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Silver Taiga Foundation
Progress report for 2010

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1. Village integration around economic improvement (Valentina Semiashkina)

Objective:

Selected villages are getting example of integration around economic improvement based on sustainable use of natural resources in the Komi Republic.

Planned activities:

1.1. Improvement of economic situation based on natural resources – approach adapted to local conditions.

1.1.1. Search for new opportunities of economic improvement in the village under market conditions.

1.1.2. Sustainable forestry practices and its contribution to the local economy.

1.1.3. Protection of the sites of berries and mushroom picking important for local population.

1.1.4. Economic use of local, forest, resources.

Implementation 2010:

- A. Development of scenarios of efficient management of local resources based on data gathered in previous project period.
- B. Development of proposals of changes in legislation on regional level related to natural resource management.
- C. Monitoring of protection measures for sites important for mushrooms and berries in Ust-Kulom and Priluzje regions; protection of new sites in Udora region.
- D. Learning of experience in efficient mushroom-berries business in other Russian regions. Passing this experience for local entrepreneurs from Pilot Forest Villages.
- E. Development of new approaches for improvement of mushroom-berries business in Pilot Forest Villages.
- F. Description of system of traditional use of forest (including maps) for pilot village Bolshaya Pyssa.
- G. Development of platform for protection of areas of traditional use of forest by logging companies in frame of voluntary agreement between communities and logging companies belonging to Mondi Syktyvkar.
- H. Development of other proposals on protection of sites of traditional use of forest by changes in legislation or by leasing priorities by forest village communities. Cooperation with Regional Social Movement «Indigenous Women of Komi».
- I. Explanatory work on community use of fish resources with communities living along Mezen River as introduction to the pilot program of fish restoration in this river.
- J. Support for rural tourism development in Pilot Villages Kazhim, Byzovaya, Turja, Pyssa;
- K. Development and publication of recommendations for the rural tourism operators;

- L. Coordination of development of tourist trip «Following Pitrim Sorokin»;
- M. Organization of local conference with regard to the exchange of rural tourism development experience.
- N. Round table discussions on «Barriers in the development of small business in Forest Villages and possible ways out » with the entrepreneurs from Pilot Forest Villages.
- O. Preparation of a review of possible financial sources for business-projects developed in Pilot Forest Villages.
- P. Identification of quality business-ideas in Pilot Forest Villages for farther submission to potential funding under program of the Ministry of Economic Development and under contracts of social partnership by Mondi Syktyvkar.
- Q. Organization of trainings and consultations in planning and organization of business for potential entrepreneurs from Pilot Forest Villages.

General results:

Overview search of 9 pilot villages has been continued in 2010 by evaluation of local use of natural resources. Wood, hunting, fishing and tourist resources have been evaluated and ways of use and barriers have been identified. It has been clear that small logging business is constrained by low access to the resources, high leasing fees and limited capital for roads building and for forest management. In this situation economic stabilization of the villages can be possibly reached by: a) protection of traditional forest use where it is important part of local economy; b) development of socially oriented policy among logging companies operating near villages; c) support for local business initiatives and for economic integration of local communities.

Limited know-how and lack of experience appeared to be two of main barriers for local entrepreneurship. In this situation our project assisted to local initiatives, the most often oriented for village tourism development. They have been supported by trainings, experience exchange and assistance to selected business proposals.

Income from berries and mushroom could be improved under condition of local storing and/or processing. It can reduce costs of transport on unreliable roads and also leave more money on the village. Study tour has been organized to Tomsk district where berries and mushrooms are processed and network of their collection is well developed. Participants from four regions of the Komi Republic took part in the tour. Drying of mushrooms seems to be immediate realistic task for remote villages.

Traditional forest use has got special attention in northern Villages of Udora region where it is important share of family economy, especially hunting and fishing. Identification and cartographic description of traditional sites for hunting have been continued in 2010 for villages Chernutevo, Melentievo, Muchkas and Ertom. In reality, there is no legal room for traditional use of forest. In this situation attention has been given for voluntary agreement with logging companies. In Udora region negotiations between local organization Udorachi and Mondi has been facilitated. It ended in agreement where Mondi is declaring its readiness to consult forestry planning with local representatives and to consider claims for protection of sites important for traditional use by villages. The agreement is positive precedent of deal between village communities and large industry. Similar work has been initiated also in Ust Kulom region.

Detailed results:

A. Analytical report on “Factors and mechanisms of sustainable use of natural resources in scale of village communities” 99pp. has been prepared by Institute of Socio-economic and energetic problems of the North. The report is based on inquiries made in 9 pilot villages. The report contains recommendations for economic use of natural resources in particular villages and recommendations for improvement of relevant regional regulations.

B. In three regions covered by FSC certification (Priluzje, Koigorodok, Udora) identification and protection of the sites important for berries and mushroom collection have been carried out.

C. Study tour to Tomsk oblast where processing of non timber products is well developed has been organized for local entrepreneurs from the Komi Republic. Experience of the study tour has been passed to local society by publications in local newspapers and interview on Republican radio.

D. Local initiatives oriented on development of village tourism and recreation have been supported by projects in Udora, Pechora, Kniazhpogost, and Koigorodok regions. Tourist tour “Following Pitrim Sorokin tracks” in Kniazhpogost region and tourist trail in Udora region “Toward Chetlas rock” has been completed. “Passports” describing 6 tourist trails in pilot regions has been developed.

E. Three working meetings and four seminars concerning village tourism have been organized for 50 participants.

F. “Recommendations for starting entrepreneurs in tourism” have been prepared.

G. Cartographic background of traditional forest use has been prepared for villages Bolshaja Pyssa, Chernutievo and Yortom.

