarification and approval of borders of the projected Osa Complex Reserve with the forest leaseholder Lesozavod No.1, PA Center of the Komi Republic and Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic – *February-March 2018.*
- Preparation and organization of public hearing with interested and affected parties on creation of the Osa Complex Reserve (jointly with PA Center of the Komi Republic) – *March-May 2018.*
- Preparation and approval of the Regulation on the Osa Complex Reserve (jointly with PA Center of the Komi Republic and Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic) – *May-November 2018.*
- Clarification and approval of borders of the projected Koygorodok National Park with the forest leaseholder Mayskles, PA Center of the Komi Republic, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic – *February 2018.*
- Clarification and approval of rights and obligations of the forest leaseholder Mayskles with regard to the leased area included in the Koygorodok National Park (jointly with PA Center of the Komi Republic, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic, Research Environmental Institute under the umbrella of Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation) – *March 2018.*
- Clarification and approval of zoning and protection measures of the projected Koygorodok National Park with the Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve in Kirov region – *March-April 2018.*
- Preparation and organization of public hearings with interested and affected parties on creation of the Koygorodok National Park (jointly with PA Center of the Komi Republic, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic and Research Environmental Institute under the umbrella of Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation) – *March-May 2018.*
- Preparation and approval of the Regulation on the Koygorodok National Park (jointly with PA Center of the Komi Republic and Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic) – *May-June 2018.*
- Organization and arrangement of the multi-purpose expedition to examine the central part of the Core of Karpogorsky IFL in order to create the integrated Karpogorsky Wildlife Reserve – *June 2018.*
- Monitoring of transfer for lease and exploitation of the IFL based on Earth remote sensing data in the Komi Republic as part of preparation for and activities under voluntary forest certification of companies in the Komi Republic – *throughout the year.*
- Preparation and placement of the data base on the condition and use of IFL and Intact Forest Areas (IFA) at the web service of the Silver Taiga Foundation, approval of the data shared with the WWF Russia website ([www.hcvf.ru](http://www.hcvf.ru)) – *November 2018.*
- Participation in the work of the High Priority Investment Projects Commission at the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic – *throughout the year.*

### **Main achievements in 2018 include:**

1. Complex ecological investigation materials of the planned Koygorodsky National Park. Public hearings with the interested parties in Koigorodok and Priluzje districts of Komi concerning the National Park creation together with PA Center of Komi and the Ministry of Natural Resources of Komi. Transfer of the materials to the All-Russain Research Institute of Ecology for further ecological evaluation – *January-September.*
2. Finalization and approval of the planned Koygorodsky National Park borders with the forest area leaseholder, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Komi, PA Center of Komi – *May.*

3. Complex scientific expedition with the participation of the foreign and Russian experts to investigate the central part of Karpogory pristine forest core aiming at creation of Karpogory Reserve – *June*.

***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: Clarification and approval of zoning and protection measures of the projected Koygorodok National Park with the Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve in Kirov region was postponed to 2019.***

**Additionally:**

- An e-brochure *PA Network Development and Forest Use in the Russian Part of the Barents Region* under BPAN project (in Russian and English) together with Karelian SPOK NGO and WWF Arkhangelsk – *February-May*.
- Six written opinions and consultations concerning the use of HCVF of the 3<sup>rd</sup> category *Rare Ecosystems of Komi Republic* for the logging companies in Komi and Kirov regions – *throughout the year*.

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

- Administration of Koigorodok and Udora districts of Komi
- All-Russian Research Environmental 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-Vychegda 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 2018:**

#### **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 STD-60-004.**

- Publication of the e-brochure *Methods of Monitoring of Key Forest Biotopes (KB) and Key Forest Elements (KE) Conservation and Their Performance of Biodiversity Conservation Functions on Local, Ecosystems and Landscape Levels* – March 2018.
- Monitoring of the condition of key biotopes and key elements of forests preserved through different methods from 2008 to 2018 – June-August 2018.
- Preparation of an analytical note on the condition of key biotopes and key elements of forests preserved through different methods from 2008 to 2018 to assess the efficiency of the companies' activity on preservation of environmental values – September-November 2018.

