



Director _____ *Yury Pautov*

Silver Taiga Foundation Progress report for 2019

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Primary activity

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

Objectives for 2017-2019:

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

Planned Activity for 2019:

- Drafting of the environmental and economic feasibility study for the integrated Karpogorsky Wildlife Reserve based on the materials of Silver Taiga's expeditions of 2007, 2011, 2018, scientific materials and reports – *January-May*.
- Approval of borders of the leased areas and Karpogory and Pyssa IFL (within the projected landscape reserves 'Karpogorsky' and 'Pyssa and Sodzima Watershed') for the planned investment project of AnZarLes with its management, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic and other stakeholders – *throughout the year*.
- Format approval and publication of the booklet *The HCVF Project – 10 Years of Mondi Group and Silver Taiga Cooperation* – *February-September*.
- Continued approval of borders and protected area status of the projected Osa Complex Reserve with the forest fund leaseholder – Lesozavod No.1, PA Center of Komi, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic – *throughout the year*.
- Preparation and organization of a public hearing with interested and affected parties on creation of the Osa Complex Reserve (jointly with PA Center of Komi) – **provided an agreement with Lesozavod No.1 is reached** – *March-May*.
- Preparation and approval of the Regulation on the Osa Complex Reserve (jointly with PA Center of Komi and Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic) – **provided an agreement with Lesozavod No.1 is reached** – *May-November*.
- Development, discussion and agreement with interested parties of the algorithm for clarification of borders for regional HCVF 3 – Rare Ecosystems based on distant and taxation data available for the Komi Republic (jointly with Transparent World NGO, WWF Russia – *January-February*).
- Drafting of the agreed position of the interested parties with regard to HCVF 3 – Rare Ecosystems of the Komi Republic and its submission to the Technical Committee of FSC Russia – *March*.
- Field test of the agreed algorithm for clarification of borders for HCVF 3 – Rare Ecosystems of the Komi Republic in three pilot districts at FSC certified companies' leased areas – *June-September*.
- Approval of the forest management process in the buffer zone of the Koygorodsky National Park with the the forest fund leaseholder, PA Center of Komi and Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic – *February*.
- Clarification and approval of rights and obligations of the forest fund leaseholder with regard to the leased area included in the Koygorodsky National Park (jointly with PA Center of Komi, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic, Research Environmental Institute) – *March*.
- Clarification and approval of zoning and protection measures of the projected Koygorodsky National Park with the Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve in Kirov region – *March-April*.
- Monitoring of transfer for lease and exploitation of the IFL based on Earth remote sensing data in the Komi Republic as part of preparation for and activities under voluntary forest certification of companies in the Komi Republic – *throughout the year*.
- Preparation of the data base on the condition and use of IFL and Intact Forest Tracts (IFT) and its placement at Silver Taiga web service, approval of the data shared with the WWF Russia website (www.hcvf.ru) – *April*.
- Participation in the work of the High Priority Investment Projects Commission at the Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic – *throughout the year*.

Main achievements in 2019 include:

1. Documentation support and final coordination with interested parties (All-Russian Research Institute of Ecology under the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, the Center for PA of the Republic of Komi, Ministry of Natural Resources of

the Republic of Komi, Mondi Syktyvkar, Maiskles, Administration of Koygorodok and Priluzye Districts, etc.) of the Regulation, borders, zoning, turning point coordinates, and other regulatory aspects for the establishment of the Koygorodsky National Park. On 7 December 2019, the Russian Government adopted a Resolution on establishment of the Koygorodsky National Park in the Komi Republic <http://www.silvertaiga.ru/2019/12/12/edinstvennyj-krupnyj-massiv-juzhnoj-tajgi-budet-sohranjon/> .

2. Drafting of the environmental and economic feasibility study for the integrated Karpogorsky Wildlife Reserve based on the materials of Silver Taiga's expeditions of 2007, 2011, 2018, scientific materials and reports.
3. Development, discussion and agreement with interested parties of the algorithm for clarification of borders for regional HCVF 3 – Rare Ecosystems (Silver fir and spruce forests) based on taxation data and MD space images.
4. Justification and approval by experts of WWF Russia (K.Kobyakov) and Transparent World (D. Aksenov), and exclusion from the www.hcvf.ru website of the normative layer HCVF 3 – Rare Ecosystems (Dry old Pine forests).