H. Participation and facilitation of voluntary agreement between large wood industry Mondi and local, indigenous NGO Udorachi on protection of traditional forest use by villages and local consultation of forestry planning. The agreement has been signed and is under implementation.

I. Overview report of existing problems between local society and wood industry Mondi has been made and proposals on how to solve the problems have been elaborated in cooperation with Mondi.

J. Overview of existing sources of funding for small business in the forest villages has been made. Round table of village entrepreneurs concerning constraints of business development and potential ways of overcoming existing barriers has been organized in the village Spasporub.

K. Business projects from pilot villages has been identified and submitted for legal support and for funding support based on social partnership with large business.

1.2. Methods of village integration and development of positive examples.

1.2.1. Support, strengthening and dissemination of public review in forestry.

1.2.2. Support for establishment and activity of the Community Forest Councils.

1.2.3. Environment in the Village – education and integration program.

Implementation 2010:

- A. Monitoring and support for Public Reviews of the forest management projects.
- B. Republican Forest Dialogues about: 1 – small business issues; 2 – traditional forest use, gathering representatives of local population and other interested parties.
- C. Support for functioning of Community Forest Councils and monitoring of SEAT-analysis results (2009) in the regions of Mondi Syktyvkar activity.
- D. Organization of training for local self-government based on seminars and experience exchange together with Komi Civil Service Academy .
- E. Publication of a brochure about local self-government.
- F. Learning of experience of territorial community self-government in Archangelsk region.
- G. Conference of “Village Environment” program implementation for all sites involved into the project.
- H. Development and implementation of the pilot, basic economic training for village school children in Pechora and Priluzje regions.

General results:

Participation of local population in management of natural resources is one of the condition for sustainable management and for village integration. **Public Review** in forestry and **Community Forest Council** as institutions have been supported by the project.

New proposal of Standing on Public Review has been developed based on gathered experience of public reviews. New Standing is improving weak parts of former document.

Community Forest Councils in Priluzje and Udora region continued their activity. Project supported annex to local newspaper untitled “Forest Council” where local citizens were discussing main forestry issues in Priluzje region.

Forest Dialogue as institution is giving positive results. In 2010 two days Forest Dialogue has been organized together with HCVF project on Pristine forests and alternatives to extensive use of these forests.

In 2010 project was supporting actively development of **local self government** on settlement level. It is especially important for village integration and because local self government are new and they have not experience and funding. Training seminars has been organized to support local self government together with Republican Academy of Civil Service in Priluzje and Kniazhpogost regions.

Education program “Village environment”, which has been successful in previous years and stimulating different generations of local citizens to cooperate on local level, has been adapted and implemented in 14 schools. The program has been presented on courses for teachers on

Republican level. The program has been printed together with education tools and disseminated in 500 copies.

Detailed results:

- A.** Activity of Community Forest Councils has been supported, among other in public review of Mondi activity and fulfillment of recommendations from Forest Dialogue concerning relations between large wood industry and forest villages.
- B.** Six annexes to local newspaper of "Forest Council" have been prepared and printed as common initiative of project and forest units Priluzje and Letka.
- C.** New proposal of Standing on Public Review has been developed based on gathered experience of public reviews. The proposal will be submitted to Social Chamber of the Komi Republic.
- D.** Two days Forest Dialogue has been organized together with HCVF project on Pristine forests and alternatives to extensive use of these forests. The Dialogue gathered 65 participants including representatives of local communities.
- E.** Five seminars for local self government from Priluzje and Knizhpogost regions have been organized together with Republican Academy of Civil Service. The seminars were about sustainable development, local budget and on search for funding for local initiatives.
- F.** Representatives from two forest villages took part in the conference "Territorial community self-management as a base of territory development" held in Arkhangelsk region. The experience of Arkhangelsk region in organization of territorial community self-management has been studied and is being implemented in the project villages.
- G.** Diploma works of students of Republican Academy of Civil Service have been directed towards problems of the local self government in frame of cooperation with our project.
- H.** Three days seminar for youth of the pilot villages concerning local initiatives and ways of solving local problems has been organized.
- I.** Documentary film about traditional life and traditional use of natural resources has been produced in Udora region with project support.
- J.** In frame of education program "Village environment" there were several actions which resulted in: seminar of experience exchange for teachers from villages schools of 5 regions, gathering of pupils from pilot villages, and common expedition of pupils to study history of village management.
- K.** Program of economic education for village children is under development by geography teacher E. Romaniuk. The program is planned to be approved in 2011 and proposed for dissemination among schools.

1.3. Dissemination of positive experience.

1.3.1. Dissemination of gathered experience on local and regional level.

1.3.2. Dissemination of the gathered experience by network of Russian Model Forests and by other initiatives.

Implementation 2010:

Dissemination of:

- the experience of cooperation among forest stakeholders;
- positive experience of business and social initiatives in the villages;
- experience of community cooperation and participation (Public Review, Community Forest Council; management of areas of traditional forest use).

Target groups:

- Local population of Pilot Forest Villages and other regions of the Komi Republic;
- Representatives of local self-governments;
- Representatives of state authorities;
- Regional and interregional NGOs;
- Students and young people from villages;
- Interested parties from other regions of Russia.