#### **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-Vychegda forest area.**

- Distribution of the *Analytical Note to Assess Compliance of Environmental Limitations of the New FSC Standard with the Intensive Forest Management Regulations* to experts on FSC certification and IFM of the Dvina-Vychegda taiga forest zone – February 2018.
- Facilitation of the discussion (via Skype, by email, face-to-face) of the Analytical Note – April 2018.
- Preparation of proposals for the Technical Committee on Settlement of Challenges under the IFM Standard and Project – October 2018.

#### **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.**

- Preparation of cartographic basis for subsequent landscape planning of IFM at pilot areas – February-May 2018.
- Organization and arrangement of field works on verification and collection of materials for subsequent landscape planning of IFM at pilot areas – May-September 2018.
- Preparation of the environmental carcass for pilot areas and its approval with the developers of the Forest Exploitation Project (FEP) for pilot leased areas of Mondi Syktyvkar with the account of the requirements of the new National FSC Standard – September-October 2018.

#### **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.**

- Transfer of the web service platform to the website [www.silvertaiga.ru](http://www.silvertaiga.ru) to distribute cartographic project materials of the Silver Taiga Foundation – March 2018.
- Preparation of materials for the Data Base on IFM test areas in the Komi Republic (*Tekhkarta is planning to maintain the integrated IFM Data Base according to the cooperation plans of WWF Russia and Mondi Group and publish them at the website of the Boreal Forest Platform*) – March-November 2018.

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

- Arrangement of a field tour on the IFM at Latvia's State Forests Company for the interested parties of the Dvina-Vycheгда forest area – *January-May 2018.*

**Main achievements in 2018 include:**

1. *The Method of Monitoring of Key Forest Biotopes (KB) and Key Forest Elements (KE) Conservation and Their Biodiversity Conservation Functions on Local, Ecosystems and Landscape Levels* was published on Silver Taiga website (in Russian [http://www.silvertaiga.ru/library/publications/#publication\\_20](http://www.silvertaiga.ru/library/publications/#publication_20)) and sent to the FSC registered consultants and other interested parties for approval. The method got positive feedback and is being implemented to estimate the company activity efficiency with regard to natural values conservation.
2. The base material of the intensive forestry landscape planning for Mondi Syktyvkar pilot lease areas in Syktyvkar forestry unit was developed. The pilot areas were investigated during the field works together with the forestry magistrand of Helsinki University Anna Taskila. The first variant of the ecological frame for the pilot areas was prepared with reference to the collected data and it was presented to Mondi Syktyvkar and during the WWF field workshop in Altai Territory.
3. Field educational workshop on intensive forestry on the base of Latvia's State Forests for the representatives of the forestry companies from Komi and Russia (16 participants totally) was organized. All the participants were satisfied with the trip to Latvia and proposed to give the similar workshop in 2019 to the forest area leaseholders implementing the intensive forestry in Russia.

***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.***

***Notes:***

1. *Preparation of the analytical note about the state of KB and KE conserved by different methods during 2008-2018 to estimate the company activity efficiency with regard to natural values conservation was postponed to 2019 as additional data collected during 2018 need to be included into the analysis.*
2. *Discussion of the «Analytical note...» and introduction of possible changes to the New National FSC Forest Management Standard draft at its approval phase were considered to be premature according to the consultations with the Chairman of FSC Russia Technical Committee Tatyana Yanitskaya – March-May.*
3. *In 2018 NextGis Company put a restriction on using its platform and it became difficult to present the GIS information on Silver Taiga website. We decided to sign an agreement with NextGis for 2019 to administrate the website ourselves – December.*

***Additionally:***

- *Presentation of Silver Taiga experience of the forest use landscape planning and the conservation of the territory ecological frame at the WWF field workshop in Altai Territory – November.*
- *Presentation of Silver Taiga experience of cooperation with the interested parties during the FSC certification preparation and conduction in Moscow Management School SKOLKOVO. Participation in the round table meeting concerning the sustainable forest management in Russia together with WWF Russia – October.*

**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
- Latvia's State Forests
- Ministry of Nature of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Moscow Management School SKOLKOVO
- 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, O. Sazhina, 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](http://www.silvertaiga.ru) to accumulate and distribute the results of the project and other materials related to the project subject.