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

Note:

- *Format and design of the booklet 'The HCVF Project – 10 Years of Mondi Group and Silver Taiga Cooperation' approved. Final preparation and printing planned in the 2nd quarter 2020.*
- *Six rounds of negotiations were held with the management of Lesozavod No. 1 (a tenant of the forest on the territory of the projected Osa Complex Reserve) to agree on the boundaries of the reserve, with the participation of GREENPEACE Russia (A. Yaroshenko), WWF Russia (A Shchegolev, K. Kobyakov), Institute of Biology, Komi Scientific Center, Russian Academy of Sciences (A. Korolev). Final agreement on the borders of the Reserve has not been achieved with the management of Lesozavod No. 1. In this regard, all other activities on the organization of Osa Complex Reserve are postponed for the time being. The updated borders of the Osa Complex Reserve are included in the Project "Plan for Development and Siting of Protected Areas of Regional Significance," which Lesozavod No. 1 was informed about in January 2020.*

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administration of Koigorodok and Udora districts of Komi
- FSC Office in Russia
- Greenpeace Russia
- Lesozavod №1 logging company
- Maiskles logging company
- Ministry of Nature of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Nurgush-Tulashor Reserve, Kirov region
- PA Center of Komi
- State Forestry Units in Koigorodok, Letka and Ertom
- WWF Russia

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

Objectives for 2017-2019:

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

Planned Activity for 2019:

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

- Collection of materials, preparation and drafting of 'Recommendations for Biodiversity Conservation in the Komi Republic in the Course of Planning and Facilitation of Wood Harvesting on Landscape Basis' (jointly with WWF Arkhangelsk and Tekhkarta) – *February-June*.
- Organization of the round table meeting with representatives of the certified companies, Komi Republic Forestry Agency and forestry units of southern and central districts of Komi on methods of biodiversity conservation on landscape basis in the course of forest management planning and organization – *April*.
- Preparation of demonstration sites for field training courses on conservation of biodiversity and environmental properties of forests in the course of planning, organization and implementation of wood harvesting – *May-August*.
- Monitoring of the condition of key biotopes and key elements of forests preserved through different methods from 2008 to 2019 – *June-August*.
- Analysis of the results of monitoring of the condition of key biotopes and key elements of forests preserved through different methods from 2008 to 2019 (jointly with Tekhkarta) – *September-November*.
- Preparation of an analytical note based on the results of monitoring of key biotopes and key elements of forests to assess the efficiency of preservation of environmental values (jointly with Tekhkarta) – *December*.

2.2. Analysis of the compliance of environmental requirements and restrictions of the draft of the new National FSC standard with the Regulations of the Intensive Forest Management developed for the Dvina-Vychegda forest area. *No events have been planned in 2019.*

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

- Updating and clarification of the cartographic data base (space images, available topographic maps, forest stand plans, road construction layouts) for IFM landscape planning at pilot areas given proposals and recommendations of the interested parties (jointly with Tekhkarta and Mondi Syktyvkar) – *February-May*.
- Organization and arrangement of field works on verification and collection of materials for subsequent landscape planning of IFM at pilot areas – *May-September*.
- Preparation of the draft version of environmental carcass for pilot areas and its approval with and Mondi Syktyvkar – *October*.

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

- Introduction of the draft version of the web service to distribute cartographic project materials of the Silver Taiga Foundation – *March*.

- Preparation of the updated layers of IFL, IFL cores, IFL and IFT moratoriums, projected PAs, HCVFs of various levels and environmental carcasses of FSC certified companies and their publication at Silver Taiga's web service (if agreed by respective companies) – *February-May*.

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

- Field workshop on Intensive Forest Management (IFM) for interested parties of forest fund leaseholders in Latvia (*if the minimum group is gathered*) – *March-June*.

Main achievements in 2019 include:

1. The manuscript of 'Recommendations for Biodiversity Conservation in the Komi Republic in the Course of Planning and Facilitation of Wood Harvesting on Landscape Basis' was prepared. The manuscript got positive reviews of three independent reviewers and is prepared for further editing and mock-up.
2. 3 new demonstration fields including 12 demonstration sites were prepared in Priluzye, Koygorodok and Sysola districts. Each site includes a number of demonstration items described in detail and filmed with a drone. 115 participants – harvesting and forwarding machinery operators, forest foremen, deliniators, company contractors – were trained at new fields. The results were presented to Mondi Syktyvkar management <http://www.silvertaiga.ru/2019/07/24/lesoruby-aprobirovali-interaktivnuju-formu-obuchenija-po-sertifikacii/>. – *throughout the year*.
3. Web-GIS started its operation at the www.silvertaiga.ru website. 7 GIS projects were posted, with 3 HCVF project subsections. GIS projects increased the interest to the Foundation's project activities significantly (after the GIS service was launched, the number of hits increased 10 times) <http://www.silvertaiga.ru/taigamaps/>. *throughout the year*.