Ways of dissemination:

- Publications
- Press-releases for mass-media
- Web side of Silver Taiga
- The Forest Dialogues
- Conferences
- Cooperation with the State and business structures, NGOs

General results:

Experience of cooperation among forest stakeholders, social and business initiatives in the villages, experience of Public reviews, Community Forest Councils, Forest Dialogues and protection of sites with traditional use of forest – all these aspects were under dissemination in 2010. Dissemination was carried out by local and regional mass media, by Internet, by publications of the ST Foundation, web-site www.silvertaiga.ru, seminars to exchange experience, by participation in local meetings, Forest Dialogues and by cooperation with state, education and NGOs of the Komi Republic and in other regions.

Our main groups for dissemination of the experience include: Citizens of the villages, self-governments, social activists, state agencies, NGOs, students and village youth, citizens of the Komi Republic and interested parties from other regions.

Detailed results:

A. Information and analytical materials has been published in Republican newspapers “Republic” and “Tribune”; in local newspapers «Знамя труда», «Княжпогостские вести», «Новая жизнь», «ВЫЛЬ туйод», in Mondi newspaper «Огни Вычегды», in newspaper «Невское время», and on information portals www.kominform.ru, www.BNKomi.ru, www.finnougr.ru, 7x7-journal.ru, www.wood.ru. Together ca 35 publications.

B. Education program “Village environment” has been presented on Pedagogic conference in Yaroslav. Manual describing the program has been printed in 500 copies and disseminated among teachers from villages.

C. Two information booklets about two pilot villages have been printed in 1500 copies.

D. Materials of Forest Dialogue have been published in mass media. The Forest Dialogue gathered 65 participants including representatives from Karelia, Arkhangelsk and Murmansk regions.

E. Regular information on project and its results has been presented in web-site of Silver Taiga Foundation www.silvertaiga.ru.

Cooperating organizations (in the alphabetic order):

- Institute of Socio-Economic and Energetic problems of the North of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Syktyvkar
- Komi State Academy of the Civil Service and Management
- Local Administration of Pilot Forest Villages: Verkholyuzje, Chornish, Spasporub, Kazhim, Puzla, Pyssa, Byzovaja, Voldino and Turia.
- Mondi Syktyvkar – pulp and paper mill
- Regional Administration: Priluzje, Koigorodok, Ust-Kulom, Kniazhpogost and Udora
- Regional NGO – Committee to Save Pechora River
- Regional NGO - Izvatas
- Regional Social Movement “Indigenous Women of Komi”
- Social Agency of Governor of Arkhangelsk region
- Syktyvkar State University

2. High Conservation Value Forests (Yury Pautov)

Objective:

Search and strengthening of negotiated solutions on protection and sustainable use of pristine forests (HCVF) in selected regions of the Komi Republic and dissemination of experience to the Arkhangelsk region.

Planned activities:

2.1. Search and strengthening of negotiated solutions rayon by rayon.

Implementation 2010:

Koigorodok region

- A. Participation in negotiation process on enlargement of the planned Koigorodok National Park area by resignation from leasing area by logging company MayskiLes.

Udora region

- B. Continuation of multi-stakeholder process about protection and use of Timan, Pyssa, Karpogorskij and Verhnievashkinskij Massifs of large, untouched areas.
- C. Analysis of current situation about leasing and leaseholders of neighboring areas of untouched massifs of pristine forests in the Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk Oblast – together with WWF branch in Arkhangelsk.
- D. Organization of field expedition to the western part of Pysskij Massif to collect more precise information on its conservation and socio-cultural values as HCVF of regional and European importance.
- E. Development of some long-term scenarios of logging and reforestation in Udora region.
- F. Analysis of potential of tourism development in pristine forests of Udora region – together with administration of Udora region, local tourist entrepreneurs and Syktyvkar State University.

Other regions

- G. Development and actualization of maps of pristine forests for Kortkeros, Ust Kulom (completing 2009 work), Kniazhpogost, Ust Vym and Ukhta rayons of the Komi Republic.
- H. Preparation of popular booklet “Green Gold of the Komi Republic” with overview of forests and with special attention to pristine forests addressed to large audience.

- I. Preparation of publication “Methods of identification of ecologically valuable parts of large areas of pristine forests based on river basin approach” – common work with WWF branch in Arkhangelsk.
- 2.2. Forming of awareness of the society about meaning of pristine forests for sustainable development – work together with WWF Russia.
 - 2.2.1. Promotion of “Common position of non-governmental, conservation organizations and wood industry in Russia about legal support for sustainable forestry” on regional and federal levels.

General comments:

2.1. Search and strengthening of negotiated solutions rayon by rayon.

The main attention in 2010 was paid to search of compromise in conservation of large forest massives on borders of the Komi Republic, Kirov and Arkhangelsk regions.

This problem was also discussed during Forest Dialogue on April 12-13, 2010 by 70 representatives of key stakeholders from the Komi Republic, Arkhangelsk and other regions of Russia. The Forest Dialogue results in series of negotiations on conservation of different HCVEs in the Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk region.

- A. The moratorium with Mondi Syktyvkar on carrying out of logging on Mondi leased area in Udora region of Komi has been achieved.
- B. The expedition to the west part of Pyssa pristine forest massif was organized (Leskom leased area). The expedition confirmed high ecological value of the present massif and low economic value of logging there due to drying of the most productive spruce forest in the given landscape. The results of the expedition are presented on www.silvertaiga.ru and to Leskom representatives responsible for forest certification and planning of logging.
- C. Silver Taiga Foundation together with UNDP project has carried out a complex evaluation of the planned Koigorodok National Park during three expeditions to this area. The report was prepared as the result of the evaluation and it has been presented to UNDP project and to the Ministry of Environment of Komi and Russia. The report includes explanation of ecological value of the area, description of places rich in red book species, proposal of zoning of the area into reserved, protected, recreational and exploitable ones, proposal of ecological tourism development in the National Park. The report is available on UNDP project web www.undp-komi.org
- D. Consultations with management bodies of Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve in Kirov region have been carried out. The north part of the Reserve joins Koigorodok National Park. This connection has been considered during zoning of the National Park territory. Development

of the joint management plan of the both protected areas in 2011 has been discussed with the Reserve management bodies.

