



Director _____ *Yury Pautov*

Silver Taiga Foundation Progress report for 2012

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General Contents

High Conservation Value 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.

General comments:

1.1. Search and strengthening of compromise solutions region by region.

In 2012 attention was mainly given to the promotion and coordination of the proposals on creation of new regional Protected Areas (consolidated Pyssa and Karpogor regional reserves, designed “Koygorodok” National Park) developed in 2011, and thereby conservation of the large boundary massifs of HCVF in the Udora district on the boarder between the Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk region, the Komi Republic and the Kirov region. The proposals have been

submitted to the UNDP and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic. The proposals on creation of new consolidated Pyssa and Karpogor regional reserves are published on the site of UNDP-GEF project within the frameworks of the summery report on the Udora district of the Komi Republic (link http://www.undp-komi.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=842:-----2011-&catid=39:1&Itemid=88)

Detailed results

- A. An agreement not to carry out the logging on the area leased by LLC “Karpagoryles” in the core of the Karpogory pristine forest massif suggested for preservation (220-222 squares of the Chuprovskoye district forestry unit of the Ertomskoye forestry unit, Udora region, Komi Republic) within the frameworks of the preparatory measures of the company for the certification has been reached (November of 2011).
- B. The foundation proposals on zoning of the suggested to be established consolidated Korpogor and Pyssa reserves in the Udora district of the Komi Republic with account of the existing infrastructure of the road and trail network, hunting huts of the local residents, and potential routes for development of the environmental tourism were presented at the meeting conducted in the Ministry of Environment of the Komi Republic at the first Deputy Minister S.L. Geraymovich with participation of the representatives of the Administration of the “Udora district” municipal unit, Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center, Territorial Informational Fund, and other organizations and institutions (June 9, 2012).
- C. Consultations with the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic, Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Komi Republic, and Arkhangels Office of WWF on coordination of the potential boundaries and status of the interregional Protected Areas in the Verkhne-Vashka massif of HCVF on the boarder between the Komi Republic and the Arkhangelsk district have been carried out. The consulatations were related to withdrawal of the leased base of the investment project Lesozavod №1 in Kazlukh settlement (Komi Republic) and volunary moratorium on the logging in the adjacent leased base of OJSC “Ilimseverles” (Koryazhma, Arkhangelsk region) aimed at granting to this massif a status of the designed interregional Protected Area. Decision is not made, negotiations are in process (March – April of 2012).
- D. Jointly with the Arkhangelsk Office of WWF the new boundaries of the moratorium in the Verkhne-Vashka pristine forest massif were agreed with OJSC “Ilimseverles”, OJSC “Lesozavod № 2”, LLC “Krasnoborskles” leasing the forest fund in the Verkhne-Vashka massif of HCVF (in the Arkhangelsk part of the massif).
- E. Negotiations with the management of the audit company “Forest cetification” (P.Trushevsky and V. Sysoev) and management of OJSC “Mayskles” renting a part of the Koygorodok massif of HCVF in the Letka forestry unit of the Komi Republic devoted to the cancellation of the lease on the area of Mayskles where the moratorium on logging was imposed based on the results of the company recertification in January – February of 2012 were conducted. The necessity to observe the moratorium on logging in the squares 13-16, 29-32, 44-48,59-64, 83-88, 107-112, 147-153, 188-197 of the Letka forestry unit is fixed as a precondition for company certificate preservation (February 2012).
- F. Negotiations with the representatives of OJSC “Mayskles” renting a part of the Koygorodok massif of HCVF in the Letka forestry unit of the Komi Republic, Forest Committee of the Komi Republic, and the legal department of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic on the procedure of the voluntary refusal of OJSC “Mayskles” of leasing the squares 13-16, 29-32, 44-48,59-64, 83-88, 107-112, 147-153, 188-197 and t were carried out. Decision is not made due to the fact that designed Koygorodok National Park has a status of the Federal Protected Area, therefore, the

- authority on changing the boundaries of the National Park are within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (February – June of 2012).
- G. Consultations with the Director of the Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve E.M. Tarasova and her Deputy E.G. Sitnikov focused on the cluster area Tulashor, the territory of which in the Kirov region is adjacent to the designed Koygorodok National Park in the Komi Republic were carried out. Management of the Reserve is highly interested in attachment of the area leased by OJSC “Mayskles” in the Letka forestry unit of the Komi Republic to the designed National Park due to the fact that attachment of this area will result in an increase of a common boarder of both Protected Areas in the Komi Republic and the Kirov region by 12 km, and, therefore, the cost spent on the land allocation procedures for the Protected Areas, marking of their boundaries and further protection will decrease significantly (March – April of 2012). The management of the Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve is ready to support the initiatives of the stakeholders from the Komi Republic in the change of the boundaries of the Koygorodok National Park (March – November of 2012).
 - H. Consultations with the management of the newly created “Republican Center of Protected Areas and Nature Management” at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Komi Republic (Director R.V. Polshvedkin, Head of the Protected Areas department S.U. Zogoev) on initiation of the change of the designed Koygorodok National Park borders in the Ministry of Natural Resources of the RF were carried out. An agreement on preparation of the joint request addressed to the Ministry of Natural Resources of the RF and involvement of the stakeholders from the Kirov region (November of 2012) was reached.
 - I. Field study of the transport accessible territories adjacent to the Koygorodok National Park aimed at development of educational excursion routes on the ecology of the pristine south taiga forests was conducted. A Concept of creation of such routes in the northern part of the National park was proposed (August – November of 2012).
 - J. An update of the pristine forests in the Lokchim forestry unit based on the ERS materials within the frameworks of the HCVF monitoring during the certification of OJSC “Lesozagotovitel'naya kompaniya” was conducted, a moratorium on logging on the HCVF area of 99-100 squares of the Chetdinsky district forestry unit (March of 2012) was suggested.
 - K. An update of the pristine forests in the Troitsko-Pechorsk forestry unit based on the ERS materials within the frameworks of the HCVF monitoring during the preparation for the certification of OJSC “Pechoraenergoresurs” was made. An ecological framework of the area leased by the company with marking of 1 core of HCVF with a total area of 2200 ha (Jointly with the consulting center Tefra) has been agreed.
 - L. Presentation of the Silver Taiga Foundation projects on conservation of large low-disturbed massifs of pristine forests in the Komi Republic during the international forest forum in Arkhangelsk (March 29-30, 2012).
 - M. Participation in the meeting of the Nature Conservation NGOs of the Northwest of Russia in Arkhangelsk for harmonization of the viewpoints and activities on protection of low-disturbed forest in European Russia (March 30-31, 2012).
 - N. Presentation of the practical experience of the Komi Republic in conservation of biodiversity at the international seminar BEPAN in Syktyvkar – June of 2012.
 - O. A seminar on conservation of the large low-disturbed massifs of pristine forests in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region with presentation of the Komi Republic experience – St. Petersburg December 10-12, 2012.
 - P. Participation in 3 meetings of the Republican committee on priority investment projects at the Ministry of Industrial Development of the Komi Republic (February – November of 2012).