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

Note:

- *Preparation of the analytical note based on the results of monitoring of key biotopes was postponed to 2020 due to the necessity to analyze additional materials obtained in 2019.*
- *The assessment of the compliance of the proposed activities with the requirements of the new National FSC Standard was not carried out due to delayed approval of the Standard.*
- *The field workshop on Intensive Forest Management (IFM) was not held in Latvia due to the fact that previously subscribed participants from forestry companies could not get visas on time or refused to participate in the workshop.*
- *Preparation of the manuscript of the Recommendations for "Landscape and ecological planning of intensive forest management in the Komi Republic" was postponed due to the delayed approval of the new National FSC Forest Management Standard.*

Additional:

- A field survey of the temporary moratorium area at the lease of the Luzales company in Udora district was conducted resulting in the proposal and agreement of an extended environmental carcass to preserve the identified environmental values (*Jointly with Tekhkarta*) – *August 2019*.
- Presentation of the experience of development of FSC certification and biofuel production in the Komi Republic at the round table event "Sustainable forest management and biomass production in Russia", St. Petersburg – *November 2019*.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

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

3. Model River Mezen – cooperation with local communities

(V. Semyashkina, O. Sazhina, N. Shilov)

Objectives for 2017-2019:

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

Planned Activity for 2019:

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

- Publication and presentation of the book *Mezen: Challenges of Sustainable River and its Resource Management. Collection of Articles*.
- Preparation of information stands on the project in Udora and Leshukonye schools (10 – 12 stands).
- Information and education activities via the library system. Jointly with Udora Centralized Library System and Leshukonye inter-district library. *Throughout the year*. The activities will include: creation of a cartoon on how important it is to preserve the Atlantic Salmon, operation of summer reading halls on the project themes; the intellectual game Who? Where? When? between Udora and Leshukonye youth teams, thematic contests, etc.
- Dissemination of the awareness creation experience of the Udora Centralized Library System on sustainable resource management in district libraries in the Sysola and Vychegda basin. *Throughout the year*.
- Support for the Mezen Day event (announcement of a contest for the event organization between rural settlements and territorial self-government bodies). *August*.
- 4 issues of the thematic supplement to the Udora district newspaper. *Throughout the year*.
- Publications in near Mezen district newspapers on the project related topics. At least 5-6 publications.
- Publication of the 2020 wall calendar Along the Mezen. *November - December*.

3.2. Assisting to development of sustainable river resource management methods among local users based on the awareness of the local residents and joint discussion of the current problems (including Mezen districts of Arkhangelsk region).

- Arrangement of 2 meetings of the Project Working Group with the following topics included in the agenda:
 - sharing experience of the river resource use with the participation of local users from other districts and regions. *November*.
 - intermediary results of the project on assessment of long-term logging impact on the aquatic resources. *May*.
- Drafting and publication at the website and in the supplement to the district newspaper of the interview with members of the Murmansk Salmon Foundation on their experience in the Varzuga river fishery resource preservation. *April – May*.

3.3. Informative, tutorial and organizational support to local entrepreneurs and tourism development and

recreational river use initiators.

- Agreement and facilitation of participation in the workshop *10 Steps to a Successful Project* in the Kenozersky National Park for 3 representatives of territorial self-government bodies of the Komi Republic. *March*.
- Participation of Udora territorial self-government representatives in the round table discussion *Opportunities for territorial self-governments and participation of local communities in forest and other renewable resource management*.

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

- Udora territorial self-government's representatives' visit to Mezen district villages, Arkhangelsk region, in order to familiarize with the experience of local territorial self-governments, including the one related to rural tourism development. *February - March*.
- *Udora and Leshukonye territorial self-governments. Best practices* - the interdistrict round table meeting in Leshukonye district. *February - March*.
- The interdistrict contest for the best scenario for the Mezen Day event. *March – August*.

