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Silver Taiga Foundation

Annual Working Plan for 2012

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1. High Conservation Value Forests. Contribution to establishment of Protected Areas on the basis of pristine forests. (Y. Pautov)

Objective:

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

Planned activity:

Koigorodsky district

1.1.1. Coordination together with the Forestry Committee of the Komi Republic and Ministry of Environment of Komi of the procedure for voluntary handover of quadrants 13-16, 29-32, 44-48, 59-64, 83-88, 107-112, 147-153, 188-197 out of OJSC "Mayskles" lease and their inclusion to the territory reserved for "Koigorodsky" National Park.

1.1.2. Coordination of mid-term priorities and plans of Koigorodsky National Park in the Komi Republic and Reserve "Nurgush-Tulashor" in the Kirov region.

1.1.3. Elaboration of an ecologic route on the landscape dynamics of south taiga low-disturbed forests in the northern part of Koigorodsky National Park.

Udorsky district

1.1.4. Continuation of negotiations with stakeholders on defining of the usage mode for Verkne-Vashka massifs of large low-disturbed forest areas (IlimSeverLes, Lesozavod №1, Forestry Committee of the Komi Republic, and others)

1.1.5. Promotion of proposals on establishment (as well as expansion, incorporation) of regional Protected Areas within Timan, Pyssa, Karpogorsky and Verkne-Vashka massifs of large low-disturbed areas to the Ministry of Environment of the Komi Republic, Forestry Committee of Komi and other interested parties.

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

Other districts

1.1.7. Update of the maps of pristine forests based on ERS (Earth's remote sensing) for Kniazhpogost, Ust Vym, Ukhta, Sosnogorsk and Troicko-Pechorsk districts of the Komi Republic.

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

Objective for 2011-2013:

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

Planned activity 2012:

2.1.1. Selection of Noshulsky and Nemsy pilot areas for landscape dynamics historical analysis.

Result – evaluation of anthropogenic activity and natural forces influence on pilot areas landscape dynamics for the last 30-40 years.

A. Description of forest landscape condition change as per selected time frame based on the analysis of forest management, historical, reporting and other documentation.

Result: Brief description of major selected pilot areas landscape transformation procedures

B. Development of three consecutive layers of the forest maps for Noshulsky and Nemsy pilot areas based on combining the forest arrangement plans of Landsat space images for different time frames (it is planned to engage Territorial Data Bank on contractual basis + TEFRA – on purchase agreement + get the material from «Transparent world» for the south of Komi, they already have something to share in return to the material from our field verification)

- Beginning of 1970-s
- Beginning of 1990-s
- Beginning of 2010-s

Result: visualization of pilot areas forest landscapes changes of natural and anthropogenic character.

2.1.2. Study of experience and exploit technologies on specifying and recording important from ecology point of view and fragile landscape elements with the intention of planning.

A. Organization of GIS analysis ERS training for 2-3 Silver Taiga Foundation specialists in NPO “Transparent World” - March- April 2012 (Paid for training on GIS technologies either in SKANEX or Transparent World)

B. Organization of educational tour for 3 Foundation specialists to Sweden in May of 2012.

C. Organization of educational tour for 3 Foundation specialists to Canada in September of 2012.

Result: Study of progressive technologies and experience for landscape planning based on ERS, evaluation of the experience and technologies use in Komi

2.1.3. ERS sources analysis for evaluation of ecosystem and ecological characteristics of a landscape and revelation of pilot areas water resources catchment network.

A. Obtaining ERS of pilot areas out of public information sources (Purchase of images from different sources).

B. Binding of obtained ERS for GIS layers establishment

C. Comparative evaluation of different ERS sources based on the following criteria:

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- accessibility,
- reliability and accuracy of important landscape ecological elements display,
- price.

Result: ERS sources classification for landscape planning based on selected criteria

2.1.4 Organization of 2-3 field expeditions to selected pilot areas for verification of ERS materials and their evaluation for landscape planning (June-August 2012)

Result: on field verification of ERS materials, proposals preparation for use of different mapping information sources for landscape planning purposes

2.1.5 Evaluation of Mondi MSY logging plan and forestry management on pilot areas concerning FSC requirements compliance – together with Mondi MSY Sustainable Forestry Management and Certification Department and.