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Udora region
- Association of Wood Industry in the Komi Republic
- FSC Office in Russia
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- Greenpeace Russia
- Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center, Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- Koigorodok Forestry Unit
- Letka Forestry Unit
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Nature Protection of the Komi Republic
- Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Komi Republic
- Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” (Moscow)
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”
- Reserve “Nurgush-Tulashor” – Kirov
- UNDP-GEF Project in the Komi Republic
- WWF Russia

2. Ecosystem and landscape background for forestry planning and FSC certification. (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 Nemsky 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 Nemsky 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:

- 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.

General comments:

In 2012 attention was mainly focused on assessment of various methods for identification of ecologically vulnerable forest landscape areas based on the analyses of different information sources using GIS-methods, as well as verification of the data obtained under the field conditions. For this purpose the foundation employed a GIS-specialist N. Shuktomov who was sent to the advanced training course on methods of ERS materials decoding conducted by the Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” in April of 2012. In March-June of 2012 LANDSAT images of pilot areas made at different time were downloaded, 1:100000-scale publicly available topo maps were digitized and based on them cartographic materials assessing the change of the forest fund over the last 30 years were prepared. Besides, forest inventory materials of the Noshulsky pilot area as of 1968, 1992, and 2007 for benchmarking of the forest fund changes have been obtained. In addition to Landsat images, OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” has provided high resolution Worldview images for as of 2010 with 0,5 m resolution within the frameworks of the partnership agreement.

Free 0,5 m resolution space images of the Nemsky pilot area have been provided by the company “GeoEye” within the frameworks of the environmental projects support. Based on these sources GIS-layers have been prepared and detailed 1:10000 and 1:50000-scale maps have been printed for both areas.

Three 4-day expeditions to Noshulsky and one expedition (8 days) to Nemsky pilot areas aimed at verification of the obtained materials were organized in June-September. Based on the materials of the conducted field studies the following findings have been made:

- Combining of the spatial data received from the forest stands plans and LANDSAT space images made at different time enables identifying the types and stages of the forest dynamics of the landscapes under study, which is very important for competent selection of logging types and technologies and further restoration of the cleared areas. Spruce forest non-fire dynamics, dynamics in extremely poor soil conditions, deciduous-spruce fire dynamics can be reliably identified. Pine-spruce fire dynamics and pine fire dynamics areas are difficult to distinguish at some stages due to similar wood composition.
- Analysis of LANDSAT images made at different times of the year enables quite reliable identification of the landscape hydrological network, including small streams and rivers floodplains (except the sources where the species composition in the floodplain and terrace above floodplain do not differ), linear objects (power lines, roads, channels), as well as deforested areas (for example, open or semiopen swamps, recent windfalls, fire-sites, illegal felling) and manifestations of erosion resulted from the business activities. It can be recommended to use such approach for forest use monitoring and forest management on the leased areas during the certification audits.
- Space images of different resolution and received from different sources do not allow creation of a relief model with required detail level for forest use planning. Expensive scanning of the landscape surface (radar or laser surveying) using different air vehicles is required for this. Such territorial surveying is quite an expensive activity in the conditions of the modern Russia and therefore it is almost inaccessible for practical application during the forest use planning.
- The most difficult objects for decoding of the space images are the territories covered with forest with the changed hydrological soil regime (dells, dishes, micro- and mesodepressions – sources of streams, etc.) playing an important water-regulation function in the landscape. Normally, such areas are key biotopes, which have to be marked during the planning and organization of forest use. Combining of different methods of the landscape spatial analyses are required for identification of such areas

Detailed results:

- A. At the beginning of 2012 GIS-specialist N. Shuktomov was employed by the foundation. In March of 2012 he jointly with the foundation ecologist E. Popova underwent the training on “Demonstration of peculiarities of work with GIS and ERS” carried out by the TEFRA Consulting Centre. Besides, he took a special advanced training course on methods of ERS materials decoding conducted by the Non-profit partnership “Transparent World” in April of 2012.
- B. 1:100000-scale publicly available topographic maps have been obtained and digitized for both pilot areas.
- C. Forest inventory materials as of 1968, 1992, and 2007 for the Noshulsky pilot area have been obtained and LANDSAT images as of 1970-s, 1990-s, 2010-s for assessment of the anthropogenic and natural factors impact to the forest landscapes dynamics over the last 35 years and visualization of the ongoing forest landscapes changes have been downloaded. Materials are being processed.
- D. Additional 0,5 m resolution space images of the Nemsky pilot area have been provided by the “GeoEye” (free of charge) within the frameworks of the environmental projects support.
- E. High resolution Worldview images for Noshulsky pilot area as of 2010 with 0,5 m resolution have been received from OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” within the frameworks of the partnership agreement
- F. GIS layers with different resolution used for retrospective analysis of landscape changes and forest use planning have been created for both pilot areas.

- G. Historical analysis of the landscape dynamics on the selected Noshulsky and Nemsky pilot areas for the last 40 years based on the analysis of forest management, historical, reporting and other materials has been carried out.
- H. Three layers of forest maps for Noshulsky and Nemsky pilot areas based on combining the forest arrangement plans of Landsat space images for the timeframes including beginning of 1970-s, beginning of 1990-s, beginning of 2010-s have been developed.
- I. Benchmarking of different ERS sources based on such criteria as a) accessibility and simplicity of acquisition (downloading), b) degree of details and accuracy of landscape ecological elements display, c) price (roughly) has been made.

It was concluded that the most acceptable source of spatial information for landscape planning purposes based on selected criteria are LANDSAT images and their combining using 5, 4, 3 channels.

- J. Four field expeditions to selected pilot areas aimed at verification of the ERS materials and their evaluation for landscape planning have been organized. The results of the field verification of the ERS materials showed that the most difficult objects for decoding of the space images are the territories covered with forest with the changed hydrological soil regime (dells, dishes, micro- and mesodepressions – sources of streams, etc.) playing an important water-regulation function in the landscape. Normally, such areas are key biotopes, which have to be marked during the planning and organization of forest use. Combining of different methods of the landscape spatial analyses are required for identification of such areas.

- K. During the field research expedition evaluation of the loggings and forest management in the Noshulsky and Ust-Nemsky branches of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” on the examined pilot areas in respect of compliance with the FSC certification requirements has been carried out. It has been detected that the most common violations of the National FSC standard requirements during the planning and logging are the following:

- Incompliance or incomplete compliance of an applied logging method (almost everywhere clear cutting with preserved coniferous undergrowth is performed) with the type, stage of the natural forest dynamics and type of the forest growing on this logging site.

- Above-norm soil damages, especially on the main logging roads and in the places of storage and loading of shortwood (about 50% of the inspected “summer” logging sites).

- Building of the logging roads and technological roads through the permanent and temporary streams and gullies without construction of bridge crossings.

- Violation of the requirements to erosion control structures installed during the construction of forest roads.