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

- The Istoki district environmental and regional study conference for schoolchildren. Jointly with PA Center of Komi and the district education administration. Usogorsk, Children Recreational Center. *March*.
- The intellectual game *Who? Where? When?* (a team of Usogorsk youth against the Working Group of the project). Jointly with Udora Centralized Library System. *April-May*.
- Support of the summer environmental and regional study expedition along the river (the route extends across Udora and Leshukonye districts) with the participation of a group of schoolchildren and their parents. Jointly with Ozherelye Udory NGO. *June – August*.
- Summer field ichthyology school for schoolchildren in the Komi Republic environmental camp *Moroshka*. *June*.

3.7. Preparation of proposals for the regional legislation with the account of the role of traditional river resource management to ensure sustenance of the local population. No events have been planned in 2019.

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

- Information support of the project at Silver Taiga website including posting information in the respective section of the website related to the project (in addition to the project news – publications and reports on various areas of focus, materials on the project related topics from other regions, etc.). *Throughout the year*.
- Drafting of publications and facilitation of interviews on the project progress and results in Komi and Arkhangelsk mass media. *Throughout the year*.
- Presentation of the project (its targets, objectives and intermediate results) at various grounds in Syktyvkar (Komi Cultural Center, Komi National Library, etc.). *Throughout the year*.
- *Salmon – the Mezen Tsar-Fish*. Presentation of the project and a lecture on the features of the Atlantic Salmon being an anadromous species. Meetings with schoolchildren in the Leshukonye Library and the Marshak Library in Syktyvkar. *February, May*.
- Drafting and posting of publications about the Salmon Year events in Russian regions at the Foundation's website and municipal newspapers. *Throughout the year*.
- Participation in regional and interregional conferences with reports on the river resources management and the status of the project. *Throughout the year*.

Main achievements in 2019 include:

1. Active **promotion of project initiatives and adaptation of experience** gained in the framework of the project in Udora district of the Komi Republic in other rural districts of Komi and in near-Mezen districts of Arkhangelsk Region.
2. Active cooperation with the administration of Mezen district of Arkhangelsk Region, a

number of successful inter-district initiatives with the participation of residents of Udora, Leshukonye and Mezen districts.

3. **In the summer of 2019 the inter-settlement Mezen Day event** initiated three years ago under the project **was organized and held almost independently through local efforts** in Mezen district - the tender for the event announced by the Foundation was won by the Kamenka self-governing body. Owing to the promotion of the Mezen Day and dissemination of information in Arkhangelsk Region, the interest in the project outside Komi and the Mezen basin of Arkhangelsk Region has increased.

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

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Administrations of the rural settlements of Komi and Arkhangelsk region
- Administration of Leshukonskoye and Mezen districts of Arkhangelsk region and of Udora district of Komi
- Agroudora – agricultural consumer cooperative
- Editorial offices of “Vyl Tuyod”, “Zvezda” and “Sever” newspapers, Komi Gor radio
- Education Departments of the Administration of Udora district
- Kenozersky National Park (Arkhangelsk region)
- Komi Cultural Center
- Komi Folk Art Center
- Komi National Library
- Leshukonje local history museum
- Library in Leshukonskoye district
- Mezen local history museum
- National Museum of Udora district
- Ozherelye Udory, Udora tour company
- PA Center of the Komi Republic
- Udora and Leshukonje secondary schools
- Udora centralized library system
- Udora NGO “Udorachi”
- Interregional Public Movement “Komi Voytyr” (NGO)
- Usogorsk Children’s Activity Center
- WWF Arkhangelsk

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

Objectives for 2017-2019:

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

Planned Activity for 2019:

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

- Development of the section for the Program entitled *Facilitating Cooperation of Komi and Arkhangelsk Interested Parties in the Mezen Basin under the Model River Mezen Project* – July.
- Facilitation and conducting of a meeting of the interregional Working Group. Discussion of the developed Program sections and plans – May.
- Supporting introduction of restricted access to the Udorsky state natural reserve in order to protect spawning of the Atlantic Salmon jointly with Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic. Participation in public hearings, if conducted – *Throughout the year*.
- Assessment of the environmental capacity of the upper reaches of the Mezen and its tributaries as the Atlantic Salmon habitat to determine maximum allowable volume of release and verification of the method for spawning redds count. Udora district (jointly with the Institute of Biology of Karelia Scientific Center, Russian Academy of Science and the Komi branch of Glavrybvod) – *June-July*.
- Initiation of the Interregional Program for the Atlantic Salmon Conservation and Restoration devoted to the International Year of the Salmon 2019. Submitting a request on the necessity to develop and adopt the Interregional Program to governors of Arkhangelsk region, the Republic of Karelia, Murmansk region, the Republic of Komi, and Nenets Autonomous Okrug (jointly with the Barents branch of WWF, and the Murmansk Salmon Foundation) – *March*.
- Assessment of potential risks for the Atlantic Salmon population of the Northern Fishery Basin rivers in case spawning protection lines are abolished (jointly with WWF Russia) – *February*.