#### **Planned activity for 2018:**

##### **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.**

- Preparation of the 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 for publication and its edition. *April-May 2018.*
- Workshop for Udora teachers about the Mezen ichthyofauna. *May 2018.*
- Preparation of information stands on the project in Udora schools (Usogorsk, Koslan, Vazhgort, Glotovo, Bolshaya Pyssa).
- Information and education activities via the library system. Jointly with Udora Centralized Library System and Leshukonye inter-district library. The activities will include: information and educational events for readers of rural libraries, operation of summer reading halls on the project themes, organization and arrangement of contests, exchange of experience on informational cooperation of libraries to promote the project ideas. *Throughout the year.*
- Information and education “raids” to Udora villages with the engagement of volunteers – students from Udora studying in Syktyvkar, activists of the “WE” youth movement. *February-March, July-August 2018.*
- Talks of the agitation team of volunteering students in Udora settlements on particular topics. *Summer months 2018.*
- Contest of videos aimed at development of careful attitude to the river and its resources. Jointly with the Leshukonye library. *September-November 2018.*
- Organization and arrangement of the inter-village Mezen Day event in Glotovo with engagement of residents of other areas of Udora and neighbouring Leshukonye districts (jointly with administrations of settlements, Komi Voytyr interregional public movement, Glotovo secondary school, AgroUdora cooperative, Recreation Center of Glotovo, Udora Centralized Library System). The event will include the following activities: presentation of editions about the Mezen, a pop lecture on the Mezen ichthyofauna, a contest of fishers’ stories, discussion ground, folk arts fair, tasting of fish dishes, demonstration and discussion of films, etc. *August 2018.*
- 6 issues of the thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper. *Throughout the year.*
- Publication of the 2019 wall calendar *Along the Mezen* (back-up option: calendar with topical information about the Mezen ichthyofauna). *November-December 2018.*

##### **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).**

- Round table meeting to exchange the experience of local use of the river resources with the engagement of local users – members of AgroUdora cooperative, entrepreneurs from Ust-Kulom and Knyazhpogost districts of Komi, Leshukonye district of Arkhangelsk region or other districts. Koslan, Udora district. *March 2018*.
- Coordination of the Working Group of the project. Preparation and facilitation of 2 meetings of the Working Group. *May 2018 (adjustment and detailed elaboration of the project implementation plans, results of the trip to Leshukonye district, facilitation of the Mezen Day), December 2018 (yearly results, long-term planning)*.
- Search, preparation and publication of materials about cases of successful river resources management by local communities of other regions and countries at the website and in the supplement to the district newspaper.

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

- Inter-district round table on rural tourism development and recreational use of the river resources with the engagement of representatives of Udora and Leshukonye districts in the village of Leshukonskoye. *February 2018*.
- Development and testing of the “through” tourist route along the Mezen (Udora and Leshukonye districts). *March-September 2018*.

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

- The project’s Working Group tour to Leshukonye district, Arkhangelsk region, to meet local people in the district’s villages. *February-March 2018*.
- “History of Economic and Cultural Contacts of Udora and Leshukonye Residents”. The inter-district workshop in the Vozhgora village (Leshukonye district) with the engagement of librarians and amateur regional studies experts from Udora and Leshukonye districts. *March 2018*.
- The inter-district contest of essays *My River Mezen. Stories of People* and publication of best works in the newspaper. Jointly with the Leshukonye library. *September-October 2018*.