- Lack of preserved key biotopes on the major part of the inspected logging sites in 2011-2012.

- A formal approach to preserving the key biotopes without account of the landscape peculiarities of the logging sites.

- Logging sites have a rectangular shape, though according to FSC they have to be included in the boundaries of the natural landscape.

Based on the results of the field study of the pilot areas an analytical report with description of the detected violations will be prepared and submitted to the Forestry Management and Certification Department of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”.

- K. The first draft of “Recommendations on the flora and fauna monitoring program and its implementation in accordance with the requirements of the Russian FSC standard (version 7)” has been developed – Jointly with WWF Russia (Authors: Y. Pautov, E. Ray, V. Slastnikov). The material is submitted for review to FSC Russian National Office.

*Planned training for the foundation employees on the methods of remote identification of the ecologically valuable forest landscapes in Sweden (Vilhelmina Model Forest, The branch of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umea) was shifted to April of 2013 in view of the high workload in 2012.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

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- 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.

General comments:

The results of the first years of the project implementation showed that in spite of the fact that fish resources are an important source of the livelihood and survival of the local population, especially in the situation of unemployment and extremely low income of the population, the state river resources management does not take into account these circumstances and is working based on the prohibitions. The legislation in the fish resources management considers neither the current disastrous state of the local population nor their traditions of the nature use. The condition of the resources themselves is not quite taken into account as well. There is an insufficient amount of the reliable data about the condition of the fish resources; the society does not have an access to the results of the researches on the condition of the fish resources and the reasons of their exhaustion.

As a consequence, the local population permits the overfishing itself and over-exploitation of natural resources because they have no advantages compared to the outsiders using these resources, they are detached from the resources management, they don't have reliable information about their condition and do not fully understand that the resources are limited and they are responsible for their condition.

Besides, a basin approach is very poorly represented in the Mezen fish resources management, administrative and institutional dissociation is evident. The local population of the districts near the Mezen living in three administrative and two constituent entities of the RF is also disengaged. The lack of contacts is worsened by the poorly developed road network.

Under these conditions, the most important objective of the project was **establishment of the contacts and collaboration** between the residents of the different administrative districts, and between the territorial resources management bodies, for the further definition of the sphere of common interests and development of general approaches to the Mezen fish resources management.

One more important task of this stage of the project implementation - **getting of an objective picture of the Mezen fish resources condition and their use** - was achieved by means of organization and carrying out of the survey expeditions during the summer – autumn seasons in 2011 – 2012, as well as organization of a monitoring of the reproductive

salmon population. Representatives of the local population took part in all these activities.

In order to **provide the access of the local population to the information** about the condition of the Mezen fish resources and river resources management problems, and for creation of a platform for public discussion of these problems, preparation, issue, and dissemination of a thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper have been fulfilled. 4-page supplement is published in the amount of 3.5 thousand copies and distributed not only in the Udora but also in the Leshukonsky and Mezensky districts.

An access of the local residents and local self-government bodies to the information about the resources condition, targets, objectives, and activity of the project was also provided by means of the meetings of the project participants with the population in the settlements and villages of the Udora district of the Komi Republic, Leshukonsky and Mezensky districts of the Arkhangelsk region. Such meetings were held in February of 2012 during the trip of the project Working group representatives to the Leshukonsky and Mezensky districts of the Arkhangelsk region, in June – July during the expedition of the project participants to the lower reaches of the Mezen, in September during the trip to the Mezen tributary Irva.

Representatives of the NGOs and local management entities (public movement “KomiVoityr”, “Udorachi” community, “AgroUdora” cooperative), as well as the administration of the Udora district have been participating in the work as a part of the project Working group throughout the whole year, representing the viewpoints and interests of the local population. The members of the Working group – representatives of the local population – were involved in the participation in the project at every stage, including strategic planning, joint discussion of the detailed plans and results received during the expeditions, and also took part in the expeditions and meetings with the population.

Cooperation with the water bodies users – members of the “AgroUdora” cooperative and Fish Resource Agency “KomiRybVod” as the leaseholders of the fishing grounds, as well as the local population, showed that all three types of river use, i.e. industrial fishing, organization of recreational fishing, and traditional fishing face plenty of problems, which are partly related to the gaps and discrepancies in the legislation, partly to the lack of knowledge about organization of the proper management. Also, a big problem is the condition of the Mezen salmon population, which is a direct consequence of the unsustainable management of these resource.

Therefore, four small working groups have been organized within the frameworks of the project **for the preparation of a gradual transition to the sustainable river resources management:**

- on the support of the sustainable management by the user – “AgroUdora” cooperative (organization of the commercial fishing on the Mezen tributary Irva);
- on the assistance in the organization of the sustainable recreational fishing in the upper reaches of the Mezen;
- on the development of the proposals for the organization of the legal traditional river resources use (the Mezen tributary Pyssa);
- on the development of the proposals for the interregional state program on conservation of the Mezen salmon population.

In 2012 support of the local initiatives aimed at the organization of the rural tourism as an option of the sustainable management of the river resources was continued. For this purpose a two-day educational seminar on the basics of entrepreneurship was carried out. Based on the results of the trip of the project Working group members to the Arkhangelsk region, the current forms of the local population self-organization in the rural districts of the neighbor region were introduced to the deputies of the “Udora” Municipal district Council.

In 2012 informational and awareness raising work with schools was continued. Rural

libraries of the Udora district were also involved in the informational work with the population.

Detailed results:

- A. 6 editions of the thematic supplement “Model river Mezen” to the Udora district newspaper were prepared, issued and distributed - 3.5 thousand copies of each edition.
- B. 500 copies of each edition of the supplement “Model river Mezen” were sent to the rural settlements of the Leshukonsky and Mezensky districts of the Arkhangelsk region.
- C. In Koslan central library, a round table with the participation of librarians from Udora centralized library system rural subsidiaries working in settlements, and villages, located along the Mezen river, was held. Possibilities and forms of participation of rural libraries in the implementation of the “Model river Mezen” project were discussed with the participants of the round table.
- D. Informing of local population through district rural libraries was established. In cooperation with the libraries, summer reading rooms were organized in Usogorsk and Koslan. Project related meetings, discussions, and competitions for children and adult population were conducted.
- E. In February, a trip of the project Working group representatives to the Leshukonsky and Mezensky districts of the Arkhangelsk region, was organized. The following activities were carried out during the trip:
 - a meeting with the Heads of the rural settlements Mezensky and Leshukonsky of the Arkhangelsk region, with presentation of the “Model river Mezen” project, was conducted in the town Mezen;
 - a round table related to the “Model river Mezen” project was organized in the Mezensky district administration;
 - a meeting with the Head of the Leshukonsky district administration was organized;
 - meetings with the population in the rural settlements of the Leshukonsky district were held.
- F. Information on the work of the territorial public self-government in the Mezensky and Leshukonsky districts was collected during the trip.
- G. As rural territorial public self-governments of the Arkhangelsk region participated in the conference, contacts with the territorial self-government activists were established.
- H. Territorial self-government experience in the Arkhangelsk region was presented to the Udora Municipal District Council deputies.
- I. At the meeting-dialogue of the local population representatives, district administration, and a leaseholder (Federal State Institution “Komirybvod”) related to the management of the Mezen upper reaches, which took place in the administration of the Udora district, with the participation of the Komi Republic State Council Committee on Nature Management and Ecology, information on the project implementation and the Working group’s view on recreational fishing organization in the Mezen upper reaches were presented. September 2012.
- J. A seminar for the rural activists aimed at their preparation for the project activities with the participation of the settlements Koslan, Butkan, Chernutyeyev, Vazhgort, and Yortom representatives was conducted. April 2012.
- K. So as to support the local initiatives targeted at the organization of the sustainable management, a two-day educational seminar “Basics of entrepreneurship in tourism and crafts” was conducted with the participation of a representative from Arkhangelsk. April 2012.