A. Obtaining Mondi MSY logging plans for 2010 -2015 on pilot areas (February – March 2012)

B. Evaluation of logging plans based on landscape-ecological planning criteria (March – November 2012)

C. Proposals preparation for plans fine-tuning taking into account landscape-ecological planning requirements (November 2012)

Result: proposals for logging plans fine-tuning on pilot areas are submitted to responsible specialists of Mondi MSY Sustainable Forestry Management and Certification Department.

2.1.6. Preparation of a draft version of «Recommendations on monitoring of the forest ecological values on the FSC-certified territories» together with FSC Russia and WWF Russia.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- European Space Agency ???
- FSC Russia
- Greenpeace Russia
- Institute of Biology of Russian Academy of Science in Komi
- Komi Republic Forestry Committee
- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” (Moscow)
- OJSC “Mondi MSY”
- Priluzje Forestry Unit
- “Skanex” – cartographic company – Moscow
- Syktyvkar Forest Institute
- Territorial Fund of Information of the Komi Republic
- “Tekhkarta” – cartographic company – Syktyvkar
- “TEFRA” – consulting center – Syktyvkar
- Ust-Nemsky Forestry Unit
- WWF Russia

3. Model river Mezen – cooperation with local communities (V. Semyashkina)

Objectives 2011-2013:

- 3.1. Develop cooperation with local population based on awareness of existing problems, and also based on fish resources restoration targets and objectives.
- 3.2. Inform the society about the problems related to fish resources and the progress achieved within the framework of the Model River project.

Planned activity 2012:

- 3.1.1. To provide access of the local population to the information on sustainable nature use and project problematics:
 - A. 6 publications of thematic supplement to the local newspaper, 3500 copies;
 - B. printing of a booklet on the project topic, its distribution within all Mezen villages population;
 - C. providing local population with detailed information on river resources use instruction (booklet publishing);
 - D. informing local population through district village libraries.
- 3.1.2. Assistance in creation of platforms for joint discussions of project topics, monitoring results, project fields realization together with local population:
 - A. Forest Dialog «Forest community and sustainable river resources management»;
 - B. Meeting-dialog with local population, district administrations and leaseholders (FSI “Komirybvod”) on the management of the upper reaches of the Mezen.
- 3.1.3. Assistance in cooperation development within a local community and coordinated participation of local communities in sustainable river resources management. Organization of cooperation with local population and local self-government bodies of neighboring to Mezen districts of the Arkhangelsk region.
 - A. Briefing and ‘round tables’ on the project topics in the Mezen villages (Udora, Leshukonsky and Mezensky districts)
 - B. Seminar for local population and rural settlements deputies on public supervision over river resources use and public monitoring.
 - C. Creation of public opinion for support of protection and other actions in parallel.
 - D. Cooperation with non-government organizations in order to establish NGO network in the Mezen basin.
 - E. Seminars for local population on the topic of territorial self-government (together with Arkhangelsk region districts).
 - F. Seminar for village core groups on project activities.
- 3.1.4. Cooperation with water entities users, provision of access to the required knowledge on proper management. Support to local initiatives on sustainable management.
 - A. Analysis of existing and possible ways of local population self-organization, ways of agricultural areas management. Discussion in local communities.
 - B. Support of local initiatives focused on sustainable management organization and self-organization procedures development;
- 3.1.5. Informative and awareness-raising activities in local schools:
 - A. Introducing of the principles of sustainable nature use and history of resources use on the local territory to pupils through support for district research programs in village schools.
 - B. Basics Economics course for village pupils (dissemination of Basic Economics educational course in schools).
- 3.2.1. To inform the society about fish resources problems and project progress.
 - A. Information accompanying of the project implementation.

- B. Public discussion on the issues connected with fish resources on web-site komimodelforest.ru and republic mass media.
- C. Provision of information through cooperation with the existing NGO (information distribution, participation in conferences, etc.)

3.2.2. To work with the local communities, water entities leaseholders on revelation of imperfect legal norms (hindering sustainable resources management) in the existing acts of legislation – for further elaboration of proposals to the existing legislation.

