

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	14-045
Project Title	Sustainable Support for Biodiversity and Forestry in Tomsk Taiga, Siberia
Country(ies)	UK, Russia
UK Organisation	Tree Council
Collaborator(s)	UK: British Trust for Ornithology, Cambridge University Expedition Society, Pricebatch (Altai) UK Ltd, Traidcraft, WTA Education Services Ltd, Russia: Institute for International Environmental Safety (IIES), Tomsk State University, Price Batch Altai, Oblcompriroda, Tomsk City Ecological Committee & Department of Local Management for City of Tomsk, Tomsk Region Environment Protection Agency (TEPA), Tomsk State Forestry Agency (TSFA)
Report date	31 st October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR/2
Project website	www.tomsктаiga.com

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

- 1. FSC Certification** - FSC certification process was scheduled to begin in at least 2 new areas in Year 2. We are now talking to two commercial companies who are discussing forming partnerships with foresters to progress this. Three areas are to be identified for potential certification.
- 2. Ecological survey and monitoring** – 2nd monitoring fieldwork was due to take place. In line with the change reported in the HYR/1, the emphasis of fieldwork was changed to “baseline monitoring of existing biodiversity”. This resulted in a month-long fieldwork effort by the Cambridge University Expedition Society, with support from BTO and WTA in the UK and IIES and Russian partners in the field.

The fieldwork was divided into two parts:

- a. The fieldwork conducting transects, to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of the species and biodiversity within the Asinovskii forest. Comparisons between managed stands with different tree species compositions appeared to show relatively high variations in biodiversity. However these managed stands of forest appeared to show significantly lower levels of biodiversity and species richness when compared with the few unmanaged stands present in the area. Analysis of the data collected will be conducted on a variety of different scales to attempt to determine the current levels of species richness in this area of forest. By mapping data, with the help of GPS coordinates, a comprehensive knowledge of the environment in the Asinovskii region can be established, as can its conservation value. Cross comparison of managed stands of single age and mixed age stands will also be an important part of the analytical procedure. The results may confirm that biodiversity is much higher in areas that have been selectively logged rather than clear felled. By clustering stand types base on tree composition, analysis will be made of the individual relationships between dead wood,

field layer compositions, and shrub layer composition (all used as indicators of biodiversity), correlated against (?) stand types and ages.

- b. A piece of social research conducted in the small rural village of Kopilovka. The livelihoods of people in this community are heavily dependent on the use of the forest. This research was conducted in an ethnographic manner and its main points of focus were: how the forest interacts with the local economy, the current state of employment in forest management, the level of input that people have in forest management decision making and the attitudes of local people towards forest certification and legislation changes. The research conducted suggests that the major issues needing to be addressed for this village are a lack of employment, particularly in forestry, and a lack of input from local people into forest management decision making. Addressing these issues should be the focus of a drive towards more socially beneficial forestry as advocated by the FSC. However, it will take more than just principles to bring social benefits to this area. Commitment from the forest authorities and logging companies must necessarily come in the form, not only of resources, but also of transparency and accountability.

3. **Develop community-based harvesting of sustainable forest products** – First Community Production Units (CPUs) due to be established. First sales of products in UK expected.

Investigations by the Russian partners IIES into the Tomsk forest market has revealed two community production units who collect birch bark and produce Birch Bark products not far from Tomsk and three pine nuts community production units. These communities work with forestries and shops in Tomsk city. Thus, we don't need to establish new one CPUs but intend to help existing communities to develop and strengthen themselves through consultations. Training on the nuances of trading with the UK in birch bark products and pine nuts has been identified as a requirement in order to achieve the goals. Tailored training for a key member of the IIES staff is being arranged for January 2007 to coincide with a major trade fair in Birmingham in the UK.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

None.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**