- E. The negotiations have been carried out with the representatives of Forest Certification audit company and with management bodies of Maiskles company which leases part of Koigorodok massif of HCVF in Letka forestry unit of Komi about continuation of moratorium on logging in the given massif and cut off this massif from the lease of Maiskles company in the future for conservation purposes. As a result of the negotiation the moratorium on logging in the given massif has been continued for a period of 5 years under FSC-certification of Maiskles company .

Detailed results:

- A. Negotiations with Mondi Syktyvkar about moratorium on logging in Mondi laesed area in Karpogor and Pyssa massif of pristine forests, declaration of Mondi Syktyvkar about cancellation of roads building and logging on Mondi leased area in the given massives aiming at continuation of FSC-certificate – January-March 2010
- B. Negotiations with Maiskles company and Forest Certification audit company about continuation of moratorium of Maiskles company on logging in Koigorodok massif of pristine forests (Letka forestry unit). Continuation of moratorium on 2010 -2014 under certification of Maiskles company – February-March 2010
- C. Negotiations with Leskom company about moratorium on roads building and logging in Leskom leased area in Pyssa massif of pristine forest – March 2010
- D. Expedition to Pyssa massif of pristine forests during 10 days was organized. About 220 km were covered and 180 sampling plots were used, ecological value of the massif was described, photo documentation has been made and the expedition results were presented on web site – June-September 2010
- E. Complex ecological investigation of the planned Koigorodok National Park area was carried out under grant of UNDP project in the Komi Republic. The report of the investigation results was prepared – March-December 2010.
- F. Tourism development potential on the basis of pristine forests massif in Udora region was estimated with the help of 3 students from Syktyvkar State University, field material together with local population, guest houses owner, administration of Udora region was collected. The data was analysed and the report was prepared.
- G. Updating of the current state of pristine forests in Udora, Ust-Kulom, Ukhta, Koigorodok regions of Komi by the comparative analysis of space images of different periods.

- H. Use of the comparative analysis results to define and estimate the level of HCVF conservation during certification audit of Mondi Syktyvkar leased area in July-December 2010
- *Development of some long-term scenarios of logging and reforestation in Udora region. – postponed due to busyness of Silver Taiga staff and external experts with preparation of Mondi Syktyvkar to extra FSC-audit in August-December 2010.*

2.2. Forming of awareness of the society about meaning of pristine forests for sustainable development – work together with WWF Russia.

Detailed results:

- A. Discussion and publication of joint position of environmental NGOs and representatives of ecologically responsible forest business of Russia about implementation of sustainable forest use and FSC-certification in the magazine «Sustainable forest use» № 1, 2010 – January-March 2010
- B. Four rounds of negotiations about conservation of Komi-Arkhangelsk boundary pristine forests massives in Syktyvkar (April), Kotlas (May, June), Arkhangelsk (September) with the representatives of logging companies – lease holders of forest land in pristine forests massives, local authorities, forestry service, government of the Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk region, environmental NGOs and science. Achievemnet of compromise in cancellation of logging in Verkhne-Vashka pristine forest massif.
- C. Presentation of the joint position of the State Forestry Service of Komi and Silver Taiga Foundation concerning conservation of large pristine forest massives in the Komi Republic during the international forum BEAR in Arkhangelsk – June 2010
- D. Presentation of the practical experience of the Komi Republic concerning biodiversity conservation during logging during the international forum BEAR in Arkhangelsk – June 2010
- E. Inclusion of the representative of Silver Taiga Foundation into the international Working Group dealing with the creation of Protected Areas Net in Barents-Euro Arctic region – BEPAN – October 2010
- F. Presentation of Silver Taiga Foundation’s position of specially protected territories development in the Komi Republic during the meeting of Working Group dealing with creation of Protected Areas Net in Barents-Euro Arctic region – BEPAN – Appatity (Murmansk region) – October 2010

G. Presentation of the Komi Republican experience in organization of cooperation with society during forest management at Russian-American workshop about sustainable forest management organized by WWF Russia in Moscow – October 2010

- *Preparation of popular booklet “Green Gold of the Komi Republic” with overview of forests and with special attention to pristine forests addressed to large audience – postponed due to busyness of Silver Taiga staff with preparation of Mondi Syktyvkar to extra FSC-audit in August-December 2010.*
- *Preparation of publication “Methods of identification of ecologically valuable parts of large areas of pristine forests based on river basin approach” – common work with WWF branch in Arkhangelsk. - Preparation of publication has considered to be meaningless due to publication of the booklet «Definition and conservation of HCVF in Arkhangelsk region» by WWF Arkhangelsk in 2010. The booklet presents maps and description of all big pristine forests on border of Komi and Arkhangelsk regions.*

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Koigorodok region
- Administration of Udora region
- Association of Wood Industry in the Komi Republic
- BEPAN working group of BEAR programm
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic (State forest administration)
- Forest State Unit in Koigorodok
- FSC Office in Russia
- Greenpeace Russia
- Leskom - logging and wood company
- Ministry of Environment of the Komi Republic
- Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Group
- National FSC Initiative in Russia
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” in Moscow
- Project UNDP – GEF in the Komi Republic
- SPOK - NGO from Karelia
- Syktyvkar State University
- WWF Russia

3. Model Forest as neutral platform of forest policy debate (Yury Pautov)

Objective:

Forest stakeholders have opportunity to discuss forest policy issues based on experience and neutral platform of Model Forest.