- A. Overview and analysis of proposals on introduction of changes to the legislation in the area of the project interests (Project working group).
- B. Organization of public discussions about the working group conclusions with participation of interested parties.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Udora district
- Agricultural consumer cooperative «AgroUdora»
- Children Activity Center, village Usogorsk
- Indeginious peoples community «Udorachi» (NGO)
- Leshukonsky district administration, Arkhangelsk region
- Mezensky district administration, Arkhangelsk region
- Udora district Administration Department of Public Education
- Udora agency of Interregional public movement “Komi Voytir” (NGO)
- Udora agency of FSI “Komirybvod”
- Udora centralized library network
- Mezensky district administration, Arkhangelsk region

4. Model river Mezen – restoration of fish resources. (P. Majewski)

Main objective:

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

Detailed objectives 2011-2013:

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

Planned activities 2012:

Objective 4.1. To establish efficient cooperation among the interested parties.

- 4.1.1. Continuation of the working group activities on the Model River project.
- 4.1.2. Development of the formal partnership by organization of the partners meetings in small groups;
- 4.1.3. Involvement of partners from the Arkhangelsk region;
- 4.1.4. Establishment of formal interaction on the selected issues, such as monitoring and protection of Salmon and support to rational management of the leased river section.

Objective 4.2. To establish cooperation with local managers of different river sections and their provision with necessary knowledge on fish resources management.

4.2.1. Development of recommendations on legal and organizational frameworks improvement for the leased river sections management:

- For recreation fishery
- For commercial fishery
- For fishery by local population required for maintaining of the villages stability

Objective 4.3. To select pilot areas of the Model River Mezen for detailed implementation of the project.

- 4.3.1. Organization of a field expedition to the lower part of the Mezen River – July – August 2012
- 4.3.2. Elaboration of the agreed basis for cooperation and recommendations for the selected river sections.
 - Upper part of the Mezen river –
 - fish stock monitoring in the area with limited harvesting influence,
 - reproductive Salmon stock monitoring,

- recreation fishery management;
 - The Irva river –
- commercial fishery lease areas,
- interaction with local leaseholders;
- restoration of traditional fishery,
 - The Pyssa river –
 - restoration of traditional fishery,
 - fish stock and Salmon reproduction monitoring.

4.3.3. Selection of pilot area along the Mezen river for restoration of traditional fishery.

Objective 4.4. To determine fish population monitoring method and define starting fish population level.

4.4.1. Development and assistance in organization of annual Mezen river fish resources monitoring by means of international standards for electrical fishery.

- promotion of the method among the interested organizations;
- appropriate equipment purchase support;
- new method training support.

4.4.2. Development and assistance in monitoring development at the Irva river based on commercial fishery results.

4.4.3. Assistance in recording and analysis of monitoring data.

4.4.4. Informing of the interested project parties, local population and society about the monitoring results.

Objective 4.5. To develop recommendations on maximum permissible catch limit for different sections of the river

- postponed till following years due to the fact that implementation is only possible after protective and legit measures introduction

Objective 4.6. To agree on efficient measures for fish protection, especially for Atlantic Salmon, and support their implementation.

4.6.1. Elaboration of general proposals for fish protection improvement at the Mezen river; which are to be signed by interested organizations and to be submitted for consideration of republican authorities.

4.6.2. Evaluation of Salmon stock protection and utilization in the Mezen river of the Arkhangelsk region.

Objective 4.7. To contribute to organization of work on restoration of non-migratory fish.

- postponed till following years due the fact that implementation is only possible after protective and legit measures introduction

Objective 4.8. To start the “Salmon Return” project and elaborate the details of this project.

4.8.1. Assistance in protection of Salmon spawning areas in the Upper Mezen River.

4.8.2. Assistance in reproductive Salmon population monitoring by counting Salmon nesting areas along the upper part of the Mezen and the Pyssa tributary.