- L. Representatives of the “AgroUdora” cooperative involved in the organization of the recreational use of the river resources took part in the round table on the village tourism organized by the Ministry of National Policies of the Komi Republic in the Knyazhpogost district (Turja, June 2012), and also in the conference of the rural women devoted to the sustainable development of the territories (Syktyvkar, December 2012).
- M. Meetings with the “AgroUdora” cooperative members involved in the commercial fishing on the leased parts of the Irva river were conducted. Possibilities for organization of the public control and public monitoring of the river resources use were discussed. September 2012.
- N. A conference for the Udora district pupils “River of my childhood” with the participation of the teachers and schoolchildren from Vazhgort, Pyssa, Blagoevo, and Usogorsk was held. The results of the creative works competition were announced and possibilities of students’ participation in the project were discussed. March 2012.
- O. In June, based on the suggestion of the participants of the pupils’ conference and supported by the teachers of the educational institution of further education in Usogorsk, on the territory of the rural settlement Bolshaya Pyssa (villages Latyuga, Politovo, Malaya Pyssa, Patrakovo, and Bolshaya Pyssa), a children’s ecological expedition “Save river Mezen” targeted at regional research related to the traditional river management and also cleaning of its banks from litter was organized.
- P. In November, a seminar in the form of a presentation of the author’s educational program on basic economic literacy for village pupils, developed by the teacher of economic geography E. Romaniuk (Lugovoy school, Pechora district) and approved of by the experts of the Komi Republican Institute of Education Development and Retraining of Personnel was conducted for the teachers of the rural schools of the Udora district.
- Q. Throughout the year, the information about the problems related to the fish resources and project progress was presented in the publications on the web-sites silvertaiga.ru and finnougr.ru. Publications on the project theme occurred in the republican newspaper “Komi Mu”, Mezensky district newspaper ”Sever”, and Udora district newspaper “Vyl Tujod”.
- R. A public discussion of the fish resources related problems took place in the thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper throughout the whole year.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of the Leshukonsky district of the Arkhangelsk region
- Administration of the Mezensky district of the Arkhangelsk region
- Administration of the Udora district of the Komi Republic
- Agricultural consumer cooperative “AgroUdora”
- Department of Education of the Udora district Administration
- Local community of indigenous people “Udorachi” (NGO)
- Municipal educational institution of further education “Usogorsk students activity center”
- Udora division of interregional public movement “Komi Voityr”
- Udora centralized library system
- Udora division of the Federal State Institution “Komi Basin Authority for Fisheries and Conservation of Aquatic Biological Resources” (FSI “Komirybvod”)

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.

General comments:

In 2012 the activity of the Working group ensuring the observance of the major principal approaches to the project implementation – partnership and collaboration – was continued. The Working group consists of the following members: administration of the “Udorsky” municipal district, Uдора branch of the interregional public movement “Komi voityr”, Institute of Biology of Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, community of indigenous people “Udorachi”, department of aquaculture and fishery of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Komi Republic, Ministry of Nature of the Komi Republic, Department of State Control, Supervision and Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources of the Komi Republic, Federal State Institution “KomiRybVod”, Silver Taiga Foundation.

The expedition to the lower reaches of the Mezen conducted in summer of 2012 was the third of the review expeditions carried out within the frameworks of the project implementation. Besides, in October of 2012 the monitoring of the reproductive part of the salmon population was continued.

As a result, an overall picture of the condition, use, and management of fish resources all along the Mezen was obtained.

1. Natural potential of the Mezen river, including the conditions for the fish reproduction, is preserved.
2. For the population living mainly in the rural settlements fish stays an important source of the livelihood, whereas managerial decisions on conservation and use of fish resources insufficiently take it into account.
3. Business entities (leaseholders of the fishing plots and local population) have neither the knowledge about the possibilities and methods of sustainable management nor the successful examples.
4. The existing legal framework (legislation defining the lease relations; legislation on fishing, etc.) has gaps and discrepancies hindering the implementation of the initiatives on the development of sustainable management.
5. There is no collaboration between the stakeholders (interdepartmental, interdistrict, interregional, etc.).
6. A lack of a systematic state monitoring particularly but not exclusively for the salmon population (the results of the SevPINRO research are confidential and can be transferred only on a fee paid basis).
7. In spite of the extremely exhausted condition of the Atlantic salmon - from the head to the mouth of the river – commercial fishing of the salmon in the White Sea and the Mezen Bay, as well as allowed unreasonable amateur (in fact, commercial) salmon

fishing by drift and set nets in the mouth of the Mezen (the Mezen district of the Arkhangelsk region), are carried out.

8. Illegal fishing including salmon fishing along the whole length of the river from the mouth to the head (fancies, drift nets, set nets, seine nets, leisters, etc.) is observed.
9. Small-numbered supervisory authorities are not able to control the illegal fishing situation due to the staff, financial, and other problems in the agency.
10. The main project partners both in the Arkhangelsk region and in the Komi Republic realize a high degree of depletion of the salmon population and the necessity of the immediate actions on its restoration but they are not ready to suggest any ways to change the situation.

On this basis, the principal directions of the further project implementation, i.e. development, approbation, and introduction of the proposals aimed at the sustainable management development, were clarified and specified:

- on the leased area in the upper reaches of the Mezen (monitoring + recreational fishing),
- on the fishing grounds of the “AgroUdora” cooperative on the Irva river – a tributary of the Mezen (commercial fishing + monitoring with participation of the cooperative members),
- on the pilot area for restoration of traditional fishing (local population fishing needed for maintaining the villages stability),
- continuation of the development and implementation of the “Salmon Return” subproject

In 2012 the project group was forced to give up the idea of the planned use of the electrical fishing for monitoring due to the following reasons:

- a limited interest of the partners towards these methods (Federal State Budgetary Institution “Komirybvod” and Institute of Biology of Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences);
- purely commercial approach on the part of PINRO;
- high equipment costs, complexity of the customs clearance, etc.