Planned activities:

3.1. Strategic planning for the Komi Model Forest – continuation. Development of plan together with representatives of forest stakeholders.

- Completing strategic planning in agreed, priority areas.
- Agreement for objectives of priority areas.
- Evaluation of funding and implementation reality.

3.2. Participation in important meetings in the Komi Republic and in Russia concerning key issues of SFM.

3.3. Organization of “Forest Dialogue” devoted for pristine forest issue in the Komi Republic.

3.4. Organization of cooperation with Syktyvkar Forest Institute, Arkhangelsk Forest Academy, Academy of Civil Service in the Komi Republic and with wood industry.

3.5. Dissemination of information by mass media, publications and Internet.

3.6. Participation in program of Russian-Swedish cooperation in forest sector - preparation of study manual on sustainable forestry.

General comments:

A. Strategic planning of Komi Model Forest project has been continued with participation of interested stakeholders from the Komi Republic and near by regions. Three meetings were held dealing with «Intensification of forestry and forest biodiversity conservation», «Carbon flow control and forest biodiversity conservation » and «Sustainable management of forest river watershed and restoration of fish resources». Strategic planning results are available as potential project proposals waiting for funding with exception of forest river which is funded already.

B. Organization of interregional Forest Dialogue «Pristine Forests of the Komi Republic – alternatives to extensive forest use» with participation of more than 70 stakeholders – representatives of Forestry Service of the Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk region, lease holders, regional and local administration of Komi, NGOs, local population of 4 Komi regions, mass media – April 2010

C. Organization of 2 meetings for interested stakeholders concerning voluntary forest certification development together with State Forestry Service of Komi – March, October 2010.

Detailed results:

- A. Strategic planning of Komi Model Forest project for 2010-2020 towards «Intensification of forestry and forest biodiversity conservation», «Carbon flow control and forest biodiversity conservation » and «Sustainable management of forest river watershed and restoration of fish resources» – April 2010
- B. Organization of interregional Forest Dialogue «Pristine Forests of the Komi Republic – alternatives to extensive forest use» – April 2010
- C. Participation in organization of 4 meetings for FSC stakeholders concerning voluntary forest certification development together with State Forestry Service of Komi with presentations on development of strategy and coordination on Republican and local level – March, June, July, October 2010.
- D. Silver Taiga Foundation presentation about influence of voluntary forest certification on implementation sustainable forest use in Russia during 5th Conference of National FSC Working Group – March 2010
- E. Organization of a round table discussion about indigenous population during 5th Conference of National FSC Working Group and presentation of work experience with indigenous population in the process of certification in the Komi Republic – March 2010
- F. Awarding of certificate of honour of Silver Taiga Foundation for a long-term productive activity in implementation of FSC-certification in Russia – March 2010
- G. Election of Silver Taiga Foundation's representative (Yury Pautov) into the membership of the Coordination Council of National FSC Working Group – March 2010
- H. Participation in 2 meetings of the Coordination Council of National FSC Working Group, agreement of working plans and participation in elaboration of development strategy of National FSC initiative in Russia for a period of 5 years – May, October 2010
- I. International video conference on Innovations in forestry together with Syktyvkar Forest Institute – April 7, 2010
- J. Organization of training for a group of Russian and Finnish students of forest Institutes on sustainable forest management in Komi Model Forest together with Syktyvkar Forest Institute and Rovaniemi Polytechnical University (Finland) – September 2010
- K. Preparation of the scientific article “Does forest certification contribute to boreal biodiversity conservation in NW Russia and Sweden?” - together with Marine Elbakidze, Per Angelstam, Kjell Andersson , Mats Nordberg - School for Forest Management, Faculty of Forest Sciences, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Skinnskatteberg, Sweden and submission it to "Forest Ecology and Management" (Yury Pautov) – October 2010

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic (State forest administration)
- Forest Institute in Syktyvkar
- Forest State Unit in Koigorodok
- Forest State Unit in Priluzje
- FSC National working group
- Nature Conservation Center in Murmansk region
- Representatives of local communities from Udora, Priluzje, Koygorodok regions
- Rovaniemi State Polytechnic University
- SPOK - NGO from Karelia
- Swedish School of Forest Engineers in Skinnskateberg
- WWF Russia – Arkhangelsk branch
- WWF Russia

4. Cooperation of villages in restoration of fish resources and first steps to river basin management – Model Rivers (Przemyslaw Majewski)

Objectives – long-term:

- A. Fish resources in selected rivers are restored and managed in a sustainable way based on cooperation with local communities and other stakeholders.
- B. Logging influence on streams and rivers is evaluated and relevant recommendations for logging and planning are developed.

Objectives for 2010:

- A. Potential of River Mezen for restoration of fish resources is evaluated and relevant stakeholders are gathered for cooperation.
- B. Model River for the basin management is selected and contacts with relevant stakeholders are established.

Planned activities:

- 4.1. Organization and integration of Working Group for the project planning, representing main stakeholders of the Mezen River.
- 4.2. Field trip along the Mezen River with Russian and foreign experts.
- 4.3. Meetings with representatives of villages along the Mezen River.
- 4.4. Establishment of contacts with relevant researchers and research organizations.
- 4.5. Establishment of contacts with Salmon organizations and experts.
- 4.6. Ensuring political support for the initiative of Model River on local and Republican level.
- 4.7. Ensuring large industry support.
- 4.8. Development of long-term proposal.