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

- Arrangement of a workshop on the methods of monitoring for the AgroUdora members – *June*.
- Monitoring at AgroUdora fishery plots in order to assess the commercial fish population condition – *June*.
- Office study of the monitoring data of 2018-2019 – *November*.
- Assessment of the situation related to extraction and protection of aquatic bioresources in Leshukonye and Mezen districts, Arkhangelsk region – *February*.
- Arrangement of a workshop for industrial fishery cooperatives' experience exchange. Ust-Tsilma district, Komi Republic – *November*.

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

- Inspection of salmon spawning grounds in the catchment area of the Mezen with the purpose of their description (jointly with the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of RAS), the Yelva Mezenskaya river – *June*.
- Drafting and uploading of a summary report on the results of key Mezen salmon spawning grounds inspection at the Foundation's website – *August*.
- Facilitation and conducting of a workshop on methods of monitoring and identification of salmon redds (to train skilled specialists to participate in monitoring or other field activities under the project) for users (lessees, local population, and other interested parties) – *September*.
- Arrangement of field expeditions to monitor the reproductive part of the salmon population (jointly with Ministry of Natural Resources of Komi, the Komi branch of Glavrybvod, and NGO Udorachi) – *October*.

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

- Information and consulting sessions with residents of areas along the Mezen – at least 10 settlements – *February-November*.
- Providing information to Udora residents about changes in the Fishery Rules and related regulations through placement of announcements in 5 residential areas of Udora district – *Throughout the year*.
- Creating awareness among population and industrial companies on changed terms and conditions for aquatic bioresources extraction due to adoption of Federal Law No. 475 On Amateur Fishing. Meetings in 5 settlements of Udora, Leshukonye and Mezen districts – *Throughout the year*.

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

- Assessment of the fishery plots of the AgroUdora cooperative: whether Fishery Rules are observed by amateurs and those who work for the industry, how aquatic vegetation is developed, and whether there are any fish kill phenomena – *July*.

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

- Amending the Fishery Rules and related regulations in the State Council of the Komi Republic (jointly with the project partners) – *throughout the year*.

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

- Studying of Murmansk fish factories' experience in sustaining the Atlantic Salmon population – *February-March*.

Main achievements in 2019 include:

1. Development of cooperation with the AgroUdora cooperative – the only legal entity of Udora district engaged in capture and sale of fresh fish:
 - Fishing monitoring continued through the efforts of the members of the cooperative, the data are used to adjust the requested catch volumes;
 - Development of the cooperative's facilities with the support of the Foundation through participation in grant projects.
2. Continued monitoring of the quality and conditions of salmon spawning, with preliminary training of monitoring participants. At the moment, information on the quality and conditions of spawning over the past 9 years has been accumulated. The data have been entered into the state aquatic bioresources monitoring system.
3. An express assessment of potential risks for the Atlantic salmon population of the Northern Fishery Basin rivers in the case of abolition of protected spawning grounds was prepared and published (jointly with WWF Russia).
4. The work of the school group "River Watch" (Usogorsk) was organized - the participants were provided with tools and chemical agents, sampling points were selected. Together with the Russian Ecological Society and the Clean Hands – Clean Rivers Non-Profit Foundation, regular monitoring of water quality in the Mezen river was established. Samples are collected once in 2 days at 2 sites, 10 most important water quality parameters are evaluated.