Fulfillment of tasks 4.5. (to develop the recommendations on the maximum permissible norms of catching in different river parts) and 4.7. (to make a contribution to the organization of the works on restoration of non-migratory fish species) was postponed to the subsequent years as their execution is possible only after implementation of the measures aimed at effective protection of fish resources, organization of systematic monitoring and legalization of such forms of management which take into account the position and interests of the local residents.

Detailed results:

- A.** At the beginning of the year the project Working group reviewed the results of 2011 – the first year of the project implementation, and specified the objectives for 2012, reviewed the experience in organization of the amateur and sport fishing on the fishing ground “Mezensky №1” (upper reaches of the Mezen), discussed the “advantages” and “disadvantages”, as well as the development prospects of the recreational fishing on this area.
- B.** At the meeting of the project Working group in October the results of the review expedition conducted in 2012 down the Mezen (the mouth of the Pyis river – the Mezen Bay), as well as the results of the reproductive salmon population monitoring carried out in autumn of 2012, were presented.

- C.** A draft of a multilateral joint activity agreement (simple partnership agreement) was prepared and discussed at the project Working group meeting. According to this agreement the Parties (in total, 11 legal entities – Working group members) commit themselves to combine their contributions and jointly act without a legal body formation in order to plan and implement a joint agreed activity aimed at restoration of the Mezen river potential and ensuring the sustainable management of its resources and watershed within the frameworks of the “Management of fish resources and local population: Model river Mezen” project.
- D.** Meetings of the partners in small groups have been conducted. The following issues have been discussed there: organization and holding a joint expedition to the lower reaches of the Mezen, reproductive salmon population monitoring methods, monitoring organization (logistics), possibilities for the “AgroUdora” cooperative members participation in the fish resources monitoring on the Irva, collection of the monitoring data during the last years.
- E.** Problems of fish resources protection in the Leshukonsky and Mezensky districts have been discussed during the meeting with the head of the Mezen branch of the Federal State Budgetary Institution “Sevrybvod” V. Gorbachev.
- F.** A joint meeting (round table) was held in the administration of the municipal district “Mezensky” of the Archangels region with participation of the representatives of the district administration, Mezen branch of FSBI “Sevrybvod”, Fishery Public Council, and mass media.
- G.** Cooperation with the Federal State Budgetary Institution “Komirybvod” is carried out based on a bilateral agreement on the project objectives implementation.
- H.** Collaboration with the Community of indigenous people “Udorachi” and representatives of other organization of the district and republican level interested in the implementation of the project tasks is fulfilled within the frameworks of the Agreements.
- I.** At the project Working group meeting a report about the activity of the Udora branch of the FSBI “Komirybvod” on organization of the recreational fishing on the fishing ground “Mezensky №1” was presented and the relevant problems were discussed. The proposals for optimization of the recreational fishing organization were presented at the meeting of the community with the leaseholder of the fishing ground “Mezensky №1”, which took place in November of 2012, in the administration of the municipal district “Udorsky” with participation of a representative of the State Council of the Komi Republic.
- J.** A contact has been established with the “AgroUdora” cooperative, the chairman of the cooperative has been included in the project Working group. In October a meeting with the management and members of the Irva branch of the cooperative engaged in the commercial fishing on the Irva, a tributary of the Mezen, was held. The problems and perspectives of the cooperative development, as well as the possibilities for the cooperative participation in the monitoring of the fish resources based on the results of the commercial catch were discussed there.
- K.** The problems of the traditional fishing preservation possibilities have been discussed with the community of indigenous people “Udorachi”. Based on this discussion, proposals on the possible options of the traditional fishing organization in one of the Mezen tributaries will be prepared.
- L.** In July-August of 2012 a review expedition from the mouth of the Pyssa river to the Mezen Bay of the White Sea aimed at the review and assessment of the fish resources situation in the lower reaches of the Mezen river, evaluation of the recreational potential of the territory and collection of the photographic documentation, was organized and conducted. The previous expeditions with similar targets were carried out in 2010-2011 in the upper and middle reaches of the Mezen and its tributaries. Representatives of the Silver Taiga Foundation, Federal State Budgetary Institution “Komirybvod”, community

- of indigenous people “Udorachi”, Federal State Budgetary Institution “Sevrybvod” took part in the expeditions.
- M.** The following major conclusions were made based on the materials of the review expedition conducted in 2012 in the lower reaches and the mouth of the Mezen river:
- an uncontrolled salmon fishing is ongoing everywhere;
 - there is no monitoring of the salmon population on the Mezen, in the Mezen Bay, and in the White Sea (or its results are not known and not used during the management decisions taking);
 - a lack of control over the allowable “amateur fishing” in the mouth of the Mezen;
 - a low efficiency of the fishery supervision activity in the Leshukonsky and Mezensky districts;
 - there is no proposal on the situation improvement from the management structures;
 - the salmon restoration on the Mezen purely by the efforts of the Udora district and the Komi Republic without active participation of the Mezensky and Leshukonsky districts of the Arkhangelsk region is unreal.
- N.** The results of the three review expeditions conducted in 2010-2012 along the Mezen were discussed at the meeting of the project Working group and transferred as a memo to the Head of the Komi Republic V.M. Gayzer for initiation of an interregional collaboration on the restoration and sustainable management of the Mezen population of the Atlantic salmon with the Arkhangelsk region. The project Working group suggested the:
- To establish the Coordination Council with participation of the representatives from the government of the Komi and the Arkhangelsk region, administrations of the Udorsky, Leshukonsky, and Mezensky districts in order to get a political support for the salmon restoration program;
 - To create an interregional working group with participation of the interested parties from the Komi Republic and the Arkhangelsk region in order to develop an interregional state program on the salmon restoration;
 - To develop a joint interregional state program on the restoration of the Mezen salmon population.
 - Possible directions for the state program were also suggested.
- O.** An employee of the Institute of Biology of Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences A.B. Zakharov carried out an analysis of the monitoring data on the condition of the biological resources in the upper reaches of the Mezen river in 2010-2011, which was presented to the project Working group, biological and population parameters of the main commercial species including salmon were specified.
- P.** In 2012 the first joint raid was carried out on the Mezen area in the Leshukonsky district of the Arkhangelsk region. This project initiative was fulfilled with support of the Udora Department of State Control, Supervision and Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources in the Komi Republic and representatives of the Mezen Department of State Control, Supervision and Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources.
- Q.** An attempt to establish a contact with NASCO (North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization) was made. In NASCO Russia is represented by PINRO, which also supervises the salmon projects in Russia. Negotiations with a representative of PINRO Sergey Valeryevich Prusov showed that PINRO is ready for cooperation with the “Model river Mezen” project only on commercial terms. This experience has demonstrated that unfortunately PINRO, as a representative of Russia and a member of an international project on salmon in the northern rivers, does not facilitate the implementation of such projects in Russia and even hinders our international collaboration.