General comments:

The Model River project has got strong positive response both from authorities, from mass media and from local society. It looks that it is an important issue for many people which are involved professionally or emotionally into river future. Field expeditions showed diversity of the Mezen River basin and scale of the fish restoration problem. The restoration seems to be realistic, including Atlantic Salmon. However it looks that it should be a long-term project dealing with gradual development of awareness, protective measures and cooperative ability of local communities.

Detailed results:

- A. Working Group has been organized and gathered 3 times. During the meetings main problems has been identified, objectives and activities of future project have been agreed. Working Group is composed from representatives of several organizations which are listed below. Formal Partnership is planned.
- B. Foreign experts have been approached in Norway, Sweden, Canada and Poland. Positive answer has been got from Poland and representatives with experience in restoration of Salmon and other migratory fish from Krakow and from Gdansk took part in the field expedition to Mezen River. They delivered numerous recommendations which has been shared and agreed with the Working Group.
- C. Two field expeditions to the Mezen River has been organized. First one in Aug to learn general situation, human pressure, fish population, and potential model sites to be a starting points. Second one in Oct was concentrated on Salmon spawning tributaries, their capacity and threats. Both expeditions were successful. General conclusions were as follows:
- the Upper Mezen is almost uninhabited, but fish resources are under strong pressure of illegal fishing;
 - the illegal fishing can be splitted into fishing for sustaining by poor villagers and into fishing as harvesting by well to do poachers;
 - the River is very long, with many tributaries which differs by level of exploitation of fish resources and by characketr of river habitats;
 - local villages are aware of depletion of fish resources, but they have not any plan on how to change it;
 - it is clear, local economic interests in fish restoration with benefits for local population and potential tourism development;
 - Salmon is depleted, but still is present in visited 3 tributaries and upper part of Mezen River, active poaching for salmon is visible everywhere, the level of the population can be restored based on existing population under condition of substantial improvement of fish protection against illegal fishing;
 - All potential managers of fish habitats and protection are competent but underfunded;
 - There is no coordination in river management;
 - Local cooperative "Agroudora" is aiming to split the rivers into leasing grounds hoping on better management by local population;

- The river is not polluted and has some tourist potential under conditions of investments into local infrastructure, clearing management competences, restoration of fish population and gradual development;
- D. First meetings with representatives of the villages has been organized. The villages would like to change the situation, but they are not clear what is the best way. Planning is dominated by short-term issues.
- E. Research background is ensured by Institute of Biology in Syktyvkar (Alexandr Zakharov) which has strong experience both in fish resources and in the Mezen River. Polish contacts with Agricultural University in Krakow and with Inland Fishery Institute in Gdansk are offering additional consultancy.
- F. International organizations and international projects concerning the Komi Republic have been identified. ICES – International Council of Exploration of Sea and NASCO – North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization are main organization concerning Salmon. Additionally two international projects are planned in the Komi Republic – one about aquaculture and another covering Norway, Finland and North-West Russia about salmon management. Contacts are in their initial stage.
- G. The project scope has been supported by authorities on local and Republican level (see list below).
- H. Mondi Group is supportive for Model River project and expressed a wish to contribute with funding.
- I. Long-term and short-term frames of the project has been developed. The river issue has been split between Model River (fish resources and local population) and Ecosystem background for planning (basin management).

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Udora region
- 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
- Ministry of Agriculture for the Komi Republic, department of aquaculture and fishery.
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic
- NGO – Center of Family Initiatives
- NGO of Udora region – “KomiVoityr”
- NGO of Udora region – “Udorachi”
- WWF Russia – Arkhangelsk branch

5. Implementation of recommendations on biodiversity conservation during logging

(Vasilij Gerasimov assisted by Dmitriy Kutepov)

Objective:

Forest stakeholders of the Komi Republic are equipped with recommendations on biodiversity conservation during logging operations and have possibility to learn their practical use.

Planned activities:

- 5.1. Printing and distribution of the Recommendations among forest stakeholders. Jan-Mar 2010.
- 5.2. Development of training course about implementation of the Recommendations into planning and organization of logging. Jan-Mar 2010.
- 5.3. Development of demonstration trail in Komi MF showing practical implementation of the Recommendations. May-Jun 2010.
- 5.4. Carrying training seminars on planning of logging sites with consideration of the Recommendations on biodiversity conservation for employees of State Forest Service and planning units of logging companies – 2-4 seminars. May-Oct 2010.
- 5.5. Evaluation and support of implementation of the Recommendations in massifs of pristine forests of the Komi Republic.

General comments:

Recommendations on biodiversity conservation during logging have been published as a pictured booklet with various examples. This publication is the basis for training in marking of timber cuttimg areas. The training is highly sought by forestry service and Mondi Syktyvkar contractees.

Detailed results:

- A. Brochure “ Recommendations on biodiversity protection during logging in the Komi Republic” has been prepared and printed out in 1000 booklets. It has been distributed among foresters, logging companies, nature protection organizations and other interested parties. Sep-Nov 2010.
- B. Training course on implementation of the Recommendations into the practice of planning and organization of logging has been developed – Apr 2010.
- C. Field trail demonstrating practical aspects of the Recommendations has been established in the Model Forest – Jul 2010.
- D. Four trainings indoor and in the field on “Application of the Recommendations during preparation of logging area” have been organized in the Model Forest for 36 participants contracted by Mondi Syktyvkar and for 11 employees of Kortkeros forest management company. Sep-Oct 2010.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic (State forest administration)
- Mondi Group in Syktyvkar
- Priluzje Forest Unit

6. Carbon integrated forest management (Przemyslaw Majewski)

Objective:

Proposal on carbon integrated forest management in the Komi Republic supported by key stakeholders and by funding.