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

Note:

- *Assessment of the environmental capacity of the upper reaches of the Mezen and its tributaries as the Atlantic Salmon habitat to determine maximum allowable volume of release and verification of the method for spawning redds count. Udora district (jointly with the Institute of Biology of Karelia SC, RAS, and the Komi branch of Glavrybvod) was postponed to 2020 due to the executor's being engaged in other projects.*

- *Drafting and uploading of a summary report on the results of key Mezen salmon spawning grounds inspection at the Foundation's website was postponed to 2020 at the request of the main executor, since summarizing and analysis of the data for 2017-2019 needed additional time.*
- *Studying of Murmansk fish factories' experience in sustaining the Atlantic Salmon population was not conducted due to absence of a sufficient amount of salmon breeding stock suitable for reproductive product obtainment.*

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

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

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

Objectives for 2017-2019:

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

Planned Activity for 2019:

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

- Preparation of the article *Assessment of Long-Term Logging Impact on Aquatic Resources Based on the Example of Middle Subzone of Taiga of the Komi Republic* and its publication in the *WWF Sustainable Forest Management* magazine - *February – March*
- Publication of materials on long-term logging impact on the water regime in Web-GIS of the Silver Taiga Foundation to visualize the survey results of the project – *February*.
- Development of an information booklet on long-term logging impact on aquatic resources (infographics) – *March-April*.
- Printout of the booklet and its distribution among the interested parties – *November*.

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

- Comparative analysis of man-made soil disturbance and microsuccession processes at recent and 20-30-year-old logging plots based on multispectral Earth remote sensing data of middle and high resolution with the use of vegetation index calculation methods (jointly with the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center) – *April-July*.
- Field verification of the assessment of man-made soil disturbance and microsuccession processes at logging plots of various ages with the use of a drone (field trips to Ust-Kulom, Kortkeros and Udora districts) – *May-September*.
- Analysis of the data obtained and preparation of the Analytical Note on the assessment of long-term impact of soil disturbance at logging plots and their effect on secondary growing stock – *September-November*.

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

- Working meeting with the staff of the Institute of Geography, RAS (Moscow) under the Neutral Balance of Soil Degradation concept, agreement of indicators and indices of “forest soil degradation” and related information sources, selection of key areas for field survey planning – *February*.
- Field research under the project Neutral Balance of Soil Degradation, verification of Earth remote sensing data with a drone and real-size measurements at key areas, analysis and preparation of materials for scientific publications - *June – December*
- Second assessment of the intensity and duration of erosion processes (overgrowth rate at eroded logging areas) at pilot sites and their effect on hydrology parameters of receiving streams – *May-September*.
- Landscape and environmental assessment of forest management organization and planning on the minor and mid-sized river level (the Vychegda and Mezen tributaries) with the use of the basin approach and the representative slope model (Ust-Kulom, Kortkeros and Udora districts) – *throughout the year*.
- Preparation of a manuscript of a scientific article on the findings of field examination of soil disturbance and erosion processes at logging areas of various age – *October-December*.

Main achievements in 2019 include:

1. The results of many years of research are summarized, and the article “Assessment of the long-term logging impact of on water resources through the example of the middle subzone of the taiga of the Komi Republic” is prepared for publication in WWF “Sustainable Forest Management” magazine (planned for publication in the 1st quarter of 2020). The article presents the results of the assessment of long-term (40 years or more) logging impact on the water regime of catchments and rivers in the Komi Republic.
2. Web-GIS containing basic geodata developed by the Fund was created as part of the HCVF project. Three interactive maps are presented in the Hydrological Projects section:

1. Updated borders of the Pyssa IFL and 2. Timan IFL based on elementary drainage basins, and 3. The results of a sociological survey among Udora district old-time residents about long-term hydrological changes in the Mezen river basin. (<http://www.silvertaiga.ru/taigamaps/>)
3. The methodology for the analysis and classification of anthropogenic disturbance of elementary drainage basins has been improved allowing distributing planned areal loads on an elementary river basin (over 10 thousand ha) when planning and conducting clear-cutting operations.

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

Note:

- *Cooperation with the Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Center, RAS, on use of methodology for application of earth remote sensing data was not performed due to the executors' being engaged in other projects.*

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Institute of biology of the Komi Scientific Center
- Institute of Geography of RAS (Moscow)
- Meteorological center of the Komi Republic
- Ministry of Nature of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Non-profit partnership "Transparent World", Moscow
- State University in St. Petersburg
- Forest Engineering State University in St. Petersburg
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Syktyvkar State University
- Tekhkarta – cartographic company, Syktyvkar

6. Consultations and educational seminars (Yu. Pautov)

Objectives:

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

Planned Activity for 2019:

- Basic course of study on GIS use for the landscape-ecological planning of forestry and forest use – *March*.
- Six field educational courses on biodiversity conservation, forest ecological functions and landscape forest use planning for the representatives of Mondi Syktyvkar and its contracting organizations – *May-September*.
- Consultations on FSC-certification and other issues related to sustainable forest management for the logging companies, forestry service, and audit companies (upon the request) – *throughout the year*.