- R.** Support to the Udora Department of State Control, Supervision and Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources in organization of the salmon spawning grounds protection in the upper reaches of the Mezen was provided.
- S.** During 3 autumn expeditions conducted at the beginning of October of 2012 in the upper reaches of the Mezen and its tributaries Upper and Lower Puzla, Yolva, and Pyssa a monitoring of the reproductive salmon population was made. The main participants of the monitoring were the following: representatives of the Federal State Budgetary Institution “Komirybvod”, community of indigenous people “Udorachi”, Silver Taiga Foundation with organizational support of the Udora Department of State Control, Supervision and Protection of Aquatic Biological Resources and Udora district committee for environmental conservation of the Ministry of Nature in the Komi Republic. The expeditions’ participants have mastered the monitoring methods, evaluated the volumes of the salmon population reproduction on the spawning grounds, and analyzed the poaching situation on the surveyed areas. Main conclusions:
- monitoring has been carried out on all areas according to the uniform methodology;
 - 110 “hills”, 45 “pits”, 8 “trial pits”, 4 full-grown Salmon fish were detected, which is several times more than during the previous years;
 - In spite of the conducted poaching prevention activities its level does not go down.
 - For more objective and detailed conclusions a detail monitoring is required.

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.

Results:

- A. Both BLs, Mazury and Warta, have been assisted in development of detailed plans and detailed budget during field visits and by correspondence – Mar-Jun 2012.
- B. Development of partnership have been supported during field visits in Mar and Sep/Oct 2012.
- C. Field visit of the BL areas – Mar 2012.

- 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.

Results:

- A. Swedish BLs, Bergslagen, Helge River and Vilhelmina, have been assisted in development of detailed plans and detailed budget by correspondence – Mar-July 2012.

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

Results:

- A. Finnish BL, Ilomantsi, have been assisted in development of detailed plans and detailed budget during meeting in Syktyvkar – Mar 2012.
- B. Development of partnership have been supported during field visit in Oct 2012.
- C. Field visit of the MF area – Oct 2012.

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

Results:

- A. Belarusian BL, Neman, has been assisted in development of detailed plans and detailed budget during field visit and by correspondence – Jan-Jun 2012.
- B. Development of partnership has been supported during field visit in Jul 2012.
- C. Field visit of the BL area – Jul 2012.

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

Results:

- A. Contribution to BL Project organization and management by participation in frequent Skype meetings of Project Management Group and two meetings in person in Umea, Sweden – Apr and Sep 2012.
- B. Contribution to development of program and organization of First Annual Baltic Landscape Network Conference in Kristianstad, Sweden – Feb 2012
- C. Preparing and leading workshop on establishment of Baltic Landscapes based on Model Forest formula – Kristianstad, Sweden – Feb 2012
- D. Preparing and completing general part of BL Project report to EU funder – Interreg – Sep 2012
- E. Contribution to development of program and organization of Second Annual Baltic Landscape Network Conference in Mikolajki, Poland – Nov 2012
- F. Leading workshop on preparation of BL project outputs by different Work Packages – Mikolajki, Poland – Nov 2012
- G. Coordination of Work Package Coordinators by correspondence, Skype and personal meeting in Mikolajki – Nov 2012
- H. Contribution to development of Communication Plan of the BL Project.
- I. Participation in conference on “Pearls of the coniferous forest conference 30.10-2.11.2012; Joensuu, Finland” with two presentations:
 - “Model Forests as tools for landscape development”,
 - “The potential of Baltic Landscapes Network and trans-boundary cooperation as a new form of innovative landscape management

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

Results:

- A. Organization support for participation of representatives from 3 MFs in Russia in annual conferences of BL Project in Kristianstad – Feb 2012 and Mikolajki – Nov 2012

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

Results:

- A. Preliminary meeting in Sweden – Feb 2012, to be developed.

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

Results:

- A. Cooperation with IMFN about support of new established BL sites by pre-audit and by training on line – Baltic Landscapes Mazury, Warta and Helge River.
- B. Participation in meetings of International Networking Committee of IMFN in Kristianstad – Feb 2012 and in Yalova, Turkey – Nov 2012.

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

Results:

- A. Preliminary meeting with representative of Mediterranean MFN - Kristianstad, Sweden – Feb 2012

B. Participation in the Annual Conference of Mediterranean Model Forest Network – Yalova, Turkey – Nov 2012

C. Development of outline for the cooperation and common fund rising effort – Nov 2012

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 (E. Popova)

Objectives:

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

Planned activities:

- 6.1.1. Consultancies on FSC certification and other issues, linked to sustainable forest management for logging companies, the Forestry service, audit companies on request.
- 6.1.2. Development of the section «Services» in the Foundation web-site (www.silvertaiga.ru) and information distribution among the interested parties
- 6.2.1. Seminars on voluntary forest FSC-certification for OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” and LLC “Finleskom” stuff
- 6.2.2. Seminars on natural forest dynamics and biodiversity of taiga forest for foreign groups on request
- 6.2.3. 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
- 6.2.4. 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
- 6.2.5. Creation of a new demonstration route on landscape planning in forestry
- 6.2.6. Other seminars based on request.

General results:

Silver Taiga Foundation, understanding the importance of the consultations for the voluntary FSC certification dissemination, forestry employees' qualification improvement, and sustainable forest management development in the region in general, has been organizing consultations and providing educational services for many years already. We are working in the spheres which are difficult for other consultants and companies – biodiversity, pristine forests, and social aspects. In 2012, the foundation employees were involved in a large-scale initiative organized by the Syktyvkar Forest Institute targeted at the introduction of the knowledge on sustainable forest management to SFI first-year students.

Considerable attention was paid to the dissemination of the information on the foundation activities related to the consultations and trainings by means of the Silver Taiga Foundation web-site.

Detailed results:

- A. A section “Services” with the list of the provided services and the description of the educational routes and demonstrational test fields in the Pechora-Ilych Nature Reserve and Komi Model Forest was developed on the foundation web-site - February 2012.

- B. A consultation on OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” certification was held for the audit company “Nepkon” – July 2012.
- C. A traveling seminar “Introduction to the forest management in Latvia” targeted at the exchange of the forest management experience was organized for 9 employees of the State Forest Service of the Komi Republic on the territory of the Northern Kurzeme forest district – August 2012.
- D. Nine one-day excursions to the Komi Model Forest on the theme “Man and forest: history of relations” were prepared and organized for 250 first-year students of the Syktyvkar Forest Institute – September 2012.
- E. A consultation on LLC “Sevlespil” and LLC “Karpogoryles” certification was held for the audit company “Nepkon” – December 2012.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Audit company “Nepkon”
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- LLC “Finleskom” - subsidiary logging company of OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” – pulp and paper mill
- Regional social organization “Society of foresters”
- Syktyvkar Forest Institute

Supplementary activity

7. Forest communities and use of natural resources. Interaction of forest communities and large forest business (V. Semyashkina)

Objectives for 2012 - 2013:

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

Planned activities for 2012:

- 7.1.1. 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).
- 7.1.2. 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.
- 7.1.3. Informational and methodical support in development of voluntary agreements between the local communities and wood industries operating on their territories.
- 7.1.4. 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.
- 7.2.1. 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).
- 7.2.2. 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).
- 7.2.3. Development of business proposals.
- 7.3.1. Search and adaptation of potential forms of self-organization of local population. Support of territorial public self-government.
- 7.4.1. 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".
- 7.4.2. Promotion of the joint discussion results.

