

Forest and Nature in Northwest Russia

Finnish-Russian Development Programme on Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation of Biological Diversity in Northwest Russia

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Khibiny National Park in Murmansk Region will be an important part of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia. Photo: Anna Kuhmonen.

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Dear friends of nature conservation and sustainable forestry,

Here is **Forest&Nature 2010!** With it you receive the latest update on the nature conservation and sustainable forestry projects realised under co-operation by neighbouring areas. The projects are funded by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The nature conservation projects are co-ordinated by the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and forestry projects by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland.

The Finnish–Russian Development Programme on Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in Northwest Russia has been operating since 1997. The articles present the past, current, and future biodiversity and forestry co-operation. Also, three articles present the new publications released this year.

The biodiversity projects will be completed by April 2011, and the forestry projects are to be concluded by the end of 2011. However, it appears that the prospects are good for continuation of the forestry programme. The Finnish Environment Institute is preparing a project for further development of the Barents Protected Areas Network with Russian and Nordic partners under the co-operation of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's Working Group of Environment.

This is the last edition of the **Forest&Nature** newsletter, which has been published by the whole programme. The Finnish–Russian Development Programme on Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in Northwest Russia wants to thank the Finnish ministries for financing the programme and all the experts, who have participated the implementation of the projects since 1997. Special thanks to emeritus professor Rauno Ruuhijärvi, who celebrated his 80th birthday this autumn, for dedicating to nature conservation co-operation of North-west Russia for decades.

This year has been the United Nation's year of celebration of biodiversity. While writing this text, we're still waiting for the good news from the Russian Federation – by the end of 2010, there should be established three new federal protected areas in North-west Russia: Ladoga Skerries National Park, Onezhskoye Pomorye National Park, and Ingermanlandsky Strict Nature Reserve. These new federal-level protected areas would fill large gaps in the network of protected areas in North-west Russia and would highlight the UN's year of biodiversity.

**We hope You enjoy Forest & Nature 2010!
Happy International Year of Forests 2011!**

On behalf of the editorial group,
Anna Kuhmonen

Developing the Green Belt of Fennoscandia in co-operation – Russia, Norway, and Finland

The Green Belt of Fennoscandia on the border territories of Finland, Russian Federation and Norway opens promising possibilities for the nature conservation cooperation between the countries. Experiences of the twin park activities between the existing protected areas have been very positive. Hopefully the Finnish protected areas can soon develop the cooperation with the Ladoga skerries National Park in the Republic of Karelia and the Ingermanlandsky Strict Nature Reserve on the islands in the Gulf of Finland in Leningrad region - after the establishment procedures are completed in the Russian Federation.



Ladoga Skerries National Park will be an important part of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia. Photo: Anna Kuhmonen.

In February this year, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of the Environment of the Kingdom of Norway, and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Finland signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia. Work proceeding from the MoU will facilitate ecologically, economically, socially, and culturally sustainable neighbouring co-operation focusing on the Finnish–Norwegian, Finnish–Russian, and Norwegian–Russian border territories. In the memorandum, the three countries express their political will to co-operate to halt the loss of biodiversity and to strive for the goals set by the international Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The idea of creating the Green Belt of Fennoscandia was raised already in the early 1990s. The newly established Friendship Nature Reserve served as a catalyst for the idea. Joint, long-term efforts were begun to establish several protected areas along both sides of the Finnish–Russian border and adjacent areas. The 1,250-kilometre-long border is very important territory for conserving the biological diversity of boreal forests. The endangered species of their flora and fauna need safeguarding. This is especially important on the Finnish side of the border, where there remain fewer old-growth forest massifs than on the Russian side. The natural conditions are the same, but the intensity of use of land and other natural resources differs. The plan offers unique potential for research, nature management, and cultural and recreation-related co-operation. Protected areas with their research and monitoring facilities offer a good pilot area from the South to the North for studying the effects of climate change on biodiversity.

The Green Belt of Fennoscandia consists of existing protected areas of differing status but also enables the planned and new protected areas to be connected to the belt, once established. After the establishment of the Friendship Nature Reserve, the co-operation continued, with Paanajarvi National Park being established in the Republic of Karelia in 1992. It and the Finn-

Developing the Green Belt of Fennoscandia in co-operation – Russia, Norway, and Finland

ish Oulanka National Park together form a ‘twin park’ on the border.

The Finnish Urho Kekkonen National Park and the Laplandsky Strict Nature Reserve, in the Murmansk region, work together as twin parks. Further north, co-operation involving Norwegian, Russian, and Finnish protected areas started in 1992. This long-term work has resulted in Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park. The status of EUROPARC Transboundary Protection Area was achieved in 2008.

Kalevala National Park was established in 2006 in the district of Kostamus, in the Republic of Karelia. On the Finnish side of the border, the park consists of a chain of protected areas in the municipality of Suomussalmi, which now have the status of Natura 2000 territories. Establishment of Kalevala National Park also on the Finnish side of the border would offer potential for ‘twin park’ co-operation between these parks.

The northern shore and islands of Lake Ladoga are awaiting an official decision this year. The establishment of Ladoga Skerries National Park would be an important link in the green belt. The southernmost component of the green belt, the Russian Ingermanlandsky Strict Nature Reserve, on the eastern islands of the Gulf of Finland, is now in the final phase of establishment.

The Finnish–Russian Development Programme on Sustainable Forestry and Conservation of Biological Diversity in North-west Russia started in 1997. The nature conservation part of the programme has involved more than 50 joint projects in north-west Russia, with the main emphasis being on nature inventories and establishment of new protected areas. Serving as a good foundation for the further development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia is the project for gap analysis in north-west Russia. The project is assessing and analysing the biological representativeness and gaps of the protected-area networks. This project will be completed in 2011. The results – detailed databases, cartographic material, GIS layers, and

recommendations for optimising the protected-area networks – will be useful tools for land-use decision-making on local, regional, and federal level.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is working with the initiative for the European Green Belt, of which the Green Belt of Fennoscandia forms the northern part.

Among the main tasks for the green belt’s development are to optimise the network of protected areas, for added communication and co-operation in the use and management of the protected areas. The ecosystems, habitats, and species of the western taiga need protection and joint efforts. Protection methods and objectives focusing on threatened species and habitats need to be harmonised and integrated. Development of sustainable forestry needs promotion. The Green Belt of Fennoscandia offers great potential for recreational, cultural, and ecologically responsible tourism co-operation.

The participation of stakeholders of many types is desired for the development work. Authorities on local, regional, and state levels; protected-area management; enterprises; scientific institutions; and non-governmental organisations are needed in this co-operation. The development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia will succeed when nature protection, research, sustainable use of natural resources, and sustainability at a larger level (ecological, economic, and social sustainability) are combined to match the needs of local inhabitants and their livelihood.

All three countries of the green belt can further improve their individual nature conservation systems. We all know that nature conservation requires perseverance; the results cannot be seen immediately. The Green Belt of Fennoscandia has already proved to be a good example of cross-border nature conservation co-operation. However, the belt needs further development – comprehensive, broad-based work maintaining border regions that are rich in biodiversity but that are also vital in terms of local and regional economy. ■

Research co-operation in the Green Belt of Fennoscandia

The basis for Finnish–Russian nature conservation research co-operation lies in the Friendship Nature Reserve. The most important achievements of the research have been published in more than 400 books, articles, and reports on the Friendship Nature Reserve alone. In addition, there are numerous joint publications from the Gulf of Finland to Lapland. The activities of the research and its applications have developed from inventories into high-level academic research. The Friendship Park research framework has also provided opportunities for preparing several master’s theses, diploma projects, and dissertations.

The studies have dealt with biodiversity, the state of the environment, and social aspects of nature. There has been a strong connection with various ways of utilising nature, to carry over the results of studies into practice. Also, the results have been popularised for use in schools, eco-tourism, and decision-making. The activities have increased the mutual understanding of Finnish and Russian scientists and nature specialists. Visits of scientists, joint symposia, workshops, and excursions have greatly increased understanding of boreal nature at an international level. In total, scientists from about 20 countries have studied the green belt in collaboration with Finnish and Russian colleagues. The work has also been presented in numerous television programmes in Finland, Russia, and Central Europe.

The aim for the future is to direct the research also toward development projects that improve the possibilities for sustainable use of nature in, for example, nature tourism. Effects of climate change and prevention of the spread of harmful alien species will be central topics as well. ■



The basis for Finnish–Russian nature conservation research co-operation lies in the Friendship Nature Reserve. In picture Sergei Tarhov the director of Kostamuska Strict Nature Reserve. Photo: Anna Kuhmonen.

The Finnish–Russian Working Group on Nature Conservation

– 25 years of active nature protection work between Finland and Russia

The present Finnish–Russian nature conservation co-operation dates from the 1970s. The research co-operation began with activities to protect the wild forest reindeer. The question was how to protect a threatened animal population wandering on both sides of the border in the Kuhmo and Kostamus area. The joint activities led to recovery of the population, making the wild forest reindeer the symbol of Finnish–Russian nature conservation co-operation.

Formally the co-operation was organised as early as 1955, when an agreement on scientific-technical collaboration was signed between Finland and the Soviet Union. Environmental issues and nature protection were included in the working protocols in 1979. The chair from Finland in this work was Dr Antti Haapanen, who was also the state counsellor for nature conservation in Finland.

In 1985, Finland and the Soviet Union concluded an agreement on environmental protection. The partner on the Finnish side was the Ministry of the Environment and from the Russian side the Control Committee of Hydrometeorology and Environmental Protection, later the Ministry of the Environment. By contrast, the nature conservation issues were managed by the Soviet Union Ministry of Agriculture. On the basis of this agreement on environmental protection, the Finnish–Russian Working Group on Nature Conservation was established in 1985. Professor of Botany Rauno Ruuhijärvi, from the University of Helsinki, became the chair of this working group on the Finnish side. Ljudmila Kulesova, a professor of biology at the Russian State Nature Research Institute, VNIIPriroda, was the chairman on the Russian side. The environmental protection agreement between Finland and Russia was renewed in 1992.

From the outset, the task of the Finnish–Russian Working Group on Nature Conservation has been to promote the estab-

lishment of protected areas and the protection of endangered species, especially through the production of jointly regional Red Data Books. The co-operation has incorporated into the two nations' activities nature inventories and biodiversity research for development of an ecologically, economically, and socially well-grounded nature reserve network.

The first concrete achievement brought about by the co-operation was establishment of the first Finnish–Russian 'twin park', in 1990: Friendship Park, in the territories of Kuhmo in Finland and Kostamus in Russia. In this connection, a scientific working unit was established in Kuhmo, following the Russian zapovednik model. Vodlozero, the largest mire and forest national park in Europe, was established in the territories of the Karelian Republic and the Arkhangelsk region in 1991. In 1992, a national park was established also in Paanajärvi, in the northern part of the Republic of Karelia. Oulanka National Park, on the Finnish side of the border, forms another twin park in combination with Paanajärvi National Park. The Russian government gave its blessing for the establishment of Kalevala National Park in 2006. This park, covering 74,400 hectares, is in the Karelian Republic, near the Finnish border, and governed by the town of Kostamus. The process of creation of the park was much longer than that for previous parks.

An important part of the Finnish–Russian co-operation for nature protection is the concept of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia. The green belt is formed by current and planned protected areas on both sides of the border. The green belt stands up as a good example of cross-border co-operation even by global standards.

The Finnish–Russian Working Group on Nature Conservation has an expert group in each of the two countries, nominated by the responsible ministries. In recent years, the Russian party



The meeting of the Finnish–Russian Working Group on Nature Conservation in January 1993 in Syktyvkar, the Republic of Komi. In picture (from left) Harri Vasander (secretary of the working group), Rauno Ruuhijärvi (chair of the working group) and Taina Saarinen (interpreter). Photo: Tapio Lindholm.

has not engaged in active operations. Instead, the co-operation on nature conservation issues has been realised via direct agreements and projects with regional authorities and organisations in the various regions of North-west Russia. The Finnish contracting party has been the Finnish Environment Institute, SYKE, as co-ordinator of the Finnish–Russian Development Programme on Conservation of Biodiversity in Northwest Russia.

In 2002, both countries nominated new chairmen for the Finnish–Russian Working Group on Nature Conservation. Nikolai Ivanov, from the federal department for monitoring and development of natural resource management and environmental protection in North-west Russia, was nominated as the new chair on the Russian side. Docents Aimo Saano, research director at Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services, and Tapio ►

The Finnish–Russian Working Group on Nature Conservation – 25 years of active nature protection work between Finland and Russia

Lindholm, a leading expert with the Finnish Environment Institute, were nominated as co-chairs on the Finnish side. At present, the secretary of the working group in Finland is Master of Agriculture and Forestry Virpi Sahi. The former Finnish chair, Professor Ruuhijärvi, still actively attends meetings of the working group. The working group celebrated his 80th birthday this autumn. Other Finnish participants in the meetings come from the Ministry of the Environment, universities, and research institutes.

The Finnish part of the Finnish–Russian Working Group on Nature Protection has organised and financed a broad range of nature protection seminars, small inventories, and excursions. The main activities in 2009–2010 have been:

- The International Freshwater Pearl Mussel Seminar in Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia, jointly with the Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Science, 2009
- A learning expedition of Finnish nature protection specialists to the south of the Komi Republic, jointly with the Silver Taiga Foundation, July 2009
- A Nordic–Russian expedition to assess nature in forest-, mire-, and river-dominated parts of the eastern Arkhangelsk area, in co-operation with the Research Institute of Northern Ecological Problems, Russian Academy of Science, August 2009
- Working out the text of, and participating in negotiations for, the Memorandum of Understanding for Development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia – the memorandum, signed by Finland, Russia, and Norway in February 2010, designates the Finnish–Russian Working Group on Nature Conservation as one of the steering bodies for the Green Belt of Fennoscandia development work
- Participation in the Barents region’s Habitat Contact Forum, Arkhangelsk, June 2010

- Participation in editing and printing of the Proceedings of the International Seminar on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, 2010
- Support for the 20th-Anniversary Seminar of the Finnish–Russian Friendship Nature Reserve, Kuhmo, October 2010

In early 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation nominated a new chair from the Russian side to the working group: Irina Fominyh, the vice-director of the government department responsible for international co-operation, under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology. So far, however, the organisation on the Russian side has not found its form. In March 2010, the Finnish and Russian parties in the working group met in Moscow to agree on the joint co-operation guidelines and activities for 2010–2011. The main directions are:

- Co-operation to establish and develop the network of protected areas
 - first of all, enforcing the commitments set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding for Development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia; contributing the preparation and realisation of Green Belt of Fennoscandia development projects
- Protection of rare and endangered species, for both flora and fauna
- Increasing international co-operation
- above all, supporting the joint initiative of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council’s subgroup of nature protection for development of the Barents region protected area network (BPAN) and also promoting exchange of information between the Green Belt of Fennoscandia and the entities representing the European Green Belt
- Developing ecological and nature conservation awareness
- Supporting the conservation of cultural-ethnic heritage. ■



Photo: Anna Kuhmonen

Federal protected areas to come under protection in north-west Russia

In June 2001, the government of the Russian Federation issued a list of sites for establishment in 2001–2010 as federal-level protected areas, strict nature reserves (zapovednik), and national parks. From north-west Russia the list included Kalevala National Park, Russian Arctic National Park, Ingermanlandsky Strict Nature Reserve, and Onezhskoye Pomorye National Park. By a decision made in May 2009, Ladoga Skerries National Park was added to the list. Kalevala National Park was established in 2006 and Russian Arctic National Park in 2009.

Ladoga Skerries National Park

On the north-west shore of Lake Ladoga, the biggest lake in Europe, are the Ladoga skerries with their unique nature and landscape, great biodiversity, and endangered species such as Ladoga seals. The Ladoga skerries also possess a rich cultural heritage, and the cultural history of Finland can still be seen there. Traditional living is visible also in meadows, which are now rare in Finland. In recent years, nature in this region has been threatened by logging and mines as well as by building of lakeside summer cottages. The archipelago is a popular tourist destination, but non-organised tourism has left many islands a victim of forest fires.

Protection of the Ladoga skerries has a history of more than 20 years. Plans have been made to establish the national park and also a natural park at regional level, yet the Ladoga skerries remain unprotected. For many years now, Finland and the European Union have financed projects to support their protection. For example, projects have been completed to study the natural and cultural heritage and protection of the Ladoga ringed seal. Several Russian and Finnish scientists, authorities, and NGO members have been, through their work and in other ways, sup-



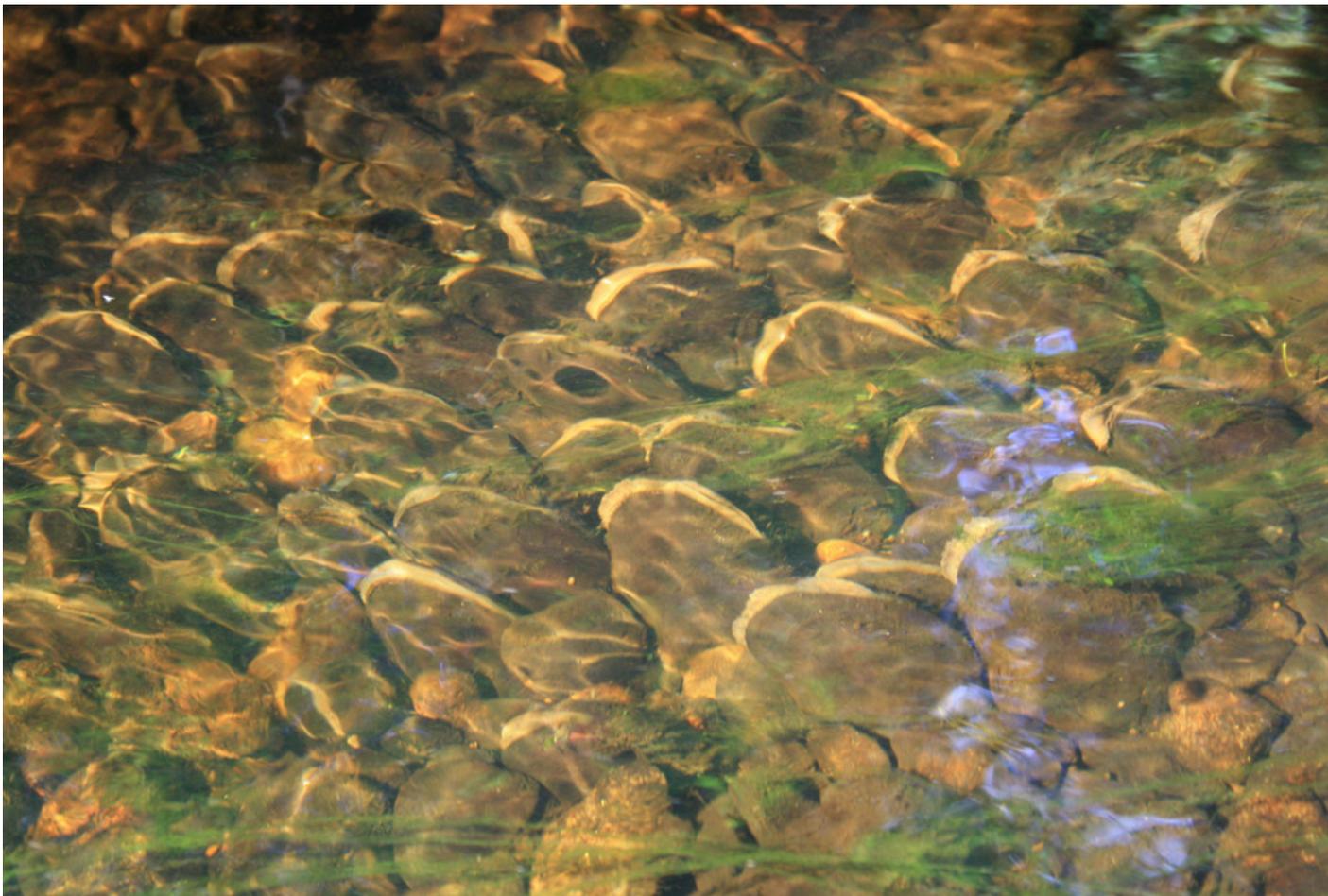
Dry, rocky islands are sensitive to fires. The Ladoga skerries are also a popular tourist destination, where careless use of fire could easily cause destructive forest fires. Photo: Anna Kuhmonen.

porting the planning and studies for the national park. The Russian Federation has financed the work for establishment of the park in 2009–2010. OOO Rosgibroles has served as a consultant for establishment of the national park since November 2009, assisting with matters such as border definitions, documentation, and negotiations with land-users. As of autumn 2010, negotiations are still in progress.

In October 2010, four Russian environmental NGOs – Greenpeace Russia, Green Wave, the Karelian nature-protection NGO SPOK, and the Society of the volunteer forest fire fighters – appealed to Tarja Halonen, president of Finland, to support the establishment of Ladoga Skerries National Park. Also, the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation supports that President Halonen would bring the Ladoga skerries into discussion in the Finnish–Russian co-operation still in biodiversity year 2010. ►

Federal protected areas to come under protection in north-west Russia

After its establishment, Ladoga Skerries National Park would be an important part of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia. It is unique in its own right, but it would also support biodiversity in southern Finland. After establishment of the national park, the Ladoga skerries would, quite certainly, be a more attractive area for Finnish tourists to visit. There is enormous potential for growth of sustainable nature tourism in the Ladoga skerries, which would bring income for local people.



Onezhskoye Pomorye National Park

The area proposed for Onezhskoye Pomorye National Park (180,000 hectares) is located on the Onega Peninsula, in the northern part of the Arkhangelsk Region, on the coast of the White Sea. From white sand on the seashore, which is partly formed as dunes, it is possible to see white whales. In a few villages, Pomors live a traditional life in which fishing, hunting, and collection of berries and mushrooms are important. Onega Peninsula has high biodiversity in the still-intact forest and mire landscapes, which are habitats to many endangered species.

In August 2010, several Russian and Finnish NGOs held a camp in the Pomor village of Yarenga for promotion of the national park. During the camp, they created a cultural nature path with the help of local people for supporting sustainable eco-tourism in the future national park. The group of sociologists also informed the local Pomor people about the establishment of the national park and discussed it with them. Most local people support the national park, but there is also fear that there will be effects on their traditional way of life. The camp also supported the establishment of a buffer zone of five kilometres around the national park, as there is still logging areas near the proposed territory of national park.

Proposed Onezhskoye Pomorye National Park is unique place where one can see pristine forest landscapes on the coast of the White Sea and become familiar with Pomor culture. The area is like paradise for its visitors and is a very attractive destination. ■

The rivers of the Onega Peninsula are not sandy but rocky, with gravel at the bottom, which provides a good habitat for the river pearl mussel. Photo: Anna Kuhmonen.

GAP Analysis in Northwest Russia

Gaps in the network of protected areas covering the Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, Vologda, and Leningrad regions; the Republic of Karelia; and the City of St Petersburg are being identified and the biological representativeness of nature reserves analysed in the framework of the Finnish–Russian Programme on Nature Conservation in Northwest Russia. The project GAP Analysis in Northwest Russia started in 2007.

The results will be presented on 29.3.2011 at the Consulate General of Finland in St Petersburg.

Dear readers of our newsletter, you are welcome to attend the presentation seminar!

**Presentation
of the results of
the GAP analysis in
Northwest Russia
29.3.2011
in Consulate General
of Finland in
St Petersburg
Welcome!**



The editorial board of the GAP analysis is preparing the joint-publication in October 2010 in the cabin in the Khibiny Mountains. In the picture (from right) Svetlana Titova, Konstantin Kobayakov, Nadezhda Maksutova, Aleksandr Kirilov and Anna Kuhmonen. Photo: Tapio Lindholm.

The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a programme of work on protected areas to support establishment and maintenance of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas. This means that all countries ratifying the CBD should develop well-specified strategies for filling ecological gaps for national protected area systems. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation tasked WWF Russia with assessment of the representativeness of the existing network of federal protected areas in Russia. This analysis was the first of its kind for Russia with the goal of guaranteeing adequate representation of Russia's biological and landscape diversity and conserving natural features of national and international significance. An English-language version of the project report is available at <http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/eng/293/> (the Russian-language text is online at <http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/292/>).

The GAP Analysis in Northwest Russia has a smaller target area but greater depth. While the WWF project analysed the representativeness of the federal-level protected-area network, our gap analysis project assesses both federal and regionally protected areas. The target area consists of six administrative regions in the district of Northwest Russia – namely, Arkhangelsk, Leningrad, Murmansk, Vologda regions, the Republic of Karelia, and the City of St Petersburg. The regions vary in their size, natural conditions, research coverage, legislation, and practical applications in nature use and protection, but they also have much in common in theory and practice. Common criteria for identifying valuable nature territories were decided upon, to evaluate how various rare and valuable species, habitats, and landscapes are represented in the protected area network. Another important part of the project is to pay attention to the conservation values outside the protected areas. The analysis and recommendations for conservation, for optimising the protected-area network or other land-use planning, are

based on the work of a large number of Russian experts, who have been highly committed to their work on the project. International points of view and especially European Union and Nordic expert opinions and literature have been utilised in the gap analysis process.

The results of the project GAP Analysis in Northwest Russia, a book providing analyses, recommendations, and comprehensive cartographic material, will be presented on 29.3.2011 at the Consulate General of Finland in St Petersburg. The publication will offer scientifically well-grounded, practical tools for administrative organisations making land-use decisions on local, regional, and federal levels. Further, the results will be useful to scientific institutes, universities, students, non-governmental organisations, and the general public. The book will be released in both printed and electronic versions. The online version guarantees that the results will be transparent and available to everyone. ■

Implementing CBD with Taiga-Arctic perspective

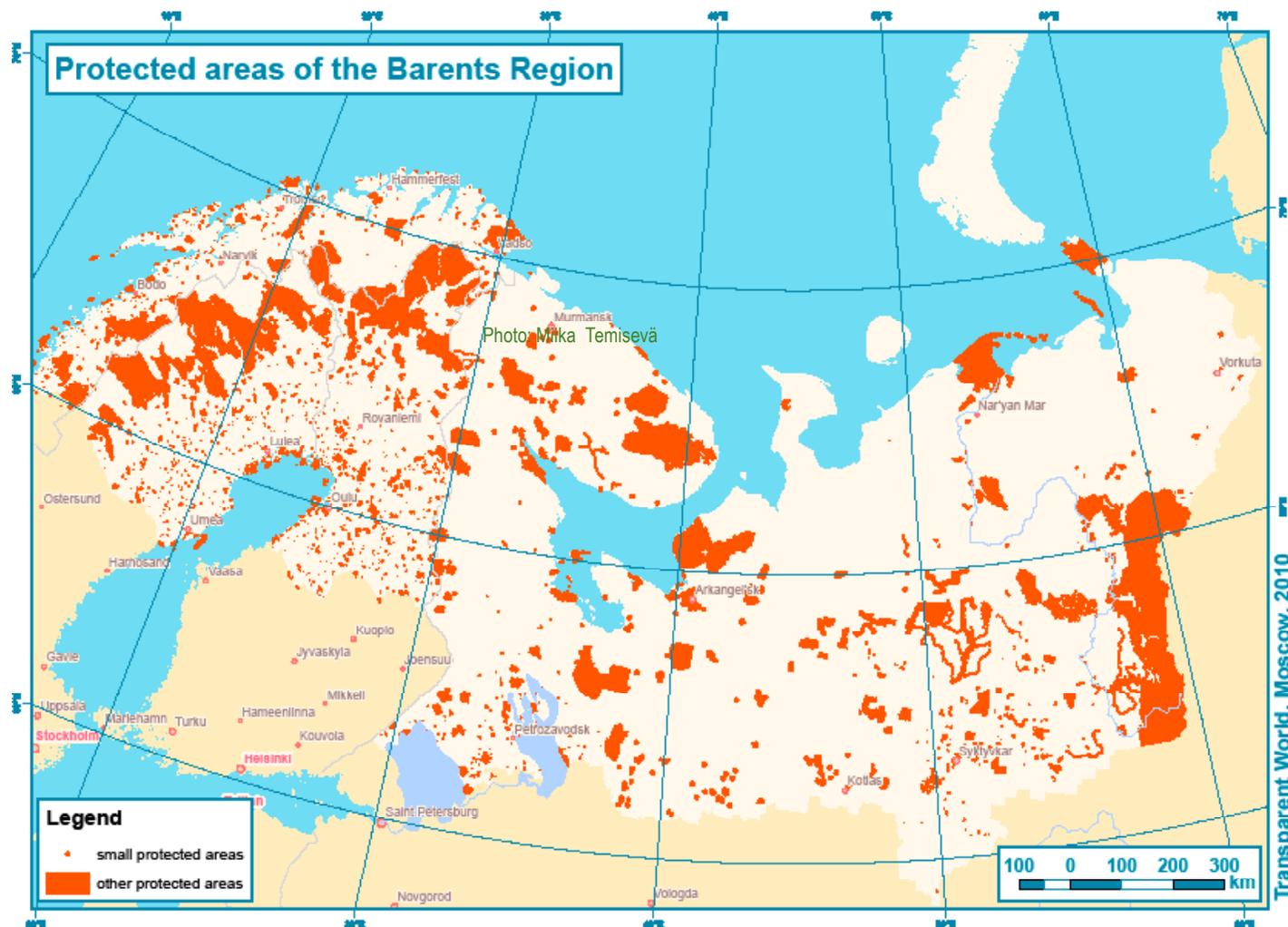
Barents Region protected areas network

BPAN

The biodiversity target of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to reduce of the rate of biodiversity loss by the end of 2010 was not achieved. In October 2010, the parties to the CBD committed themselves at the Conference of the Parties COP10, held in Nagoya, to a new target: reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2020. Now there is urgent need for active co-operation to meet the future targets, also in the framework of co-operation for the Barents Region. The Barents Protected Areas Network (BPAN) will be a tool to implement the required elements of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas in a transboundary co-operation project with a taiga–Arctic perspective.

Boreal and arctic ecosystems are still relatively intact, but are also vulnerable. These ecosystems are seen as an important natural heritage of global significant that require conservation and really careful management. Climate change further increases the ecosystems' vulnerability. It is necessary to devote more attention towards how climate change affects on biodiversity and ecosystem services. An effective protected areas network is the best hope for conserving representative areas of natural ecosystems, habitats and species and at the same time important and effective tool for adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Many northern indigenous people and local communities need to use natural resources to maintain traditional ways of life, which further increases the need of nature conservation. It is important that indigenous people and local communities can participate the planning and management of the protected areas.

The countries of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway) share common nature conservation challenges to ensure protection for certain key areas that are critical for maintaining Northern ecosystems and species. In February 2010, the environmental ministers of the Barents



Protected areas of the Barents Region in the beginning of the BPAN project. Transparent World, 2010.



The participants in the BPAN project preparation meeting in October 2009 in Arkhangelsk. Photo: Ivan Vdovin, 2009.



Continuously changing river system is creating a unique habitat system. Pechora-Ilychsky Strict Nature Reserve (zapovednik) in the Republic of Komi. Photo: Anna Kuhmonen.

Implementing CBD with Taiga-Arctic perspective Barents Region protected areas network BPAN

Euro-Arctic Region stressed the need to establish a representative and effectively managed network of protected areas in the Barents Region (BPAN) and in this connection recommended the use of models and experience from similar networks, as well as to cooperate with the Arctic Council Working Group on Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) in their meeting in Tromsø, Norway. The Barents Euro-Arctic Council's subgroup of nature protection has begun the BPAN preparations.

The aim of the BPAN project is to establish an effectively managed and representative network of protected areas that has a high probability of maintaining the dynamic biodiversity of the Bar-

ents Euro-Arctic Region. The Programme of Work on Protected Area (PoWPA), under the CBD, is being used as the main framework for the project. By analyzing the current network of protected areas, the work will find the gaps in the network and continue with a focus on the critical key areas. The BPAN work will provide Northern taiga-boreal perspective for implementation of the CBD PoWPA in transboundary and regional cooperation.

The BPAN development is being carried out in cooperation with Russian, Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish federal and local authorities, scientists, and NGO's. The Nordic Council of

Ministers is supporting the preparation project, during which the work plan for the BPAN project has been prepared during 2010. Finnish Environment Institute SYKE co-ordinates the preparation project in 2010. BPAN work was represented in COP10 as part of the Arctic side event of WWF Russia and in the poster session.

According to strategic plan for the post-2010 period agreed in COP10, by 2020 at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas. This is challenge also for the Barents co-operation. ■

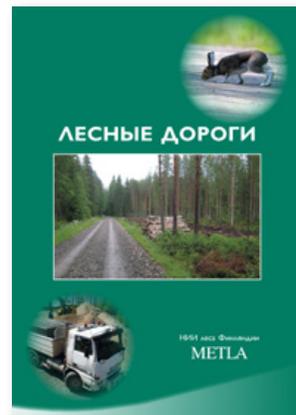
New teaching materials to be used in forestry education

The project **Development of Training Material and Manuals** aimed at supporting the development of teaching materials to be used in the training courses of various forestry education institutes in north-west Russia. The project, carried out in 2006–2009, was co-ordinated by the Finnish Forest Research Institute. The main Russian partner was the Northern Forest Research Institute, in Arkhangelsk. Another partner in the project on the Finnish side was the Helsinki School of Economics Small Business Center. The very concrete result of the project was publication of teaching materials on four relevant topics.

Forest regeneration

The publication **Forest Regeneration in North-west Russia and Comparison with Finland: Comments of the Finnish Experts** aims at knowledge transfer and description of the problems observed in forest regeneration practices in north-west Russia by Finnish forestry experts. Best practices in Finnish forestry and possible solutions to the problems seen are presented.

Forest operations and wood procurement



The project produced a manual for the improvement of raw material quality in harvesting and the impact on the end products' quality. The quality and, consequently, price of the end product is highly dependent on raw material quality. Therefore, this theme is very important for productivity in logging and wood-processing companies.

The second training material package was related to a highly topical question in the Russian forest sector – that of forest road construction. The Finnish instructions of Metsäteho are presented, and practices in Russia and Finland are compared in a compact guidebook.

Forest management planning

A guide was prepared dealing with Finnish experiences in forest planning. The planning process related to the natural resources in Finnish state forests and corresponding forest planning at the regional level in Russia are described. Furthermore, processes at the level of the individual forest-owner are included as an equivalent to planning by a forest-leaser in Russia. Concrete examples of alternative forest management practices and tools for decision-making are supplied, to support the ongoing reform of the Russian forest planning system.

An up-dated version of the booklet about cost calculation in wood harvesting was published, based on the one already issued in NWRDP Phase II. The new version is likewise based on the Finnish instructions of Metsäteho for cost calculations, but it is updated to be more relevant for Russian conditions, containing examples of actual harvesting costs in Russia and comparison of the Russian and Finnish cost calculation systems.

All materials can be downloaded via the web-based services

- ▶ [Idän metsätieto](#)
- ▶ [Lesinfo](#)



Business management

Two guidebooks especially targeting emerging small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as privatised former governmental organisations, were prepared. The themes of the guidebooks are related to business planning and entrepreneurship.



Report from the project on capacity-building for forest professionals

The Finnish–Russian co-operative project to strengthen the professional competence of forest managers and specialists in north-west Russia provided training for 109 forestry professionals in 2005–2009. The training was organised in line with the specified themes in co-operation with the All-Russian Institute of Continuous Education in Forestry (ARICEF). In total, five groups, of 20–25 persons each, participated in the training, which included theory-based studies in Pushkino and a study tour in Finland. The training was aimed at increasing understanding of modern methods in forest management and administration and at considering their practical implementation in Russian conditions. The participants represented regional forest districts and training institutes.

Indufor Oy co-ordinated the project and arranged the training in co-operation with Metsähallitus, Forestry Development Centre Tapio, and Forelia Oy. The Russian counterpart, the All-Russian Institute of Continuous Education in Forestry, organised the training in collaboration with the following regional Russian training institutes:

- Arkhangelsk State Technical University
- Petrozavodsk State University
- Technical Forest University of St Petersburg
- Syktyvkar Filial (Komi Republic) of Technical Forest University of St Petersburg
- Moscow State Forest University

The project produced five training packages including lecture materials. Each of the packages contained its own set of related training modules, as described below:

Training Package I:

Harvesting and regeneration
Data management in forest management
Contractor-based management systems and the contracting process

Training Package II:

Environmental protection and multi-purpose use of forests

Training Package III:

Forest administration at federal, regional, and local levels
Business planning

Training Package IV:

Forest inventory and monitoring
Forest simulation models

Training Package V:

Management of specially protected areas
The national monitoring programme in forestry
Stakeholder consultation and co-operation in forest management planning
Implementation of voluntary forest certification in Russia

Each training course and study trip in combination with the above-mentioned modules and the lectures and other training material used, served as the basis for the final training packages. Thus the packages had been tested before their finalisa- ►

► Russian experts from administrative bodies, companies, and other organisations visited Finland as part of a training module in February 2006 to gain new ideas and abilities to develop forest management systems in their own organisations.



tion. Various pedagogic methods were applied in the courses to encourage the trainees to reflect on the new information in the light of their already extensive professional experience.

During the study tours, the trainees kept daily study logs on assigned themes and reported on these to the other group members for discussion. Guided group discussion was used also, to encourage the trainees to assess the applicability of new ideas to their own work. Indufor collected detailed feedback from the participants after each study tour and training session, which was taken into consideration in planning of the following training sessions.

Although the study tours in Finland followed a tight schedule, with full days of lectures, and visits to forest sites and forestry organisations, the participants had a chance to take some time to get acquainted with the Finnish culture and way of life as well as locally important sites. For many participants, the study tour was the first opportunity to visit and learn about their neighbour country.

Indufor as a project co-ordinator wishes to thank Mr Anatoly Petrov, head of ARICEF, and all teachers at ARICEF who participated in the training courses. Special gratitude is due also to Ms Irina Vukolova, ARICEF teacher and project co-ordinator, who assisted as an organiser and group facilitator during the study tours. Indufor is also thankful for the expertise and commitment of the representatives from Metsähallitus, Forestry Development Centre Tapio, and Forelia Oy who served as lecturers and hosts during the study tours. ■



Indufor ...forest intelligence

Forest Academy for Decision-makers – a tool to revitalise forest-sector dialogue between Finland and Russia

In Finland, the concept of a 'Forest Academy for Decision-makers' as implemented by the Finnish Forest Association has been successful for more than 10 years now. The idea is to bring together decision-makers – mainly from different parts of society but also some high-level decision-makers from the forest sector – for an intensive three-day event to discuss the present and the future of the Finnish forest sector. A central aim for the forum is to create a common view and understanding of how the forest sector can support the development of society. Participants represent policy, administration, business, interest groups, non-governmental organisations, R&D, and media. All told, more than 850 decision-makers have participated in these forums. One forum consists of a one-day seminar and a two-day field tour in which expertise covering the whole chain of forest-sector operations is demonstrated in practice.

At the third forest summit in St Petersburg, in 2009, Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen invited his counterpart (Prime Minister Vladimir Putin) and other Russian decision-makers to participate in the first joint Finnish–Russian Forest Academy for Decision-makers, to create a common vision of how the boreal forest sector could be strengthened and better be able to stand up against the growing forest industry in the Southern hemisphere. Together Finland and Russia have huge forest resources and great know-how that could be used to create a common path toward a more sustainable and bioeconomy-oriented forest industry. The first Finnish-Russian forum will be held in Finland in March 2011.

The expected outputs of the forum are the following:

- Improved **knowledge** of the forest sector among decision-makers
- Improved **dialogue** between interest groups and between the two countries
- An improved **image** of the forest sector
- Increased societal **interest** in the forest sector
- New cross-sector **contacts**
- Support for the planning and implementation of a national **forest policy**

For further information, please see www.smy.fi/smy/PMAeng.nsf

Development of the Normative Base of Sustainable Forest Management at Regional Level Leningrad region

The project **Development of the Normative Base of Sustainable Forest Management at Regional Level** aimed at developing forest management guidelines for intensive forestry in the Leningrad region. The co-ordinator of the project on the Finnish side was the Finnish Forest Research Institute's Joensuu Unit and on the Russian side the St Petersburg Forest Research Institute.

The main results of the project are the following:

- A normative basis developed for an intensive forest management model in the Tikhvin administrative district of the Leningrad region
- Forest management guidelines for intensive forestry
- Development of a Russian version of MOTTI – the Finnish stand-level analysis tool and decision support system for forest management – including user's guide
- Technical reports for project use: Analysis of Existing Logging and Regeneration Techniques and Technologies used in the Leningrad Region and Finland and A Review of Rules and Regulations Effective in Russia and Finland
- Training of specialists and staff
- Publication of the Finnish forestry and environmental guidelines of the Finnish Forest and Park Service (Metsähallitus) in Russian
- Dissemination of the project's results to the forestry authorities and logging companies in the Leningrad region and other regions in the North-west Russia district

The guidelines and Russian version of MOTTI can be downloaded via the Internet services *Idän metsätieto* (in Finnish) and *Lesinfo* (in Russian).



Published results of the project, providing guidelines for a new normative basis for intensive forestry practices in the Leningrad region and the Finnish forestry and environmental guidelines of Metsähallitus (the Finnish Forest and Park Service), in the Russian language.



Training of forestry specialists in Finland.

How the work was done

The following activities were realised:

1. Preparation of reference and methodological materials:
 - Lessons learnt from similar projects that were implemented earlier, technical report I
 - Analysis of existing cutting and regeneration practices, technical report II
 - Review of rules and regulations effective in Russia and Finland, technical report III
 - Translation of the Finnish forestry and environmental norms into Russian
 - Development of the Russian version of MOTTI and the user's guide

2. Preparation of digital landscape maps for the Leningrad region's Tikhvin and Boksitogorsk based on stand-level forest inventory data and existing quaternary maps, high-resolution satellite images, aerial forest photos, and tree species maps

3. Preliminary classification of forest site types on the basis of site maps and stand analysis, and generalisation of forest types for definition of key succession types

4. Design and implementation of field experiments
 - Collection of data on felling areas after 5–15 years from clear-cutting
 - Selection of cutting areas with natural regeneration for follow-up inspection
 - Collection of inventory data about stands before clear-cutting

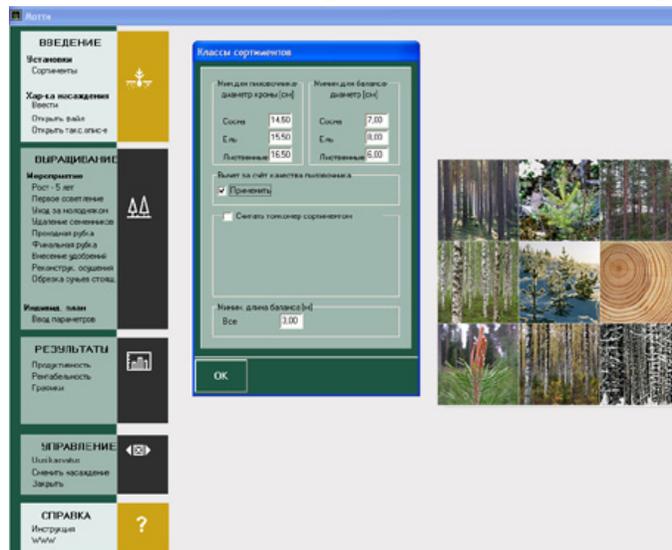
- Forest inventory for selected stands
 - Field data processing and analysis
5. Development of the normative system of sustainable forest management
 - Listing of key succession types for creation of norms
 - Specification of target tree species
 - Definition of possible and recommended technological operations by succession type
 - Compilation of norms' content according to the forestry activities involved: forest regeneration, tending of young stands, commercial thinning, and final felling, with environmental requirements for all activities addressed
 6. Improvement of norms through project staff discussions
 7. Preparation of a book of guidelines for intensive forestry
 8. Dissemination of the results through the Federal Forest Service authorities (Rosleshoz), regional forest authorities in north-west Russia, experts in logging companies, forest universities, and colleges by means of seminars, study tours, meetings, etc.

Challenges

The project began rather slowly because of delays in the tendering process in Russia and nomination of the Russian co-ordinating organisation. The main reason for challenges in project implementation was however that the Finnish and Russian project plans for the first project year were not congruent and both were reporting activities to their own ministries separately. Consequently, the Russian and the Finnish partners worked rather independently from each other for the first years of the project. However, after a change in the management of the St Petersburg Forest Research Institute in spring 2007, co-operation improved and the counterparts reached common understanding for the project.

The group of Russian specialists included only staff of the St Petersburg Forest Research Institute. In the optimal case, all key forestry institutions would have had a representative involved in the work. Also, participation from practice (i.e., of companies) would have been desirable. The project conducted negotiations with a Russian logging company based in the Tikhvin district for co-operation in the establishment of testing areas and promotion of the intensive forest management practices in north-west Russia. Unfortunately, the company was closed

Development of the Normative Base of Sustainable Forest Management at Regional Level Leningrad region



The MOTTI stand simulator in the Russian language.

down as a result of the economic depression and its contribution was not obtained. Some input to the project was received from a Finnish company operating in Russia. The conclusion was that, given Russia's current normative standards, it is not possible to apply the new guidelines directly and further work is needed for their implementation.

Some overlapping in the international project field was observed. A similar project was financed by Swedish international development co-operation agency SIDA, and the attempt to organise tripartite co-operation failed because of disputes over financing.

Conclusions and lessons learnt

Despite the above-mentioned problems, the project prepared a set of new recommendations for a more intensive model of forest utilisation in the Leningrad region that considers the entire



Project manager Yuri Gerasimov presenting the guidelines for intensive forest management to Viktor Maslyakov from the Federal Forest Agency (Rosleshoz).

forest management chain. This included introduction of a new model of forestry, utilising experiences of intensive forestry from Finland tailored to conditions in the Leningrad region. The normative documents that were developed meet the requirements of all relevant international forestry and environmental agreements and are also in line with Russian legislation.

The lessons learnt:

1. The tendering process has to be organised simultaneously in Finland and Russia, with the same terms of reference.
2. It would be necessary to develop a mechanism for ensuring a funding schedule and capacity.
3. It is necessary to synchronise Finnish–Russian Forest Programme activities with similar programmes carried out by other countries. ■

The Finnish–Russian Forestry Programme addresses efficiency in forestry

Why we co-operate

Finnish and north-west Russian parties share common goals of utilising valuable forest-based resources in an environmentally sound way and strengthening regional rural economies. These goals can be addressed through increasing the share of forestry and the forest industry in the regional economy as a result of more effective and multifaceted forest use. A multiple-use approach implies increasing benefits from non-traditional sources of forest use, including bioenergy, biodiversity services and enhancement of recreational, social, and cultural values besides those of timber production. A more intensive forestry regime also relieves the pressure for remote forest areas with valuable old-growth forest to be exploited for timber harvesting, a target that supports the goals of nature conservation.

Since 1997, the Finnish–Russian Development Programme on Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation of Biological Diversity in Northwest Russia (NWRDP) has been an important tool for bilateral co-operation in the field of sustainable forestry and nature conservation. The forestry part of the programme has been implemented in three phases so far. Based on the results and experience from the previous phases, the programme's Phase IV, covering 2009–2011, has begun. The agreement to facilitate forestry-related co-operation was signed between the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the Russian Federal Forest Agency (Rosleshoz).

Equal partnership and learning

The Finnish neighbouring-area co-operation strategy highlights promotion of regional stability and balanced economic and social development and supports processes of change that strengthen the partner countries' capacities to address challenges. The strategy also highlights equal partnership, which receives strong effort in this phase of the programme. The prin- ►

The fourth NWRDP stage covers the years 2009–2011 and focuses on introducing intensive and sustainable forest management methods in north-west Russia, supporting the reform of the Russian forest administration, and promoting public–private partnerships. The programme includes the following projects:

1. Development of intensive forestry practices in the Republic of Karelia
2. Development of Scandinavian forest management methods in the Vologda region
3. Forest-sector advisory services in the Komi Republic
4. Innovative forestry in the Nizhny Novgorod region
5. Training of leaders and experts in regional forest administration

The projects are implemented by a consortium selected via competitive tendering, with the lead partner being Indufor Oy. Other expert organisations taking part in the implementation are the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), Metsähallitus, Forestry Development Centre Tapio, and TAMK School of Applied Science.

The parties responsible for project implementation in Russia are the regional forest administration agencies in Karelia, Vologda, Komi, and Nizhny Novgorod. The Russian Institute of Continuous Education in Forestry (ARICEF) in the Moscow region is responsible for the training project.

(Case) Allocation of forest funds in the Komi Republic, from extensive to intensive forest management zones

One of the projects being realised in Komi is to investigate the need for zoning of the forest funds of the republic according to intensity of utilization. As a consequence, the northern areas of Komi would be left outside economically oriented forestry activities because they are totally inaccessible or have poor infrastructure. Such forest land exists in southern areas too. In investigation of areas with economic potential, it has been shown that those areas consist of middle-aged forests that were cut in the 1950s and 1960s and are now in urgent need of thinning and selective cutting. This means that intensive thinning models should be applied and new inventions to utilise small timber are urgently needed.

The team of experts, with members from several organisations (including the Territorial Databank on Natural Resources and Environment of the Komi Republic, the Komi branch of the Russian Academy of Science, Syktyvkar Forest Institute, the Komi Forest Committee, the Ministry of Industry and Energy, and NGO Silver Taiga), have developed criteria for zoning the forest areas in extensive and intensive management zones. Based on the established criteria, even more detailed zoning of territories on the quarter level has been prepared in the experimental area of the Priluzsky Lesnitchestvo regional administrative unit. The Finnish party has proposed the use of modern GIS techniques to segment areas and define economically viable belts around transportation corridors in order to position the boundaries for intensively managed forest zones.



The director of Cherepovets Lesnitchestvo (the regional forest administration unit) Nadeshda Klimovna, measures the basal area of pine forest in the Vologda region before demonstration of intermediary fellings. Photo: Ari Siekkinen.

ciple of financing is now a 50/50 cost share, which the partners have agreed upon at the regional level. In view of the growing role and responsibility of the regions in organising forest management, the approach is to collaborate directly with forest administrations at the regional level. According to the strategy, the projects undertaken should be designed to accumulate experience and produce results that the partners can ‘reproduce’ and ‘export’ beyond neighbouring areas. Projects should also have a strong link to regional cross-border co-operation that is conducted within the frameworks of other neighbourhood programmes, such as those of the ENPI-CBC programme.

A focus on public–private partnership

The programme started in 2009 and is currently being realised in the republics of Karelia and Komi and in the regions of Vologda and Nizhny Novgorod. These regions have been chosen in collaboration with Russian partners so as to represent areas where forest-industry companies are actively working, giving the project partners a chance to develop true public–private partnership in the framework of the project. The regions are also interesting for Finnish actors, as many companies that are



Finnish expert Aleksu Moskuvaara demonstrating intermediary fellings in Vologda. Photo: Ari Siekkinen.

active in the forestry sector, including the technology trade, consultants, and service providers, seek to invest in north-west Russia. The main factors influencing forest-sector investments are profitability through the value chain of production, the stability of the regulatory framework, the security of raw material supply at a competitive price, and the level of infrastructural development. Among the overall aims of the programme is to improve investment conditions through development of administrative procedures and planning methods, as well as regulation and control procedures in forest management, in order to meet the requirements of intensive forestry practices.

The role of competent personnel in the forest sector is crucial for carrying out the planned reforms in the forest sector in accordance with the Forest Code. The main objective of the capacity-building project is to support the building of a modern system for continuous education in forestry. The target group includes managerial and operations staff in forest administration at both national and regional level, expert organisations, and personnel of forest companies. The training module functions in close connection with the regional projects, so that the

people who are active in the regions also benefit from the training seminars and excursions.

Forest administration and policy under review

The spirit of the version of the Forest Code that came into force in 2007 was to apply decentralisation and give considerably more power and responsibility to regions to organise and modernise forest management and also to develop and approve forest management regulations. These plans have, unfortunately, not been realised to their full extent. The federal norms still prevail, and in many cases they do not allow intensive forestry practices. The Federal Forest Agency, responsible for forest policy, including legal and normative regulation, has been subordinated to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture (FMA) since 2008, but after the devastating forest fires of summer 2010 the President decided to strengthen the agency’s status by bringing it under the direct supervision of the government. The Forestry Agency is now expected to update the national forestry strategy for 2020 and speed up the process of making amendments to the Forest Code and the normative documents regulating forest management, use, and protection. ■

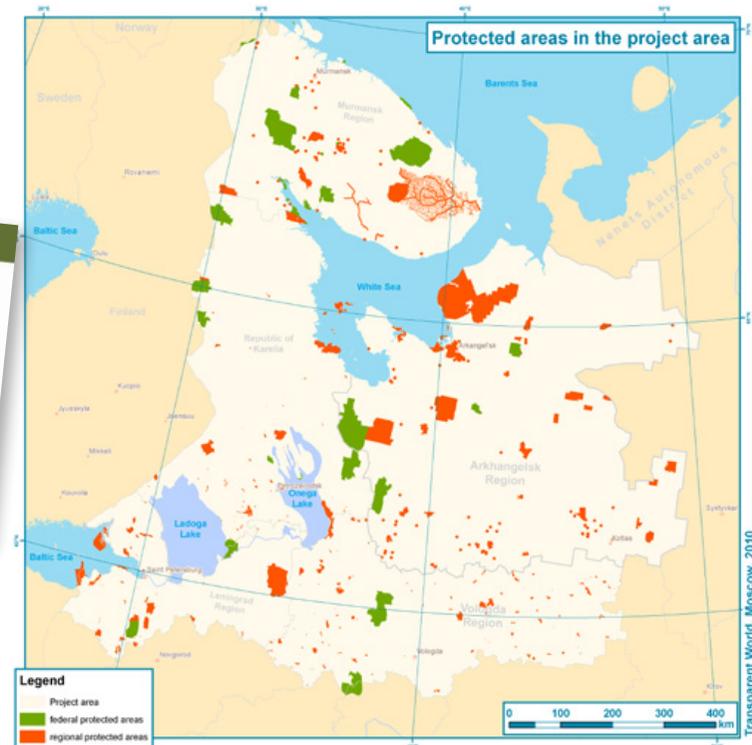
The management state and needs of regional protected areas – a new publication

How is the management of regional protected areas (RPAs) arranged in North-West Russia? What are the strengths and weaknesses of protected area management? Which organisations are responsible for regional protected areas? What are their developmental priorities? The answers to these questions are provided in a new publication, *Assessment of the Management State and Needs of Regional Protected Areas in North-West Russia*.

Based on assessment of the effectiveness of RPA management carried out by the protected area (PA) managers, the report paints a picture of current RPA management practices in six administrative subjects of the Russian Federation: the regions of Arkhangelsk, Vologda, Leningrad, and Murmansk; the Republic of Karelia; and St Petersburg. The main aims of the assessment were to identify strengths and weaknesses of the RPAs' management and to determine its development priorities. Special emphasis was placed on outlining characteristic features and tendencies in management of the RPA network in each region. In addition, threats facing the protected areas (PAs) were assessed. The assessment was based on the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) developed by the World Bank and WWF, with the work carried out in the context of the Development of the Regional Protected Areas in North-West Russia project in 2007–2010. The project was financed by the Finnish Ministry of the Environment under the nature conservation component of the North-West Russia Development Programme and implemented by the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE). Co-ordinated by Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services, the project was carried out in close co-operation between Finnish and Russian partner organisations. The executive partner of the project was the Baltic Fund for Nature of the St Petersburg Naturalist Society (BFN).

The overall aim of the project was to improve the general functioning and management of RPAs and to promote networking of PAs in North-West Russia and in Finland. These goals were pursued in joint activities aimed at increasing the competence of PA managers and at facilitating contact and experience exchange between the project's participants. Implementation of pilot projects by the regional authorities that focused on resolving some concrete tasks of PA management was an important step in testing the lessons learnt in the everyday work of PA managers. Joint activities such as seminars, workshops, and study tours, as well as follow-up meetings for the pilot projects, suggest that there is both need and capacity for closer contact between PA managers of neighbouring regions. The project Development of the Regional Protected Areas in North-West Russia succeeded in creating an active network of PA managers, opened new paths for co-operation, and facilitated incorporation of adaptive management practices into Russian RPA management.

Already in the first steps of the above-mentioned project, it became obvious that the state of regional PA management varied considerably between regions. Gaps in the knowledge of RPAs' status and needs as well as rather limited contact between RPA managers of neighbouring regions somewhat hindered the progress of RPA managers in their work. The assessment was seen as a way to collect information from and to share information between those possessing the fullest knowledge of RPAs – the authorities responsible for PA management and their partners, such as research institutes and environmental organisations.



The most important contribution of the assessment work as regards nature conservation in North-West Russia is that it demonstrated the importance of collaboration and information exchange between Russian Federation actors in the field of RPA management. Continuing this collaboration and harmonising RPA management practices within and between regions was recognised as an important step toward optimisation of RPA management. Other recommendations based on the assessment results concern consideration of the area of PAs to be established, use of the METT methodology as a monitoring tool in optimisation of PA management, and the need to continue the work of the newly created forum for development of co-operation among the organisations responsible for PA management.

Number and area of the assessed RPAs in comparison with the number and area of all RPAs¹ in the participating regions

| Region | Total number of RPAs (1.6.2010) | Number of RPAs assessed | RPAs assessed, as a percentage of the total number of RPAs | Total area of RPAs (1.6.2010), in thousands of hectares | Area of assessed RPAs, in thousands of hectares | RPAs assessed, as a percentage of total RPA area |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Arkhangelsk Region | 99 | 32 | 32% | 1,679.05 | 1,515.71 | 90% |
| Vologda Region | 163 | 101 | 62% | 219.75 | 167.84 | 76% |
| Leningrad Region | 39 | 35 | 90% | 465.37 | 463.25 | 99.5% |
| Murmansk Region | 53 | 7 | 13% | 707.27 | 693.19 | 98% |
| Republic of Karelia | 134 | 8 | 6% | 359.98 | 167.01 | 46% |
| St Petersburg | 7 | 5 | 71% | 2.48 | 2.11 | 85% |

Abbreviations:

PA = protected area

RPA = regional protected area

¹) Data concerning all RPAs are given for 1.6.2010.

The full English-language version of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool can be obtained at http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/forests/tools/tracking_tool/

Milovidova, N., Alexeeva, N., Lentsman, N. and Halinen A. (ed.). 2010. Assessment of the management state and needs of regional protected areas in the North-West Russia (Arkhangelsk Region, Vologda Region, Leningrad Region, Murmansk Region, Republic of Karelia, St. Petersburg). Nature Protection Publications of Metsähallitus. Series A 189. 111 pages.

The report can be downloaded from the site of Metsähallitus, Natural Heritage Services, via <http://www.metsa.fi/sivustot/metsa/fi/ajankohtaista/Julkaisut/Julkaisusarjat/Sivut/A-sarja.aspx>

Experts from the non-governmental organisation SPOK (СПОК), of Petrozavodsk, have produced **Methodological Recommendations for Protecting Biological Diversity in Forest Cuttings in the Republic of Karelia**

In May 2010, the printing house Scandinavia, in Petrozavodsk, published the book *Methodological Recommendations for Protecting Biological Diversity in Forest Cuttings in the Republic of Karelia*.

The book offers practical guidelines for experts in the forestry sector, scientific specialists, students of forestry, and those interested in nature conservation issues. The authors represent the regional non-governmental nature protection organisation SPOK: Alexander Markovsky is the director of the

organisation, and Olga Iljina is the manager of this NGO's

forest unit. The Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Karelia has approved the guidelines. The recommendations were discussed during a meeting at the ministry, where it was also decided to conclude a standard biodiversity conservation agreement between the ministry and the forest land leaseholders. At the meeting, the participants agreed that any company to lease forest lands for harvesting of timber will have to submit a written application in which it agrees to accept the terms of the agreement to conserve biodiversity during logging operations.

The use of SPOK's recommendations in regional forestry practices will improve the adoption of federal legislation and contribute to fulfilling commitments to international conventions. Putting the recommendations into practice can also strengthen the Russian forestry sector's competitiveness in international markets, where it is very important that logging companies take ecological issues into account in their work. The joint work of the NGO and the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Karelia is one of the first methods to be applied regionally for protecting biodiversity in forestry logging.

The Finnish Russian Development Programme on Sustainable Forestry and Conservation of Biological Diversity in Northwest Russia supported the publication and uses the recommendations in projects carried out in both parts of the programme. The electronic version of the recommendations can be found at the address http://spok-karelia.ru/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/rekomend_BD.pdf



The whole story on the post-glacial natural history of Eastern Fennoscandia

Elina, G.A., Lukashov, A.D. and Yurkovskaya, T.K. 2010. Late Glacial and Holocene palaeovegetation and palaeogeography of Eastern Fennoscandia. *The Finnish Environment* 4/2010. 304 pages.

We cannot understand mires by considering only their present ecology and their flora and fauna. These essential components are vital for understanding the functioning of mire ecosystems; however, without an understanding of the history of their development, our understanding of mires is limited. The development history of mires tells us how and when the mires have developed. But these studies give us information on the general development of surrounding ecosystems also. Palaeo-ecological studies of mires are thus keys for understanding forest history. That information is also needed if we are to understand post-glacial climatological natural history. Our climate has not been constant.

The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) has produced a publication on the post-glacial natural history of the Kola Peninsula and the Republic of Karelia, in co-operation with Russian researchers. The objective of the publication is to increase our understanding of the current state of mires in Eastern Fennoscandia. An investigation of the origins of mires provides valuable information for mire protection and the planning of sustainable mire use. The publication also contains valuable information on the assessment of the effects of climate change on biodiversity. It is the first English-language study to be published on the subject.

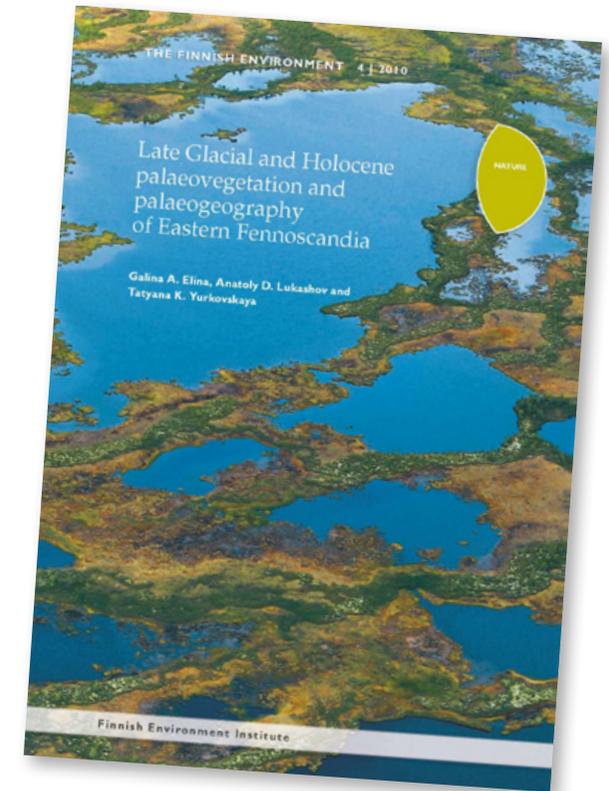
This publication is a unique compilation of mire studies carried out in the Republic of Karelia and on the Kola Peninsula, chronicling the development of vegetation from the late-glacial period to the present day. In the publication, entitled *Late Glacial and Holocene palaeovegetation and palaeogeography of Eastern Fennoscandia*, elements of past landscapes are examined against the current state of the environment, in terms

of geology, geomorphology, and vegetation. The study period comprises an extensive part of the late-glacial period (12,000–10,300 BC), and the time from the glacial period to the present day.

The publication considers its body of materials in the light of modern theoretical concepts. It presents the dynamics of ancient landscapes as a combination of all their components (topography, hydrology, and vegetation) that is compared with the current situation. In addition to mire development, the publication examines the accumulation of carbon reservoirs in the mires.

Map-based and narrative materials on the present vegetation, as well as maps of the sample areas, were newly prepared for the publication. The sample areas for ancient vegetation are distributed evenly throughout the Kola Peninsula and the Republic of Karelia. Seven of these areas are presented in the publication, and a time series of 10,500, 9,500, 8,500, 5,500, 3,000, 1,000 years before the present day has been drawn up for the vegetation maps of each sample area. These are based on the landscape relief and current vegetation.

A series of maps from old to new characterises the development of vegetation units in the same area. Comparison of the transitional series of mires provides information on the geographical shift of mires northward over the course of millennia. This information is valuable in assessment of the impact of climate change on biodiversity. Information compiled for this publication can also be used to specify the direction that should be taken in the sustainable use of mires.



The work was carried out at the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Petrozavodsk, where the authors have worked since the early 1950s. This English-language publication will place a huge amount of information at the disposal of the international research community. Until now, this information had been available in the Russian language only. The English-language edition is based on over 20 years of Finnish–Russian co-operation in mire research.

The publication enables the further expansion of research co-operation concerning mires and climate change, to cover the entire boreal forest belt. It will also provide a tool for the planning and implementation of nature conservation and climate policy in Finland and other Nordic countries, as well as in the Baltic states and throughout the European Union. ■

In the footsteps of Liro and Cajander: A field trip to the eastern boundary of Fennoscandia

Students J.I. Lindroth (later Liro) and A.K. Cajander went on an expedition to Olonets Karelia and the easternmost part of Karelia, east of Lake Onega, in 1898–1899. In August 2009, 110 years later, a field trip was made to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Finnish Society of Forest Science (Suomen Metsätieteellinen Seura), following in the footsteps of Liro and Cajander to the eastern border of Fennoscandia. On this trip, we familiarised ourselves especially with easternmost Karelia, which is virgin territory for most Finns. We visited, for example, the towns of Pudosh and Medvezhegorsk, went to Vodlozersky National Park, and saw the petroglyphs at Lake Onega. We also noticed how the Siberian larch appears in the forest flora near the border of the Arkhangelsk region.

In this book, those who participated in the field trip write about the themes of the trip: the nature and culture of eastern Karelia and the demarcation between the Fennoscandian Shield and the Russian Platform. Several of the writers have decades of experience in the nature of the area and in the research co-operation between Finland and Russian Karelia. Those who have visited easternmost Fennoscandia for the first time bring a fresh perspective on the themes. A trip to eastern Karelia awaits on the pages of this book – and, later on, the reader's travels inspired by the book.

Ojanen, P., Vanhatalo, A., Niemelä, P. and Vasander, H. (eds). 2010. Lehtikuusen alla: matka itäisen Karjalan luontoon ja kulttuuriin. (In the footsteps of Liro and Cajander: a field trip to the eastern boundary of Fennoscandia). University of Helsinki Department of Forest Sciences Publications 1. 212 pages. In Finnish. ISBN 978-952-10-4530-1.

Books can be ordered by e-mail (to varpu.heliara@helsinki.fi). The price is €20 + postage.



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Publisher

Publisher: Finnish-Russian Development Programme on Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation of Biological Diversity in Northwest Russia (NWRDP)

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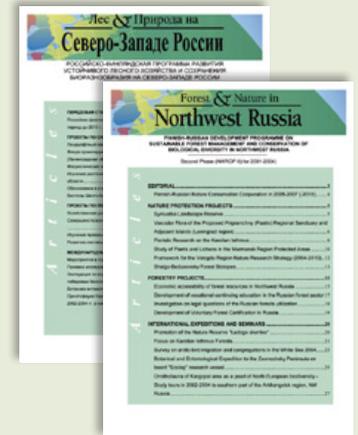
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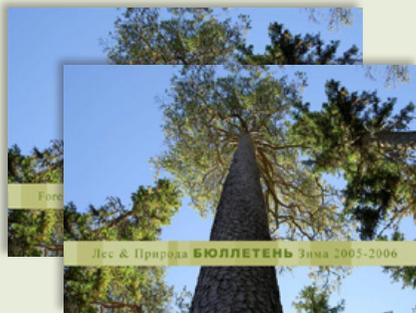
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