Main achievements in 2019 include:

- 6 educational field workshops were held for Mondi Syktyvkar logging areas and contractors. At the workshops, 115 specialists were trained: forestry machinery operators, forest foremen, delineators, company contractors. The results were presented to Mondi Syktyvkar management
<http://www.silvertaiga.ru/2019/07/24/lesoruby-aprobirovali-interaktivnuju-formu-obuchenija-po-sertifikacii/>
- Consultations were held with SevLesPil, Ilim Group, Region-Les as part of support to forest management and forestry planning to meet the requirements of the current National FSC Standard

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

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

Supplementary activity (in case additional financing is involved)

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

Objectives for 2017-2019:

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

Planned Activity for 2019:

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

- Round table meeting *Territorial Self-Government (TSG) Possibilities and Participation of Local Communities in Forest and Other Renewable Nature Resources Management. February.*
- Participation of Silver Taiga representatives and 2-3 representatives of TSG from the rural Komi districts in the workshop *10 Steps to a Successful Project* in the Kenozersky National Park. *March.*
- Publication of the Forest Council thematic supplement to the Znamya Truda newspaper (Priluzye district) with additional circulation in other forestry districts. *April, June.*
- Hosting the *FSC Friday* event – an annual event designed to raise awareness about responsible forest management (informational work, role-playing games with participation of school forestry units) together with the Republican forestry specialists community and Public Forest Council of Priluzje. *September.*

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

- Monitoring of the logging companies impact on social and economic situation in the rural districts together with Komi Voytyr NGO and Public Forest Councils in Priluzje, Udora, Ust-Kulom and Kortkeross districts of Komi. *Throughout the year.*
- Information sharing and cooperation with the logging companies responsible for the FSC certification social requirements. *Throughout the year.*

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

- Creation of awareness among the local communities about FSC-certification and participation of the interested parties in the process of certification including the aim of conservation of the sites important for the local population.

Main achievements in 2019 include:

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

- The 2-day round table meeting “Territorial Self-Government (TSG) Possibilities and Participation of Local Communities in Forest and Other Renewable Nature Resources Management” was held. *February.*
- An expert from Silver Taiga and 2 representatives of local rural communities (Syktyvdin and Ust-Kulom districts) took part in the 3-day workshop “10 Steps to a Successful Project in the Kenozersky National Park”. *March.*
- 2 issues of the Forest Council thematic supplement to the Znamya Truda newspaper (Priluzye district) were published with additional circulation in other forestry districts. *April, June.*

- As part of the FSC Friday event a meeting was held with students from school forestries of Ust-Kulom district (Ust-Kulom, Derevyansk, Ust-Nem, Kerchomya) with the participation of experts from Ust-Kulom Forestry. *September*.
- A role game was conducted, according to the scenario of which students of school forestries represented interested parties and looked for agreed options for conflict resolution at local forest territories. *September*.
- A quiz in the Komi language “Var-va tudysyas” (“Nature connoisseurs”) was prepared and conducted with students from Ust-Kulom schools — jointly with the Education Department of the Ust-Kulom Administration and the Ust-Kulom Representative Office of Komi Voytyr Public Movement.

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

- Monitoring of the logging companies impact on social and economic situation in the rural districts was conducted via cooperation with public Forest Councils and representative offices of Komi Voytyr in Priluzye, Udora, Ust-Kulom, and Kortkeros districts, including through participation of the Foundation’s staff in Komi Voytyr conferences.

Note:

Section 7 measures were supported by the WWF Program “Development of Competence and Involvement of Civil Society in Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Management in the North-West of Russia and in the Barents Sea”.

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

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

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

Objectives:

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

Planned activity for 2019:

- Participation in the European MFs Forum with the presentation about Komi MF activities and history of creation of Koigorodok National Park – *April*.
- Participation in the National Forest Forum with the presentation about Komi MF results and potential for the implementation of sustainable forest use in the region – *July*.
- Support of the Public Forest Council activities in Priluzje district of Komi – *throughout the year*.
- Publication of an updated booklet about Silver Taiga projects – *November*.

Main achievements in 2019 include:

- Participation in the European Model Forest Forum in Lebanon, presentation of the Priluzye Model Forest and Koygorodsky National Park <http://www.silvertaiga.ru/2019/04/11/mezhdu-sredizemnomorem-i-priluzem/> – *April*.
- Presentation entitled “Success Story – Interaction between authorities, non-governmental organizations and forestry business in the course of establishment of the Koygorodsky National Park on the border of the Komi Republic and Kirov Region” at the National Forest Forum in Perm <http://www.silvertaiga.ru/2019/07/08/nacionalnaja-shema-lesnoj-sertifikacii-za-i-protiv/> – *April*.
- Presentation entitled “Development of FSC certification in the Komi Republic – a dialogue between government and business” on the positive experience of interaction between authorities, business and NGOs in the framework of the development and support of FSC certification in the Komi Republic at the National Forest Forum in Syktyvkar <http://www.silvertaiga.ru/2019/07/08/nacionalnaja-shema-lesnoj-sertifikacii-za-i-protiv/> – *July*.
- *Publication of the new version of the information booklet on Silver Taiga’s projects was postponed to 2020.*

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- Luzales logging company
- Ministry of Industry of the Komi Republic
- Ministry of Nature of the Komi Republic
- Mondi Syktyvkar
- Priluzje forestry unit
- Public Forest Council of the Priluzje district
- Syktyvkar Forest Institute
- WWF Russia

9. Initiation of volunteer movement (O. Sazhina)

Objective:

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

Planned activity for 2019:

- Involvement of initiative and highly motivated people to expand the volunteer movement (up to 10-15 people) – *throughout the year.*
- Maintenance of the Silver Taiga's Volunteers web page in the VKontakte social network (vk.com/silvertaiga) – *throughout the year.*
- Maintenance of the section devoted to the volunteer movement at the Foundation's website www.silvertaiga.ru – *throughout the year.*
- Organization of volunteers to support the Foundation's staff to implement the tasks – *throughout the year.*
- Organization of volunteers to support the Mezen Day event – *August.*
- Organization of Udora youth team to participate in the intellectual game *What? Where? When?* together with Udora centralized library system – *March-April.*
- Organization of a propaganda team consisting of the students (Udora native residents) to act in the villages of Udora district of Komi – *July-August.*

Main achievements in 2019 include:

- The number of participants of the group for Silver Taiga Foundation Volunteers in the VK social network increased to 40 people.
- Over 30 volunteers took part in the organization and facilitation of the interregional festival of traditional cultures Mezen River Day-2019 in the village of Kamenka, Mezen district. The volunteers included schoolchildren, students, and adults.
- Organization and facilitation of a settlement competition of propaganda teams jointly with the Association "WE" VOLUNTEERS in the Koslan Secondary School – *December 2019.*

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

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

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

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

Objective:

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

Planned activity for 2019:

- 10.1. Participation in the FSC Russia Coordination Council activities (V. Semyashkina) – *throughout the year.*
- 10.2. Participation in the workshops and round table meetings of the FSC Russia presenting the experience of the FSC-certification development in Komi Republic (upon the FSC Russia request) – *throughout the year.*
- 10.3. Participation in the FSC International events – *throughout the year.*
- 10.4. Participation in FSC-Friday event with the representatives of the school forestry units – *September-October.*

Main achievements in 2019 include:

- Yuri Pautov and Valentina Semyashkina were elected to the FSC Russia Board of Directors at the 8th FSC Russia Conference in April 2019.
- Yuri Pautov was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of FSC Russia in April 2019.
- Participation in the development, coordination and approval of the FSC Russia Strategic Plan for the 2019-2023 period.
- Preparation and facilitation of 4 meetings of the FSC Russia Board of Directors, including a joint meeting of the FSC Russia Board of Directors with FSC International in Bonn on October 1-3, 2019.
- A workshop “Development of forest certification in the boreal zone” was organized and held for FSC certificate holders and other interested parties of the Komi Republic (18 participants) <http://www.silvertaiga.ru/2019/07/01/v-preddverii-lesnogo-foruma-v-syktvykare-obsudili-problemy-i-perspektivy-razvitija-sertifikacii-v-borealnyh-lesah-mira/> – *June 2019.*
- Presentation entitled “Development of FSC certification in the Komi Republic – a dialogue between government and business” on the positive experience of interaction between authorities, business and NGOs in the framework of the development and support of FSC certification in the Komi Republic at the National Forest Forum in Syktyvkar <http://www.silvertaiga.ru/2019/07/08/nacionalnaja-shema-lesnoj-sertifikacii-za-i-protiv/> – *July.*

Cooperating organizations (in alphabetic order):

- FSC International
- FSC Russia
- Mondi Group
- WWF Russia