General results:

In 2012, **contribution to the preservation of traditional nature use possibilities** in those settlements where there are no other life sustaining sources remained an important area of activity. Identification and mapping of traditional nature use territories for the purpose of their legalization and preservation by means of agreements made with forestry businesses existing on these territories started in the previous years within the framework of the project “Forest Village” for one of the pilot villages of this project. As this activity is in high demand in many other remote forest settlements and villages, especially in those where the level of unemployment is high, and the absence of year-round transportation connection with the district center does not allow the development of new economic activities, it continued in 2011 and 2012.

In 2012, activities targeted at the preservation of territories of traditional nature use were conducted in the Kortkeros district (rural settlement Keros). Consultative support regarding the method of traditional forest use territory defining was provided to the similar initiatives in the Ust-Kulom (Voldino), Priluzje (Tydor), and Troitsko-Pechorsk (Bolshaya Soyva) districts.

However, unfortunately, alternatives of traditional nature use territory “legalization” do not solve the problem completely though they bring positive results because the results in this case depend on the subjective factors – agreement or disagreement of the businesses existing on the territory to consider the interests of the population. A legislative solution of the problem on the republican level is needed. So as to voice the problem and acquire public support, arguments proving the necessity of the traditional nature use territory legalization were presented at different platforms – conferences and seminars conducted in the republic in 2012 and also at the round table meeting of NGOs targeted at the discussion of the Russian forest policy project.

For rural districts with industrial logging, **the development of the interaction between the local communities and large business** remains an important issue. In cooperation with the local communities (Public Forest Council in the Priluzje district, Priluzje, Udora, and Koygorodok divisions of “Komi Voityr”, and local community of indigenous people “Udorachi”), monitoring of situations and analysis of the influence of the activity of local logging companies on the socio-economic situation in rural districts are ongoing.

The issuing of a newspaper “Lesnoy Sovet” in the Priluzje district contributed to the **increased awareness of the local population and development of the dialogue**. The work related to the development of such mechanism of public participation as public hearings continued. The project of the Regulations on Public Hearings developed by the Silver Taiga Foundation was presented to the Public Chamber of the Komi Republic and supported by the Committee on Nature Management and Ecology of the Public Chamber.

In 2012, **republican Forest Dialogues**, initiated within the framework of the “Forest Village” project in 2009, continued to be organized. They became an effective platform for the thorough discussion of the forest resource management with the participation of the representatives from the local population, business, state organizations, local self-government, science, and NGOs.

Detailed results:

- A. 4 meetings were conducted – 2 with the population of the settlement Keros (Kortkeros district) and 2 with the initiative group of the local population – on the problem of the preservation of territories of traditional nature use.
- B. Creation of the public Forest Council in the rural settlement Keros was supported.
- C. The public Forest Council interviewed the local population and mapped the territories of traditional nature use – marking the hunting areas and places of large-scale mushroom and berry picking – for the rural settlement Keros (Kortkeros district).

- D. Negotiations between the settlement activists and OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar” representatives were organized. The result of the negotiations – a part of the leased territory adjacent to the settlement was excluded out of the logging plan; on more remote from the settlement territories, the logging plan will be approved of by the local population.
- E. Possible options of the legislative recognition of the territories of traditional nature use on the regional level were considered. Conclusions and suggestions were presented in presentations made at the round table meeting on environmental law held in Komi Republican Academy of State Service and Administration, conference on sustainable development in Syktyvkar State University, Congress of the Komi People, Geographical Readings of the Komi Division of the Russian Geographical Society, and also at the round table where the Russian Forest Policy project, organized by WWF Russia in June 2012, was discussed.
- F. In May 2012, during the regular SEAT-evaluation at Mondi Syktyvkar, meetings of the local population representatives from the districts where Mondi Syktyvkar conducts its activities, local and republican NGOs, and also republican state organizations – Ministry of National Policies, Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Forest Committee - with the participation of the Mondi Syktyvkar SEAT-evaluation committee were organized and conducted on the basis of the Silver Taiga platform. At each of these meetings, burning issues related to the Komi forest districts connected with the activities of the forestry business on these territories were discussed.
- G. In the Priluzje district, together with the district newspaper office with the aid of the Priluzje and Letka forestry units, 4 editions of “Lesnoy Sovet”, thematic supplement to the local newspaper, in which the participants of the forest relations including local population, discuss the forest use issues on the territory of their district (3.5 thousand copies 1 page long) were prepared and issued.
- H. The project of the standard Regulations on Public Hearings prepared by the Silver Taiga Foundation was discussed at the round table meeting of the Public Chamber of the Komi Republic and approved of by the Committee on Nature Management and Ecology of the Public Chamber.
- I. A practical seminar “Territorial public self-government and support of the local initiatives” with the participation of a Syktyvkin district Pazhga settlement local community board representative was conducted for the rural settlement deputies and activists of the Sysola district.
- J. The Forest Dialogue "Cooperation of the large forest business and local population in socio-economic sphere. Positive experience and possibilities for improvement" was held together with OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of “forest” districts and rural settlements of the Komi Republic
- Committee on Nature Management and Ecology of the Komi Republic Public Chamber
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- Institute of Socio-Economic and Energetic problems of the North of UB of RAS in Syktyvkar
- Komi Republican Academy of State Service and Administration
- Local community of indigenous people “Udorachi”
- NGO Committee to Save Pechora River
- NGO “Komi voytyr” – divisions in forest districts of the republic
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”
- Public Forest Council of the rural settlement Keros (Kortkeros district)
- Public Forest Council of the Priluzje municipal district
- Regional public movement “Indigenous women of Komi”

8. Model Forest as a neutral platform for interaction between the participants of forestry relations in the Komi Republic (Yu. Pautov).

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:

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. Economic justification of forest management intensification
- 8.3. 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
- 8.4. Development of Regional Forest policy of the Komi Republic on the organizational platform of Komi Model Forest
- 8.5. Development of local population participation in the sustainable forest management

General results

The year of 2012 became a turning point for the Komi Model Forest further development. Its effectiveness, innovational approach, participants' partnership and horizontal cooperation, practical approach to actions, and efficient performance were highly evaluated not only on the international ("Baltic landscapes" project, International Network of Model Forests, Circumboreal Initiative), but also on the national and regional levels. Below are different milestones of the Model Forest recognition on different levels in 2012:

- A. In February, the Silver Taiga Foundation and the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic approved of the MF perspective areas of activities and possibilities of their financing by means of the 2nd MBRR project.
- B. In September 2012, Syktyvkar Forest Institute and Silver Taiga Foundation organized an introductory course for all the SFI first-year students in the Komi Model Forest.
- C. In October 2012, Silver Taiga Foundation together with the International Model Forest Network Secretariat organized an introductory trip to Canada for the Head of the Komi Republic V. Gayzer, Minister of the Industry Development of the Komi Republic A. Samodelkin and the Head of the Forest Committee of the Komi Republic V. Osipov for studying the experience of Canadian Model Forests.
- D. In December 2012, the Foundation organized the Jubilee Republican Scientific and Practical Conference devoted to the 15th anniversary of the Model Forest and 10th anniversary of the Foundation.
- E. On December 21st, an organizational meeting of the renewed Model Forest Working Group, making an agreement on the main areas of activities for the period 2013-2015, took place.
- F. A republican program on the Model Forest Development is being developed with its possible financing from the Komi Republic budget.