4.8.3. Development of interaction with interested organizations in the Arkhangelsk region (lower part of the Mezen).

4.8.4. Staying in touch with international organizations interested in Atlantic Salmon and Northern rivers.

4.8.5. Elaboration of “Salmon return” project framework, agreed with the interested parties, announced in the mass media with the intention to establish a Salmon restoration government-sponsored program.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Udora district
- Agricultural consumer cooperative “AgroUdora” operating along rivers
- Federal Fishery Supervision of the Komi Republic – “KomiRybNadzor”
- Fish Resource Agency of the Komi Republic “KomiRybVod”
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Syktyvkar)
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic
- Ministry of Agriculture for the Komi Republic, department of aquaculture and fishery
- NGO of Udora district – “KomiVoityr”
- NGO of Udora district – “Udorachi”

5. Transfer of Komi Model Forest experience to Baltic Region. International Model Forests Network (P. Majewski)

Objective:

5.1. To support Baltic Landscape Project implementation by experience of Silver Taiga and Komi Model Forest.

Planned activities:

5.1.1. Support of development of two Baltic Landscapes (BL Mazury, BL Warta) in accordance to Model Forest formula in Poland.

5.1.2. Support of development of three Baltic Landscapes (BL Helge River, BL Bergslagen, BL Vilhelmina) in accordance to Model Forest formula in Sweden.

5.1.3. Support of development of one Baltic Landscape (BL Ilomantsi) in accordance to Model Forest formula in Finland.

5.1.4. Support of development of one Baltic Landscape (BL Neman) in accordance to Model Forest formula in Belarus.

5.1.5. Support and coordination of development of Baltic Landscape Network.

5.1.6. Support of participation of Russian Model Forests in the Baltic Landscape Project.

5.1.7. Support for cooperation of Russian, Baltic and Canadian Model Forests in Circum – boreal Initiative.

5.1.8. Support for networking of Baltic Landscape Network, Russian MFN with International Model Forest Network. Participation in International Networking Committee.

5.1.9. Support of cooperation between Baltic Landscape Network and Mediterranean Model Forest Network.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order)

- Belarusian State Technological University, Minsk
- Belgosles, Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus,
- Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu - Estonia
- Foundation Säfsen Forests, Ludwika – Sweden
- Hedmark University College, - Norway
- Kovdozerski Model Forest, Murmansk, Russia
- SC Latvia state forest, Riga, Latvia
- Marshall Office in Olsztyn, Poland
- Novogrudok Forestry Enterprise, Belarus
- Regional Directorate of State Forest in Olsztyn, Poland
- Regional Directorate of State Forest in Poznan, Poland
- Swedish Forest Agency in Jonkoping, Sweden
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Umea
- Pskov Model Forest, Pskov, Russia
- University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland
- University of Life Sciences, Poznan, Poland

6. Consultations and training (Elena Popova)

Objectives:

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

Planned activities:

- 1.1. Consultancies on FSC certification and other issues, linked to sustainable forest management for logging companies, the Forestry service, audit companies on request.
- 1.2. Development of the section «Services» in the Foundation web-site (www.silvertaiga.ru) and information distribution among the interested parties
- 2.1. Seminars on voluntary forest FSC-certification for OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” and LLC “Finleskom” staff
- 2.2. Seminars on natural forest dynamics and biodiversity of taiga forest for foreign groups on request
- 2.3. Travelling seminar for representatives of the State Forest service of the Republic of Komi to Latvia or Poland with the aim to exchange experience in forest management
- 2.4. Seminars on natural forest dynamics and biodiversity of taiga forest and history of forest management of the Republic of Komi within the framework of the Summer school on sustainable development jointly with the Forest Institute in Syktyvkar
- 2.5. Creation of a new demonstration route on landscape planning in forestry
- 2.6. Other seminars based on request.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order)

- «Finleskom» - subsidiary logging company of Mondi Syktyvkar
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- Forest Institute in Syktyvkar
- Mondi Syktyvkar – pulp and paper mill

7. Forest communities and use of natural resources.

Interaction of forest communities and large forest business (V. Semiashkina)

Objectives for 2012 - 2013:

- 5.1. Preserving possibilities of traditional natural resources use in remote forest villages, where there are no other sources of life support.
- 5.2. Assistance in development of large forest business policy, taking into account interests of local population of the territory where industrial logging is ongoing.
- 5.3. Support of the self-organization process and development of local self-government, development of cooperation within the rural community.
- 5.4. Development of Forest Dialogue as a form of democratic debates on natural resources management.