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

- Training of representatives of territorial public self-governments, activists of the Komi Voytyr interregional public movement on project activity (project design, fund raising, etc.). A district workshop in the Usogorsk business incubator. Jointly with the Udora office of the Komi Voytyr interregional public movement. *February 2018*.
- Publications of successful practices of territorial public self-governments’ operation, on the role of public initiatives in the development of local communities, on dissemination of public self-government and collaboration practices.
- A district contest of art sites Mezen FiShka (the participants are items presented by various populated areas and related to fish and the river). Jointly with the Udora Central Library System and rural settlements of Udora district. *August 2018*.
- Support of local initiatives, support of authors of rural public initiatives participating in grant contests, assistance in development and implementation of local projects. Jointly with the Udora office of the Komi Voytyr interregional public movement and NGO Native Women of Komi. *Throughout the year*.

### **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).**

- The *Origin* district environmental and regional study conference for schoolchildren. Jointly with PA Center of the Komi Republic and the district education administration. Usogorsk, Children’s Activity Center. *February 2018*.
- The intellectual game Who? Where? When? (a team of Usogorsk youth against the Working Group of the project). Jointly with Udora Centralized Library System. *April-May 2018*.
- Support of the summer environmental and regional study expedition along the river (the route extends across Udora and Leshukonye districts) with the participation of a group of schoolchildren and their parents. Jointly with Ozherelye Udory tour company. *June-August 2018*.
- Facilitation of the summer field ichthyology school for schoolchildren in Vozhgora (Leshukonye district, to be agreed). Jointly with Vozhgora school. *August 2018*.
- Presentation of the project in the Komi Republic environmental camp *Moroshka* (fishery at the Mezen: history and old times).
- *A Trip Along the Mezen*. Classes aimed at raising interest of pre-schoolers to the project topics. Jointly with the Central Children Library and Koslan kindergarten.

### **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.**

*No events have been planned in 2018.*

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

- Information support of the project at the website [www.silvertaiga.ru](http://www.silvertaiga.ru), including posting information in the respective section of the website related to the project (in addition to the project news – publications and reports on various areas of focus, materials on the project related topics from other regions, etc.).
- Presentation of the project (its targets, objectives and intermediate results) at the meeting with representatives of the Udora community in Syktyvkar (in the Center of the Komi Culture). *February 2018.*
- Presentation of the project and its intermediate results at a meeting with the National Library readers.
- Participation in Sunday regional study meetings in the National Library with the presentation *The Mezen: Udora, Leshokonye, Pomorye.*
- *Salmon – the Mezen Tsar-Fish.* Presentation of the project and a lecture on the features of the Atlantic Salmon being an anadromous species. Global Migrating Fish Day. A meeting with schoolchildren in the Marshak Library in Syktyvkar. *May-June 2018.*
- Participation in regional and interregional conferences with reports on the river resources management and the status of the project.

### **Main achievements in 2018 include:**

1. The project experience was disseminated in Leshukonje district of Arkhangelsk region (summer field school, ecological expedition, informational work in cooperation with the local libraries, etc.).
2. Different interdistrict events were organized throughout the year with the participation of the local population of Udora district of Komi and Leshukonje district of Arkhangelsk region (workshop *The History of Economic and Cultural Contacts of Udora and Leshukonje Population*; round table meeting on the rural tourism development and recreational use of river resources; interdistrict contests).
3. The Mezen Day became popular among the local population and more than 250 people from different villages participated in it in 2018. This huge event gave an opportunity to present the project goals and activity for different social groups, to interest and involve new participants. This year the Mezen Day was organized mostly by the local population.
4. The project is recognized now not only in Udora district but all over the republic through the informational work, cooperation with Komi Cultural Center and Komi National Gallery, different meetings, publications in the republican mass media and etc.
5. Some important project events were held with the financial support of the partners (public discussion *The Role of Local Communities in Support of the Atlantic Salmon Population* and an educational trip for the representatives of the rural tourism sector from Udora, Syktyvdin, Priluzye districts and Syktyvkar to Kenozersky National Park – at the expense of the WWF project; the Mezen Day – with the support of Komi Cultural Center and the Republican Folk Art Center).

***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.***

#### ***Notes:***

1. *The workshop for the teachers from Udora on Mezen ichthyofauna was not held but under Istoki district conference the informational platform was organized in cooperation with PA Center of Komi, during summer field school – lecture on Mezen ichthyology for the teachers and other interested people of Vozhgora village (Leshukonje district of Arkhangelsk region).*
2. *The round table meeting on the experience of sustainable river resources management with the participation of the local users was not held as there is not enough experience in the*

*project implementation area. The workshop was replaced by the public discussion.*

3. *The presentation about the project at the Republican Ecological Camp was canceled due to a pressure of field work of the project coordinator.*

**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 Udora district
- Kenozersky National Park (Arkhangelsk region)
- Komi Cultural Center
- Komi Folk Art Center
- Komi National Library
- Leshukonje local history museum
- Library in Leshukonskoye district
- Mezen local history museum
- National Museum of Udora district
- Ozherelye Udory, Udora tour company
- PA Center of the Komi Republic
- Udora and Leshukonje secondary schools
- Udora centralized library system
- Udora NGO “Udorachi”
- Interregional Public Movement “Komi Voytyr” (NGO)
- Usogorsk Children’s Activity Center
- WWF Arkhangelsk

## 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 2018:**

#### **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.**

- Facilitation and conducting of a meeting of the interregional Working Group – *March 2018*.
- Development of the section for the Program entitled *Recommendations to Fishery Plot Users on Establishment of the Catch Basin Fishery Association for Sustainable Management Purposes – February 2018*.
- Supporting introduction of restricted access to the Udorsky state natural reserve in order to protect spawning of the Atlantic Salmon jointly with Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic – *throughout the year*.
- Sharing information with the near-Mezen population about new protection measures in the Udorsky nature reserve – *throughout the year*.
- Assessment of the environmental capacity of the Mezen and its tributaries to determine maximum allowable volume of release or withdrawal of aquatic bioresources. Udora district (jointly with SevPINRO and the Komi branch of Glavrybvod) – *June-October 2018*.

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

- Arrangement of a workshop on the methods of monitoring for the AgroUdora members – *June 2018*.
- Assessment of the situation related to extraction and protection of aquatic bioresources in Leshukonye district, Arkhangelsk region – *February 2018*.
- Financial aid to the AgroUdora cooperative for its participation in grant competitions for development of facilities – *November 2018*.

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

- Inspection of salmon spawning grounds in the catchment area of the Mezen with the purpose of their description (jointly with the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of RAS), the Pyssa river, the Verkhnyaya Puzla river – *July 2018*.
- Report at the PINRO Board of Academics meeting on the method of nests counting (to be agreed – *throughout the year*).
- Facilitation and conducting of a workshop on methods of monitoring and identification of salmon nests (to train skilled specialists to participate in monitoring or other field activities under the project) for users (lessees, local population, and other interested parties) – *September 2018*.
- Arrangement of field expeditions to monitor the reproductive part of the salmon population (jointly with Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic, the Komi branch of Glavrybvod, and NGO Udorachi) – *October 2018*.

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

- Information and consulting sessions with residents of areas along the Mezen – *June 2018*.
- Prevention of illegal fishing – *June 2018*.
- Providing information about changes in the Fishery Rules through placement of dissemination of announcements in residential areas of Udora district – *throughout the year*.

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

- Maintaining the population of commercial species at fishery plots leased by the AgroUdora cooperative: participation in fish stocking activities (if a permit for young fish release is obtained) – *June 2018*.

- Improvement of fishery plots of the AgroUdora cooperative (if a permit is obtained). Primary assessment of efficiency of the previous year improvement activities – *July 2018*.
- Material aid to the Komi branch of Glavrybvod to start up a stationary fishery unit in the village of Koslan – *June 2018*.
- Assessment of the environmental capacity of the fishery plots of the AgroUdora cooperative to determine maximum allowable volume of release or withdrawal of aquatic bioresources (jointly with the Institute of Biology) – *September 2018*.

**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.**

- Amending the Fishery Rules in the State Council of the Komi Republic (jointly with the project partners) – *throughout the year*.
- Collection of proposals on adjustment of fees for illegal catch of aquatic bioresources from interested parties, submission of the data to the Komi branch of Glavrybvod – *throughout the year*.

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

- Studying of Karelia's salmon recruitment experience (jointly with the Institute of Biology of the Karelia Branch of RAS) – *March 2018*.
- Visit to the Solza Fish Farm to learn about methods of artificial salmon reproduction. Arkhangelsk region (jointly with the Komi branch of Glavrybvod) – *March 2018*.

**Main achievements in 2018 include:**

1. Development of cooperation with AgroUdora Cooperative:
  - Fishery monitoring has revealed an overexploitation of two commercial fish species – pike and nerfling.
  - Development of the Cooperative material and technical base through different grant projects with the support of the Foundation.
  - Young pikes were released in the Cooperative fishing area.
2. Continuation of salmon spawning quality and conditions monitoring with the preliminary preparation of the monitoring participants. At present we have the spawning quality and conditions data for the last 8 years. The data has been entered into the water bioresources state monitoring system.
3. Mondi Syktyvkar released young grayling under the project support as the reimburse for damage to water bioresources in Udora district.

***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.***

***Notes:***

1. *Evaluation of Mezen river environmental capacity in order to define a maximum allowed release volume was postponed to 2019 due to the performer's refusal; additionally 100 thousand RUR were attracted under Mondi Syktyvkar social partnership program.*
2. *Presentation of the spawning redds counting method in the Sea Fishery Research Institute in Murmansk was canceled as the detailed evaluation of the data representativity is needed.*
3. *Melioration of Irva river fishery ground was not done due to the refusal of the sectorial research institution. The reason – insufficient justification. Further investigations have been planned for 2019.*
4. *The study of salmon regeneration experience in Karelia was canceled as not enough wild spawners were caught for the reproductive products.*

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

- Administrations of Leshukonskoye and Mezen districts of Arkhangelsk region
- Administration of Udora district of Komi
- Agroudora – agricultural consumer cooperative

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- 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 forests 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 2018:**

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

- Analysis of characteristics of the hydrology of 8 catch basins under study correlated with the deforestation dynamics/clean cutting dynamics at pilot catch basins. Drafting and publication of the Analytical Note – *February-April 2018*.
- Distribution of the Analytical Note to experts and arrangement of discussion (via Skype, e-mails, face-to-face meeting) of the findings obtained (jointly with the project partners) – *April-May 2018*.
- Drafting of a scientific article about the results of the research on long-term logging impact on aquatic resources and its subsequent publication in the Sustainable Forest Management magazine – *throughout the year*.

#### **5.2. Assessment of long-term effect of soil disturbance from mechanized equipment on fertility and condition of secondary forests emerging at logged areas.**

- Assessment of the productivity of secondary post-cutting forests at 20-30-year-old logging plots based on multispectral Earth remote sensing data of middle resolution with the use of vegetation index calculation methods (jointly with the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of RAS) – *February-May 2018*.
- Field trips to shoot pilot logging areas with the use of pilotless drones and subsequent data processing – *May-September 2018*.
- Analysis of the data obtained and publication of articles on assessment of forest succession processes at logging areas – *October-December 2018*.

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

- Second assessment of the intensity and duration of erosion processes (overgrowth rate at eroded logging areas) at pilot sites examined in 2017 – *June-November 2018*.
- Elaboration of the consolidated method of landscape and environmental forest management planning with the basin approach and the representative slope model (jointly with St.Petersburg State University) – *throughout the year*.
- Preparation of a manuscript of a scientific article on the findings of field examination of soil disturbance and erosion processes at logging areas of various age – *November-December 2018*.

### **Main achievements in 2018 include:**

1. The article *Assessment of a Longterm Impact of Loggings on Water Resources Through the Example of the Middle Taiga Subzone of Komi* was prepared for the WWF magazine *Sustainable Forest Management*.
2. The method of analysis and classification of anthropogenous elementary watershed was developed. It helps to minimize the clear cutting influence on hydrological river regime during landscape-ecological forest use planning. The analysis includes areal characteristics of the logging sites, division of the watersheds by areas. The method was tested on the rivers Sedka (Priluzje district) and Malaya Yya (Udora district).
3. The method of GIS-analysis of the forest regeneration dynamics in the areas of clear cutting with the use of vegetation indexes was proposed. The method helps to visualize the natural forest regeneration dynamics in different anthropogenic damaged areas of clear cutting depending on the soil damage degree during loggings.

***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.***

**Notes:**

1. *Preparation of the scientific article about the field investigation of soil damage and erosion in the logged area of different years was postponed to 2019 as the performers were at work upon the eco-economic justification of Koygorodsky National Park.*

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

- 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
- State University in St. Petersburg
- Forest Engineering State University in St. Petersburg
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Syktyvkar State University
- Tekhkarta – cartographic company, Syktyvkar

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

***Note: The events of the given section were not financed under HCVF project and were realized under WWF program.***

### **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 2018:**

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

- Publication of the Forest Council thematic supplement to the Znamya Truda newspaper (Priluzye district) with additional circulation in other forestry districts, 3-4 issues. *Throughout the year.*
- Informing the population on the possibility to participate in the process of forest landscape management in the area of one's residence. *Throughout the year.*
- Meetings with school forestries' members of Udora, Ust-Kulom, and Priluzye districts (jointly with the Komi Republic Forester Association). *Throughout the year.*

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

- Running of the new FSC Forest Management Standard mechanism based on the example of cooperation of Luzales logging company with the rural area of Spasorub in Priluzye district (informing the interested parties, interviews of the population, the final workshop). *March 2018.*
- Monitoring of logging activity impact on social and economic environment in rural areas – jointly with public Forest Councils in Priluzye, Udora and Kortkeros districts. *Throughout the year.*
- Exchange of information, collaboration with experts of companies (certification and environment groups). *Throughout the year.*

#### **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.**

- The Komi Republic Forest Dialogue on the use of hunting, food and recreational forest resources as the economic basis of rural areas. Jointly with the Arkhangelsk branch of WWF. *April-May 2018.*

### **Main achievements in 2018 include:**

1. The support of the Forestry Councils' and other interested NGOs activity in the forest districts of Komi under WWF projects.
2. Cooperation with the school forestry units was continued.
3. The Forest Dialogue is being developed as an effective platform for discussions and changes of the opinions of all interested parties.
4. Publication of the Forest Council thematic supplement to the Znamya Truda newspaper (Priluzye district) with additional circulation in other forestry districts.

***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):**

- Administrations and Deputies Councils of the forest districts of Komi
- District newspaper offices
- Forestry Units of Komi
- FSC Russia
- Kenozersky National Park
- Republican forestry specialists community
- Interregional Public Movement “Komi Voytyr” (NGO)
- School forestry units
- Schools in Priluzje district
- 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 2018:

1. Collection, synthesis and preparation of data and documents to draft a preliminary version of the comprehensive environmental study to justify the legal status of federal importance Koygorodok National Park in the Republic of Komi under the state contract with the All-Russia Science and Research Environmental Institute under the umbrella of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation – *throughout the year*.
2. Consultations on FSC certification and other issues related to sustainable forest management for logging companies, forestry service, auditing companies (if requested) – *throughout the year*.
3. Preparation of demonstration routes on forest ecology and forest management history in the Komi Republic near the Finno-Ugric Ethnic Park in Yb. Facilitation and arrangement of an introductory course on *History of Forest Management in Komi* for the Syktyvkar Forest Institute students (upon the request from the Syktyvkar Forest Institute) – *September 2018*.
4. A field trip on natural forest dynamics and biodiversity of taiga forests for the environment protection association (Switzerland) in Pechora-Ilych Nature Reserve (if requested) – *July 2018*.
5. Other workshops, if required.

### Detailed results:

- Collection, synthesis and preparation of the data and documents according to the state contract with the All-Russia Science and Research Environmental Institute. The summary report *Ecological and Economic Justification of Koygorodsky National Park in the Republic of Komi* was prepared and transferred to the customer for the further state ecological expertise – January-October.
- Field educational course in Pechora-Ilych Reserve for the representatives of the environmental NGO from Switzerland in July.
- Three educational courses on planning and organization of forest use with conservation of forest ecological functions and biodiversity for Mondi Syktyvkar and its contracting organizations in March, May and October.
- An educational course on conservation of the ecological forest values during planning, organization and carrying out of loggings for 10 representatives of Syktyvkar logging company in November.
- Clarification of the central contiguous parties borders – Pyssa and Timan pristine forest areas cores in Komi and Arkhangelsk regions according to the latest satellite data (upon the request of WWF Arkhangelsk) in June and July.

*Note: Preparation of demonstration routes on forest ecology and forest management history in the Komi Republic near the Finno-Ugric Ethnic Park in Yb, facilitation and arrangement of an introductory course on History of Forest Management in Komi for Syktyvkar Forest Institute students were not carried out due to the refusal of the Ethnic Park's head and a lack of funding of the Institute.*

### 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 2018:**

- 8.1. Organization of an educational course on sustainable forest management for the representatives of the Forest Agency and forestry units of the Komi Republic on the demonstrational routes of Komi Model Forest – *September 2018*.
- 8.2. Organization of a round table meeting for Komi Model Forest key partners to discuss the current state and future development of the Model Forest – *April 2018*.
- 8.3. Support of the Public Forest Council activities in Priluzje district of Komi – *throughout the year*.

#### **Detailed results:**

- Field excursions for the students of the International Summer Forest School of Syktyvkar Forestry Institute in Komi Model Forest in September.
- Participation in two skype meetings of the European Model Forests (Sweden, Finland, Croatia, Spain, Italy, France) with focus on the European MFs status and activity.
- Preparation and conduction of the public hearings about Koygorodsky National Park creation in Priluzje district of Komi together with Priluzje administration, Letka and Priluzje forestry units and Maiskles company in June.
- Participation in the Public Forest Council meeting of Priluzje district of Komi together with Priluzje administration and Priluzje forestry unit in October.

*Note: The planned educational trip to Komi Model Forest for the representatives of Forestry Development Authority and forestry units of Komi was postponed to 2019.*

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

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

## 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 2018:**

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

### **Detailed results:**

- The number of the participants of the VKontakte social network (vk.com/silvertaiga) has increased.
- More than 30 volunteers (scholchildren, students, local poluation) assisted during the Mezen Day event in Udora district of Komi in August.
- The representatives of Youth Association of Komi were involved into Silver Taiga volunteering activities.
- Participation of the volunteers in the intellectual game *What? Where? When?* in Udora district of Komi in May.
- Expedition of the volunteers consisting of the students' propaganda team along Vashka river visiting the remote villages in Udora district of Komi in August. The expedition was devoted to nature protection, Silver Taiga activity and Model River Mezen project.

### **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 2018:**

- 10.1. Participation in the FSC Russia Coordination Council activities (V. Semyashkina) – *throughout the year*.
- 10.2. Participation in the workshops and round table meetings of the FSC Russia presenting the experience of the FSC-certification development in Komi Republic (upon the FSC Russia request) – *throughout the year*.
- 10.3. Participation in the FSC International events – *throughout the year*.

### **Detailed results:**

- Participation in the FSC International Working Group devoted to the FSC controlled wood strategy development (two webinars in March-May and the Working Group meeting in Lisbon in June).
- Presentation of Silver Taiga experience of FSC-certification development and pristine forest areas conservation in Komi at III International Meeting of FSC International Boreal Members in Tallinn (Estonia) in September.
- Participation in the FSC Russia Coordination Council meetings (V. Semyashkina) – 6 meetings throughout the year.
- Field study tour on application of the GIS technologies in Silver Taiga demonstrational routes together with ASI, Mondi Group and FSC Russia in June.

### **Сотрудничающие организации:**

- ASI (Assurance Services International)
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- FSC International
- FSC Russia
- WWF Russia