All the above-mentioned events testify to the idea of the beginning of a new phase in the active development of the Model Forest in 2013 and political support obtained from the Republic of Komi government.

Detailed results

Besides the above-mentioned results, the following should be noted.

- A. Presentation on the main Komi Model Forest results at the All-Russian Forum of Forestry Employees on March 28th-29th, 2012, in Moscow.
- B. Presentation on the Komi Model Forest experience with respect to the conservation of biodiversity and pristine forests at the International Forest Forum in Arkhangelsk on March 30th-31st, 2012.
- C. Participation in the Meeting of the Interagency Committee on Forestry Intensification affiliated to Rosleskhoz (Moscow, May 18th, 2012)
- D. Participation in the Russian-Finnish Seminar on Forestry Intensification at Syktyvkar Forest Institute (June 2012)
- E. Participation in the shooting of a film for the Republican television regarding the Model Forest demonstrational routes (Yu. Pautov, June 2012) (the film was demonstrated on the TV channel CTC in the section “Traveling in Komi”)
- F. Participation in the shooting of a WWF educational film “I am choosing the forest” describing the job of a forester (Yu. Pautov, V. Semyashkina, A. Kindsvater, July 2012). The film is planned to be shown in movie theatres at the beginning of 2013.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Branch of FSI «Centresproekt»
- Consulting center «Tefra»
- Division of «Komi Voityr» in the Priluzje and Koygorodok districts
- Forest Committee of the Komi Republic
- Forest companies - holders of FSC certificates
- Government of the Komi Republic
- Institute of Socio-Economic and Energetic problems of the North
- Koygorodok Forestry Unit
- LLC “Priluzje Forestry Enterprise”
- LLC “Tekhkarta”
- Nature protection NGOs
- OJSC “Luzales”
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”
- Priluzje Forestry Unit
- Public Forest councils in the Priluzje and Udora districts
- State Council of the Republic of Komi
- TDB (Territorial Data Bank)

9. Initiation of volunteer 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

General results:

The immensity of the projects implemented by the Silver Taiga Foundation having a small number of personnel caused the necessity to involve additional people able to support the implemented projects. Therefore, in 2012, a group of volunteers was collected to support the fulfillment of different tasks. So as to make volunteers interested and prepare them for the participation in the Foundation projects, educational seminars about sustainable development were conducted. The volunteers were involved in different project tasks, including collection and processing of the field data, and also helped with the organization of the Foundation events. As practical experience showed, the most difficult stage of the work with the volunteers is the choice of tasks and activities for them: on the one side, they should be useful for the Foundation, on the other side – interesting and commensurate with the abilities of volunteers themselves.

Detailed results:

- A. The search of potential volunteers was carried out by means of the foundation web-site, Finno-Ugric news portal, social network “VKontakte”, and also postings at Syktyvkar institutions of higher education – May 2012
- B. The first introductory meeting was conducted for potential volunteers of the Silver Taiga Foundation - 9 people – June 2012
- C. A group in the social network “VKontakte” vk.com/silvertaiga was organized for communication and information exchange with the volunteers – June 2012
- D. The regulations “On volunteering activities” and a standard agreement on unpaid work execution by volunteers were developed – July 2012
- E. A meeting with the Russian Greenpeace volunteering activity coordinator Vilen Lupachik was conducted in order to exchange volunteering organization experience – August 2012
- F. Educational seminars for volunteers on the following topics were held:
 - Biological diversity of the taiga forests - 6 people – June 2012
 - Voluntary forest certification – 6 people – August 2012
 - Natural forest dynamics - 5 people – October 2012
 - Komi Model Forest - 2 people – November 2012
- G. Volunteers took part in the implementation of the foundation projects:
 - Processing of the materials collected during the field trip to the Priluzje district within the framework of the project “Landscape planning” – 1 person – June 2012
 - A four-day trip to the Priluzje district for collecting field data within the framework of the project “Landscape planning” – 1 person – June 2012

- Writing of news for the Foundation web-site about the conducted educational seminars – 2 people – June, August 2012
- Processing of materials collected during an expedition within the framework of the project “Model river Mezen”- 1 person – October 2012
- Taking of the minutes of the first meeting of interested parties within the project “Regional risk assessment for FSC controlled wood in the Komi Republic” - 1 person – November 2012
- Help in the organization of the Jubilee Conference “Sustainable development of forest regions: from Model Forest to Model Republic” - 1 person – December 2012

Cooperating organizations:

- Greenpeace России

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

Objective:

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

Planned activities:

The field of activities was not preliminarily planned

General results:

The Silver Taiga Foundation, which has been involved in the voluntary forest certification for ten years, is one of the stakeholders in this process. In September 2012, FSC National Working Group Technical Committee completed the project on controlled wood national risk assessment. However, to take into consideration the specific character of the Russian regions, it was decided to create separate assessments in several regions, which would be further included in the national one. In the Komi Republic, the certification process has been ongoing for nearly 10 years, significant experience has been collected, a considerable number of certified enterprises are operating, and cooperation between interested parties has been established. Therefore, the Komi Republic has all the chances to develop a good controlled wood risk assessment regional instrument, which will facilitate the task of effective wood delivery control by enterprises. Within this framework, a regional risk assessment working group was founded in the Komi Republic. The Silver Taiga Foundation took the responsibility of the process coordination.

Detailed results:

- A. The work involving the distribution of the information on the planned project and identification of the main stakeholders by means of the foundation web-site was carried out –September-October 2012
- B. An introductory seminar for the regional stakeholders was conducted. The stakeholders obtained the information with respect to the order, regulations and requirements to FSC regional risk assessment development – October 2012
- C. Balanced 3-chamber regional working group consisting of 9 people was formed. Validation of the working group members was prepared. The composition of the working group was approved of by the National Working Group Technical Committee – November 2012.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Audit company “Nepkon”
- CJSC “Zheshart Plywood Mill”
- Committee to Save Pechora River
- Consulting centre “Tefra”
- Forest Committee in the Komi Republic
- Ilim Group – Koryazhma mill
- Interregional social movement “Komi Voityr”
- Institute of Biology KSC UB RAS
- LLC “Geoinforesurs”
- LLC “Sevlespil”
- Local community of indigenous people «Udorachi»
- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic
- OJSC “Mondi Syktyvkar”
- Social movement “Indigenous women of Komi”