Planned activities:

- 6.1. Funding proposal to Europeaid together with other Model Forests.
- 6.2. Funding proposals to other potential sources.
- 6.3. Cooperation with Canadian groups dealing with the carbon issue in forestry.
- 6.4. Information about proposals for main stakeholders in the Komi Republic.
- 6.5. Participation in relevant conferences, seminars and courses.

General comments:

It seems that Carbon and Climate Change are still on the level of international conferences and effort to change the situation is not covering northern forests. European Climate Foundation which has been established to coordinate funding effort cannot name any funding source which could provide funding for project proposed by ST. It seems that despite declarations funding is chaotic, local interest limited and that currently it is not promising direction. FSC work on carbon management demands are the only visible effort in Komi to approach climate issue.

Detailed results:

- A. Seminar on Canadian experience on Carbon management has been organized in ST in May 2010.
- B. Europeaid has been carefully observed. Call for climate project where ST can be eligible has not been found.
- C. Application to IKEA, USAID, Oak Foundation and European Climate Foundation have been submitted with negative results.
- D. There were not relevant conferences or courses to be attended.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Forest Committee in the Komi Republic
- Ministry of Industry in the Komi Republic
- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Group

7. Consultations and training (Elena Popova)

Objective:

- A. Forest stakeholders have access to the consultations on questions of sustainable forestry.
- B. Forest stakeholders are getting new knowledge and experience based on organized training seminars and demonstration plots in Komi Model Forest.

Planned activities:

- 7.1 Support for certification of whole forest units in southern regions of the Komi Republic. Explanation of ways and methods of certification of forest units under changing forest legislation, of new FSC National Standard, of changes of procedures and demands of FSC certification.
- 7.2 Development and assistance to implementation of common certification program for stakeholders in the southern part of the Komi Republic.
- 7.3. Consultations for Mondi Syktyvkar on fulfillment of certification conditions in frame of consultation contract.
- 7.4. Other consultations on certification and other issues depending on demands.

General comments:

Silver Taiga is contributing to FSC development by consultations and training since many years. We are taking fields which are difficult for other consultants and for companies – usually biodiversity, pristine forests and social issues. This year we were involved in unprecedented action of Mondi Syktyvkar which areas has been under threat to lose FSC certificate. When danger became near by the Mondi organized urgent action to save the certificate by improvement of the situation during 3 + 2 months (Aug-Dec 2010). Silver Taiga has been involved in general discussion on how to solve the situation and also into intensive training for Mondi staff. It has dominated autumn due to the size of the training and its fire regime of organization. The Mondi has prolonged the certificate and draw many conclusions from the situation increasing staff involved in certification and planning issues as well as putting more attention for training and planning.

Detailed results:

- A. Participation and contribution to development of FSC certification Steering Committee for the Komi Republic.
- B. Participation and contribution to development of southern group of forest unit for FSC purposes.

- C. Consultation and contribution to fulfillment of conditions of FSC certification for group of southern forest units – Priluzje, Kazhim, Koigorodok and Sysola – Feb – Oct 2010. Among others:
- Development of programs for FSC conditions fulfillment for all four forest units;
 - Development of presentations and study materials about International conventions demanded by FSC and about new demands by Russian National Standard which have been distributed among involved organizations;
 - Seminars on demands of Russian FSC Standard have been organized for 65 participants from forest administration and logging companies;
 - Action to identify communities of indigenous people has been organized by use of inquires;
 - Method of identification of forest stands suitable for selective cutting has been combined;
 - Chapter describing natural conditions of certified area and ecological limitations for two forest units have been developed;
 - A list of Red Book species threatened by forestry practices, their habitats and measures of their protection have been developed for 3 forest units;
 - Public version of monitoring results demanded by National FSC Standard has been developed for all four forest units;
 - Recommendations on safety during logging have been combined for 3 forest units;
 - List of the upper bogs and recommendations on their protection have been developed for Koigorodok forest unit;
 - Evaluation of the annual allowable cut and real forest use for last 3 years has been made for logging companies of Priluzje and Sysola forest units;
 - List of incompliance between forest regulations and FSC demands has been combined together with State Forest Committee;
 - Method and procedure of monitoring of protected species and monitoring of protective measures for HCVF for 2010-2013 have been developed for Kazhim, Koigorodok and Sysola forest units;
 - List of protected areas, HCVF and measures of their protection has been combined for forest stakeholders;
- D. Field training on “Landscape and ecological characteristics of pristine taiga” has been organized for employees of Silver Taiga Foundation in Pechora-Ilych Reserve – Jun-Jul 2010.
- E. Field study tour for 2 Swedish representatives of NGO Friends of the Earth – Jul 2010.
- F. Consultation for auditor company SGS about certification of logging company “Leskom” Jul 2010.
- G. Participation and contribution to improvement of FSC certification effort in Mondi Syktyvkar – Aug 2010.
- H. Two field seminars on “Introduction to voluntary certification” for 31 participants from logging company “Finnleskom” has been organized in Model Forest – Aug 2010.
- I. Field study tour on “Landscape and ecological characteristics of pristine forest in taiga zone” for 11 participants from Sweden has been organized in Pechora-Ilych Resrve – Aug-Sep 2010.
- J. Five indoor training “Introduction to voluntary certification of forest management” have been organized for 105 participants from logging company “Finleskom” – Aug-Sep 2010.