Planned activities for 2012:

- 5.1.1. Determination and justification of significance of traditional use of natural resources for life support of the residents of remote forest villages in the Ust-Kulom and Kortkeros regions.
 - A. Conduct of interviewing of local residents and creation of STNU maps (sites of traditional nature use) – rural settlement Keros and rural settlement Voldino (with adjacent villages).
- 5.1.2. Creation of a common STNU map in the Udora region – with indication of the territories which are most intensively used for traditional management and most important for local residents.
- 5.1.3. Informational and methodical support in development of voluntary agreements between the local communities and wood industries operating on their territories.
- 5.1.4. Elaboration of arguments and proposals on legislative recognition of traditional nature use – for consideration and discussion during the session of the Public Chamber of the Komi Republic.
- 5.2.1. Monitoring of the situation and analysis of consequences of logging companies' activities and their influence to socio-economic situation in rural regions (participation in SEAT-evaluation of Mondi Syktyvkar activities in April of 2012) jointly with local community (forest councils, local self-government).
- 5.2.2. Assistance in provision of information to local population and development of a dialogue (support in publishing the «Forest Council» newspaper in the Priluzye region; support of other communication and cooperation forms).
- 5.2.3. Development of business proposals.
- 5.3.1. Search and adaptation of potential forms of self-organization of local population. Support of territorial public self-government.
- 5.4.1. Organization of Forest Dialogues as a functioning platform for thorough discussions of forest and river resources management issues with participation of a wide circle of representatives – local community, business, state institutions, local self-government, science, NGOs.
 - A. Forest Dialogue "Cooperation of large forest business and local population in socio-economic sphere. Positive experience and possibilities for improvement".
- 5.4.2. Promotion of the joint discussion results.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of «forest» regions and rural settlement of the Komi Republic.
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic

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- Institute of Socio-Economic and Energetic problems of the North of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Syktyvkar
- Komilesbiznes
- Komi State Academy of the Civil Service and Management
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- NGO – “Izvatas”
- NGO – “Komi voityr” – branches in forest regions of the republic.
- NGO – Committee to Save Pechora River
- Regional Social Movement “Indigenous Women of Komi”

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

(Y. Pautov) (Detailed proposals as per areas of activities of Komi Model Forest for 2012 -2015 are prepared and will be executed in case the financing is available)

Objectives:

To enhance the role of Model Forest. Intensification of forestry in separate areas of Model Forest.
Contribution to development of regional forest policy.

Planned activities:

1. Creation of landscape-ecological basis for multi purpose forest management taking into account requirements of FSC certification on the basis of GIS –technologies and remote sensing materials.
2. Economic justification of forest management intensification
3. Advanced training of the specialists of the forest complex of the Komi Republic in sustainable forestry and forest certification on the base of Komi Model Forest
4. Development of Regional Forest policy of the Komi Republic on the organizational platform of Komi Model Forest
5. Development of local population participation in the sustainable forest management

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Branch of FSI «Centresproekt»
- Consulting center «Tefra»
- Division of «Komi Voityr» in Priluzye and Koigorodok regions
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- Government of the Komi Republic
- Institute of Socio-Economic and Energetic problems of the North
- Investors
- LLC “Leskhoz”
- LLC “Tekhkarta”
- Nature protection NGOs
- OJSC “Luzales”
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”
- Public Forest councils in Priluzye and Udora regions
- State Council of the Republic of Komi
- State Forest Units
- TDB (Territorial Data Bank)
- Tenants – holders of FSC certificates

9. Initiation of a voluntary movement (E. Popova)

Objective:

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

Activities:

- 9.1.1. Searching of initiative and motivated people for volunteer movement creation
- 9.1.2. Studying of regional and federal experience in creation and functioning of volunteer movements
- 9.1.3. Development and approval of the Statement «About volunteer movement» in Silver Taiga Foundation
- 9.1.4. Organization of the first volunteers meetings
- 9.1.5. Organization of volunteers work for routes development in the planned “Koygorodok” National Park, for activities organization and during implementation of other objectives