- K. Practical training on “Implementation of biodiversity conservation during planning of logging” for 11 participants from company “Kortkeroskij Leskhoz” has been organized in the Model Forest – Sep 2010.
- L. Indoor training “Introduction to voluntary certification of forest management” have been organized for 36 participants from company “Mondi Syktyvkar” – Sep 2010.
- M. Consultation for auditor company “Nepcon” concerning certification of “Mondi Syktyvkar” – Sep 2010.
- N. Three indoor and field trainings on “Implementation of biodiversity conservation during planning of logging” for 36 participants from companies contracted by “Mondi Syktyvkar” have been organized in Komi Model Forest – Sep-Oct 2010.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Auditor company “Nepcon”
- Auditor company SGS – Vostok – Limited
- Consultation Company “Kutepov D.”
- Consultation Company “Serov A.”
- Forest management company “Kortkeroskij Leskhoz”
- Kazhim Forest Unit
- Koigorodok Forest Unit
- Logging company “Finleskom”
- Logging company “Leskom”
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Pechora-Ilych Reserve
- Priluzje Forest Unit
- State Forestry Service of Komi
- Swedish Forest Agency
- Sysola Forest Unit

8. Transfer of Komi Model Forest experience to Baltic Region (Przemyslaw Majewski)

(Low profile until agreement between EU and Russian Federation is not signed)

Objective:

Baltic Landscape Project, aiming for integration of countries around Baltic Sea, is supported by experience of Silver Taiga and Komi Model Forest.

Planned activities:

8.1. Adaptation of innovative proposals from: Silver Taiga and Komi Model Forest, Kovdozerski MF and Pskov MF if the agreement EU-RF is in place.

8.2. Contribution to development of the Baltic Landscape Project proposal to EU Interreg funding.

General comments:

Unfortunately, Russia did not signed agreement with EU about cooperation and Russian MFs and Silver Taiga cannot be partners in Baltic Landscape Project. They can be Associated Organizations with funding limited to travel costs for annual conferences. In this situation application has been reshaped and submitted by 3 countries: Sweden, Finland and Poland. The application has been rejected among others due to limited number of countries involved.

Detailed results:

A. The application has been contributed by experience from Komi based on consultation agreement.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Eastern Finland University in Joensuu
- Finnish University of Applied Sciences in Rovaniemi
- Marshall Office in Olsztyn, Poland
- Marshal Office in Poznan, Poland
- Regional Directorate of State Forest in Olsztyn, Poland
- Regional Directorate of State Forest in Poznan, Poland
- Swedish Forest Agency in Jonkoping
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Umea
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala

9. Russian and International Model Forest Network (Przemyslaw Majewski)

(Low profile due to limited funding)

Objective:

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

Planned activities:

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

General comments:

Circumboreal Initiative. Important progress has been made within Circumboreal Initiative. Common project proposal concerning forest communities has been developed covering Model Forests of Russia, Sweden and Canada. First funding has been obtained for further development of common project and seminar of Circumboreal Initiative is planned 21 of March 2011 in Burgos, Spain.

Russian Model Forest Network has been paralysed by lack of interests on Federal level of State Forest Service and lack of international funding.

International Model Forest Network has been active and International Networking Committee has been gathering to prepare concept of Global Forum of Model Forests to be held in March 2011 in Spain.

Detailed results:

- A. Interview with existing MF in Russia has been made and results has been presented during meeting International Networking Committee of IMFN in Spain, Mar 2010.
- B. Contribution to development of general frame of Global Forum of MF and participation in the meeting held in Valladolid, Spain in March 2010.
- C. Common search for projects and contribution for Circumboreal Initiative during meeting in Sweden and in Spain – Mar 2010

- D. Development of starting proposal for CI from Komi side – two subject – Climate Change and Forest Communities. During following discussions Forest Communities has been selected to continue. Apr-Jun 2010.
- E. Selection and agreement with MFs in Russia for participation in Circumboreal Initiative – Pskov MF, Koim MF and WWF in Arkhangelsk have declared an interest to participate in CI – Apr -Jun 2010
- F. Contribution to development of common vision of future project on Forest Communities and planning of common seminar to be held in 2011 – Aug-Nov 2010.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- IMFN – International Model Forest Network
- Pskov Model Forest
- WWF Russia – Forest Program
- Vilhelmina MF – Sweden
- Prince Albert MF – Canada
- Saskatchewan Research Council – Canada

10. General concept of use of forest resources based on new economic, environmental and social criteria for the Komi Republic (Przemyslaw Majewski)
(Low profile due to limited funding)

Objectives – long-term:

- A. Decision makers and society of the Komi Republic are equipped with clear, long-term concept (vision?) of use of forest resources.
- B. The long-term concept is supported by forecasts of development of forest resources depending on different scenarios of management.

Objectives for 2010:

- A. Silver Taiga is equipped in capacity to provide forecasts of development of forest resources.

Planned activities:

- 10.1. Training of employee in forecast of development of forest resources based on Russian and foreign models.

General comments:

Training has been shifted for later on. There were several reasons for that. Still neither authorities nor wood industry are not interested in forecast demonstrating unsustainable use of forest. Wood industry limits its interests to the leasing areas and to short-term perspective. Summer and autumn were overloaded by expected problems of Mondi with certification and unexpected urgent request for training of its employees. Our main candidate for the training is going to change the job and is leaving Silver Taiga.

The proposal is to do not forget about this important issue, but shift the activity until suitable staff is hired and/or more interest in the subject will appear among decision makers and funding sources.

Cooperating organizations: