
Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	14:045
Project Title	Sustainable Support for Biodiversity and Forestry in Tomsk Taiga, Siberia
Country(ies)	UK, Russia
UK Contract Holder Institution	Tree Council
UK Partner Institution(s)	British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Cambridge University Expedition Society (CUEX), Pricebatch (Altai) UK Ltd, Traidcraft, WTA Education Services Ltd (WTA).
Host country Partner Institution(s)	Institute for International Environmental Safety (IIES), Tomsk State University, Pricebatch 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)
Darwin Grant Value	£162,900
Start/End dates of Project	01/05/05-31/03/08
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	1 Apr 2006 to 31 Mar 2007 Annual Report Number 2
Project Leader Name	Wayne Talbot, WTA Education Services Ltd
Project website	www.tomsktaiga.net
Author(s), date	Janet Sackman, WTA Education Services Ltd, with input from Wayne Talbot of WTA, Svetlana Kozlova of IIES, Dr Chris Hewson of BTO, Andrew Lane (finance officer) for the Tree Council.

1. Project Background

The main goals of the project are:

- To help conserve the biodiversity of the taiga forest and to raise awareness of its value
- To create a model that involves local communities in the establishment of sustainable forestry
- To raise awareness within the Tomsk region of the social, economic and environmental benefits of taiga forest conservation and sustainable forestry.

Tomsk oblast (region) lies almost in the centre of Russia, at the southern edge of the Siberian taiga forest, the world's largest forest. Approximately 62% of the territory of Tomsk Oblast consists of taiga (pine) forest, of which just 6% is undisturbed primary forest. This is currently protected under federal law, but there are moves to change legislation which may open it up to logging. The major threats to this forest habitat are:

- Exploitation for oil and gas.
- Increased logging, both legal and illegal. This of particular concern given overland trade routes to China, with its rapidly increasing demand for timber and other raw materials.
- Uncontrolled fires.
- Lack of infrastructure for sustainable forestry and exploitation of forest products.
- Lack of detailed knowledge of species distribution in Primary and secondary forest areas, for informed management decisions.
- Lack of awareness of forest resources and their relevance to local communities.

A group of British and Russian partners, led by The Tree Council, is producing the first detailed action plans for taiga forest in Russia. These will provide models of sustainable forestry use, involving local communities and FSC certification, and would be applicable to all other taiga areas in Russia and elsewhere. There will be an emphasis on high value non-timber forest products, such as pine nuts and other forest fruits, and local crafts such as birch-bark products, which can be harvested or made sustainably by local communities.

The Darwin funding will enable increased ecological monitoring of Primary forest and Red Data Book species. This has already been carried out on a small scale by staff and students of Tomsk State University, but is limited by budget and expertise. The British Trust for Ornithology is advising on monitoring techniques for forest habitats. Red Data Book species known to occur in the forest prior to the expedition of summer 2005 included:

- Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and several shade-dependent wild flowers (*Erithronium sibiricum*, *Calypso bulboso*, *Cypripedium macranthon*), threatened by clear felling;
- Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), threatened by felling, disturbance and persecution;
- The butterfly *Erebia cyclopia*, threatened by unsympathetic management of dry fir forests.

2. Project Partnerships

The second year of the project began with the new project leader Wayne Talbot and Janet Sackman (project administrator) meeting with the Tree Council on 21st April 2006 (see Annex 4 item 1) to identify strategies to move the project forward and overcome the previous communication difficulties. Wayne Talbot visited Russia from 27th April to 3rd May 2006 to examine all aspects of the project and agree a list of outstanding tasks with Svetlana Kozlova and Konstantin Kozlov of IIES, which would be reviewed by telephone and email (see Annex 4 item 2 for reports on the visit). This has proved to be an invaluable tool with which to help identify problems and discuss potential solutions with Russian partners and led to the decision to develop a three-week tailored training programme for Svetlana Kozlova of IIES in the UK from January to February 2007. This included a week's tailored training by Traidcraft to examine marketing in the UK and the challenges and constraints of international trade, culminating in attendance at the Spring Trade Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. The proximity of the NEC to the premises of Quality Kernels Ltd afforded the opportunity for a face to face meeting with this potential importer of pine nuts and facilitated detailed discussions about the possibilities of trade. Traidcraft introduced potential designers of birch bark products and suggested activity holidays in the area as an alternative to eco-tourism per se (see Annex 4 item 7 for the detailed programme).

Liaison with Pricebatch (Altai) UK has been improved with several meetings taking place with directors of PB and WTA in the UK to discuss the project progress and help identify barriers to developing trade in birch bark products and FSC certification.

IIES staff secured funding from the Siberian Civil Initiatives Support Centre for a two-week tailored training programme in FSC certification. This training has built capacity within IIES to advise on FSC. This development has been a departure from the original vision of the project, in which Pricebatch Altai was going to act as consultants to introducing FSC, and enables IIES to develop expertise in their own right. Participation in the training enabled contacts to be established with WWF in Moscow, Greenpeace Russia and other NGOs. These contacts have led to the potential for the assessment framework being developed for FSC certification within this project being adopted by other NGOs and organisations within Russia. The framework is to be developed further during Year 3.

Involvement with Taiga Rescue Network has been developed through contact with the Russian Development Officer Katy Harris, who has met with Wayne Talbot and the Tree Council as well as with Svetlana Kozlova to help develop legacy for the project including extensions to the current project and similar work, subject to further funding. Katy Harris is to visit Tomsk in Year 3 and meet with IIES to examine opportunities to develop sustainable markets in non-timber forest products as part of the development of an exit strategy.

3. Project progress

The First Annual Report review recommended that the logical framework be reviewed to produce revised targets for year 3. This is to be discussed in detail by the project leader during a visit to Russia in early May 2007, after which an application will be made to the Secretariat to revise the logical framework.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Output 4A (undergrads) 6 CUEX students & 7 IIES students & Output 4B (training weeks) 6 weeks – achieved

The second fieldwork expedition by CUEX students took place in July 2006 for five weeks in the Assinovskii forest in Tomsk Oblast, Central Southern Siberia, located 80km north-east of the city of Tomsk. The CUEX students received training in fieldwork techniques by Dr Rob Fuller of BTO in Thetford (UK) in May and applied these techniques to gather ecological and sociological data; one undergraduate student Stephen Whitfield carried out the ethnographic research in Kopilovka, a small village in the south-east of the Assinovskii district, whilst the five other CUEX undergraduates surveyed the forest (see Annex 4 item 3 for the aims of the social research and for the results of the fieldwork). Seven undergraduates in IIES, led by Dr Tatiana Blinova of Tomsk State University, studied bird biodiversity, vegetation, arthropods and the European beaver *castor fiber*. The outcomes of the expedition were reviewed in a meeting at the BTO in September 2006 (see Annex 4 item 6).

Output 4C (postgrads): 1 UK, 2 Russia & Output 4D (training weeks): 6 weeks - achieved

Ekaterina Popova, PhD candidate at Edinburgh University, acted as social research assistant and interpreter for the sociological research; Dmitry Kurbatsky a post-graduate entomology student and Margarita Romanova a Lecturer in Biology from the Siberian State Medical University were part of the main fieldwork expedition.

Output 6B (training weeks): IIES training 6 teachers in 3 schools - achieved

Tree planting initiatives were implemented in October 2006 by IIES in conjunction with Tomsk City Administration, who financed the tree planting and trained 5 teachers in 5 schools.

7 (materials): School Forestry Handbooks & Field Survey Handbooks - achieved

Having produced Handbooks in year 1, it was felt by IIES that posters and leaflets would be a more suitable format for year 2 and produced two posters sent to one school and 40 leaflets distributed to two schools.

7 (materials): Field Survey Materials – achieved

Twelve copies of the Field Survey Handbooks from the 2005 expedition were distributed in December 2006 to the Russian expedition members and project partners.

8 (UK proj staff in RU): 1 person x 1 week - achieved

Wayne Talbot visited Russia for one week (27th April to 3rd May 2006) to review progress and this visit proved invaluable in setting up new project management routines so that subsequent progress would be clearer (see Annex 4 item 2).

10 (field guides/manuals): 50 on IIES activities – achieved

These were distributed amongst UK and Russian project partners as well as organizations encountered during meetings about the project.

10 (field guides/manuals): 100 on rare species – not yet achieved

These are scheduled to be produced in December 2007 by IIES.

12A (new databases): 1 on biodiversity - achieved

IIES created a database of rare and endangered species in Tomsk Oblast based on the Tomsk Oblast Red Data Book.

12B (existing databases): 3 to be enhanced (one per year) – achieved October 2006

Work continued in BTO to add to the data collected in the Year 2 expedition.

14A (seminars organised): 2 on FSC certification – achieved August 2006

15A (national press releases RU): 2 – achieved December 2006

15B (local press releases RU): 3 – achieved March 2007

15C (national press releases UK): 1 - not achieved

There was no national press release in Year 2, this will be done in Year 3.

15D (local press releases UK): 1 – achieved June 2006

The Cambridge Evening News featured a piece on the expedition on 23rd June 2006 which is included in Annex 4 item 4.

17A (new dissemination networks): 1 CUEX – achieved

17A (new dissemination networks): 1 forest products – achieved

Contacts have been developed with producers of timber, pine nuts and birch bark products as well as potential buyers identified in the Traidcraft Market Research reports, but so far these contacts have not developed into trade.

19C (local radio RU): 3 – achieved February 2007 (not targeted)

Publicity for the project was obtained by IIES even though it was not targeted for year 2.

Export market for timber & non-forest products – not achieved

We have not yet been able to develop an export market for timber and non-forest products.

1 international independent monitoring report on FSC criteria - not achieved

This is linked to the FSC certification process which has not yet been achieved.

Detailed reports by fieldwork leaders - achieved

Reports from the CUEX team and IIES were completed and are included.

Annual Reports for local gov, state forestry, NGOs – achieved

IIES produced Annual Reports which are enclosed.

Annual Reports from Community Production Units – not achieved

The Community Production Units have not been set up so there are no reports available.

Annual Records of Community Meetings – achieved

IIES have kept records of meetings as detailed in the enclosed documents.

Web site – achieved in Year 1

The web site registration has been moved to WTA rather than being in the name of one of the CUEX students. The domain name was changed from www.tomsktaiga.com to www.tomsktaiga.net to reflect the networking aims of the project.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

This has been a challenging year for the project, beginning with the change of leadership and the opportunities that represented. Clearer lines of communication meant that more information could be obtained about progress on key project objectives, particularly FSC certification and the development of trade in non-timber products. The actions agreed on Wayne Talbot's visit to Russia were reviewed, making discussions with IIES staff more focussed on output than had been the case previously, which allowed cultural differences to be identified which were contributing to delays in making progress. This culminated in the decision to develop a tailored training programme for Svetlana Kozlova in order to give focussed insight into how UK businesses operate and how this knowledge could be incorporated into approaches to UK companies by IIES and the community production units (see Annex 4 items 7, 8, 9 and 10).

The visit by SK afforded the opportunity for her to accompany WTA staff to BTO offices for a project review and meet with the students from CUEx who had been to Russia on the years 1 and 2 expeditions as well as the students planning to participate in the year 3 expedition (see Annex 4 item 11). The visit included meetings with Tree Council's Director-General Pauline Buchanan-Black and the Director of Urban Programmes Margaret Lipscombe before and after the Traidcraft course to review objectives and action plans (see Annex 4 item 12). A detailed list of actions was produced (see Annex 4 item 13) which would be reviewed in a weekly dialogue between the project leader and IIES.

Following the identification of Assinovskii Forest as a potential FSC location, the 2006 fieldwork expedition took place, ascertaining that the stands studied had a significantly lower biodiversity value than those studied in Kaltayskii in 2005. The study of deadwood as an indicator of biodiversity was of particular interest to the Russian foresters, to whom this was a comparatively new concept, and illustrates the potential for the exchange of scientific knowledge in this project. A lower density of dead wood was found in the Siberian conifer stands at Assinovskii compared with those in Kaltayskii, which suggested that the forest may have been managed in the past but this is undocumented. It was not possible to assess the extent to which the studied stands are representative of the stands in the Tomsk region, but the comparison between the stands studied in the two years suggests that the stands in the Kaltayskii region around Lake Kireksoe are outstanding and are a potential conservation zone if FSC certification is applied for.

The sociological research included in the 2006 expedition (see Annex 4 item 3 for the aims of the social research) investigated the ways in which the forest is used by different social groups and documented their perceptions of sustainability; the research showed that local villagers need to be more involved in the management of the forest, as indicated in the principles and criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council, than they currently are. The impact of the new Forest Code on the requirement to involve local communities as part of the ongoing management of the forest will be assessed in year 3. IIES have already been invited to meet with the ministry involved in economic forestry development to help to advise on the development of sustainable forestry. The existence of the project appears to be seen as a good way to inform the application of the new forestry law. Without the project, this conversation and discussion may not have happened. It creates an opportunity for a positive outcome of the project in which a model for FSC would be presented to the whole region not just to Tomsk.

Data collected during the expedition was added to the databases at the British Trust for Ornithology by Dr Chris Hewson under the guidance of Dr Rob Fuller. Dr Hewson will be taking Dr Fuller's place in the Year 3 expedition as Dr Fuller is on sabbatical leave and became involved in the planning for the final year, working with WTA and the students in consultation with Dr Fuller to ensure that the project's research objectives will be met.

IIES have established a working group of children with the Strizh ecological centre to develop a children's Red Data Book of Tomsk, in consultation with Tomsk State University and help raise awareness of the biodiversity value of the forest.

The establishment of sustainable community-led businesses in forest products has made some progress in year 2, in that IIES were able to provide more detailed export requirements information when working with potential suppliers. The course attended by Svetlana Kozlova in the UK in February 2007 enabled detailed pricing to be carried out and this led to the initial conclusion that the UK market is unable to sustain the prices expected from Russian producers, once the cost of freight, insurance and shipping have been taken into account. Issues of quality control and the differing expectations of prices in the UK market and the perception of Russian producers in both pine nuts and birch bark products will need to be developed further by IIES if any real progress is to be made in these areas.

3.3 Standard Output Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	TOTAL
4A	6 CUEX & 7 Russian students	7 CUEX 1 Russia	6 CUEX 7 Russia		21
4B	6 weeks each year	6	6		12
4C	1 (UK); 2 (Russia)	2 Russia	1 UK, 2 Ru		5
4D	6 weeks each year	6	6		12
6B:	6 teachers/3 schools	60 tchrs 30 schs	6 tchrs 3 schs		66 tchrs 33 schs
7	School Forestry/Tree Nursery Handbooks / posters / leaflets	120 handbooks	2 posters 40 leaflets		162 publications
7	Field Survey Handbooks	0	0		0
8	3 people x 2 weeks yr1 1 person x 1 wk year 2 3 people x 2 wks year 3	4	1		5
10	100 tree ID sheets	100	n/a		100
10	50 on FSC	50	n/a		50
10	50 on IIES activities	0	50		50
10	100 on rare species	0	0		0
11B	1 from BTO	1	n/a		1
12A	1 on biodiversity	1	1		2
12B	1 to be enhanced	1	1		2

14A	2 on FSC certification	2	2		4
14A	3 school workshops	6	n/a		6
14A	1 monitoring seminar	1	n/a		1
15A	2 national press releases RU	2	2		4
15B	3 local press releases RU	3	3		6
15C	1 national press release UK	1	0		1
15D	1 local press release UK	1	1		2
17A	1 school forest network	6	n/a		6
17A	1 CUEX network	1	1		2
17A	1 forest products network	n/a	0		0
19C	3 Local radio RU	3	3		6
19D	1 Local radio UK	1	n/a		1
20	£5394 capital equipment	£3836	n/a		£3836
	Export market - timber & non-timber products	0	0		0
	Report on FSC criteria	1	0		1
	Reports fieldwork leaders	1	1		2
	Annual Reports by IIES	1	1		2
	Annual Reports by Community Production Units	0	0		0
	CPU Meetings	0	0		0
	Traidcraft Market Research Report	2	n/a		2
	Project web site	1	n/a		1

Table 2 Publications

Type *	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
(eg journals, manual, CDs)	(title, author, year)	(name, city)	(eg contact address, website)	(if applicable)

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Whilst the fieldwork surveying has gone ahead to document the biodiversity in parts of the Assinovskii area, progress towards FSC certification has been slower than predicted at this stage of the project. SLIMF was considered as an alternative but was judged by Pricebatch Altai to be inappropriate for the Assinovskii and Kaltaiskii forests as it is aimed at small and low

intensity managed forests. The forests are considered to be high intensity managed forests and so FSC certification is the only suitable option. Training on FSC certification for IIES staff has proven to be a key development, as it has established them as local experts and so help build legacy that will continue after the project.

The uncertainty brought about by the delays to the much-anticipated changes to the Russian Forest Code meant that organisations were reluctant to consider committing to working towards FSC certification until the new Code came into being on 1st January 2007. The Taiga Rescue Network have raised concerns about the new Code and the “failure of the Forest Code to guarantee effective rights to local communities and indigenous forest dependent peoples”¹ and this echoes concerns identified by Stephen Whitfield in the research on the social elements of the project. Progress towards FSC certification must ensure that community groups are involved in discussions as appropriate; IIES have been working with community groups but this needs to be further developed in Year 3.

IIES organised discussions with three felling companies in year 2 and it appeared that the most likely organisation to apply was Magor Plus. Negotiations are to continue in Year 3. IIES’s contact with FSC audit companies has taken place with some progress on the certification process, with impact assessments on areas of the Kaltayskii forest completed and tasks identified which need to be carried out in order to meet the certification requirements. Svetlana Kozlova is considering studying a PhD in Forest Stewardship Council practices and this could represent a constructive legacy for the project. This is in addition to the potential for the model created by the project to be adopted in the Tomsk region as a whole.

3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The training on FSC certification received by IIES staff has enabled them to run workshops and engage with local felling companies and so raise awareness and knowledge of FSC certification. IIES have subsequently been asked to advise the local economic and ecological

¹ Taiga Rescue Network, Comments on the New Russian Forest Code, January 2007

Ministries on development of sustainable forestry. Their involvement in training foresters on the value of FSC is being seen to have an impact as they are examining working practices to see what changes would be required in order to apply for certification.

The identification of key species in the 2005 expedition has led to conservation and the recognition of these areas by forest organisations that will be considered in case of FSC certification on the Kaltaiskii forest.

Investigations by IIES into eco-tourism in year 2 were hampered by a lack of understanding of the UK holiday and leisure market. The expectations of Western tourists going to the Tomsk region were that they would encounter either exceptional wildlife densities or cultural experiences to justify the distances involved. The impact of the limitations of the state control of holiday travel into the area were investigated by Svetlana Kozlova during her time in the UK and this led to the suggestion that activity holidays or student research expeditions may be more realistic ventures for the future. This is to be examined in Year 3.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

The management of the project has been streamlined since the change of project leader and there are now clearer lines of communication between Russian and UK partners. Activity reports are being obtained and are more focussed on project outcomes but this is something which needs to be continually monitored. Detailed project plans are to be produced by IIES as a tool to aid communication on progress and monitor outcomes, once the revised objectives are agreed on the project leader's visit to Russia in May. These will be applied to the project's logical framework, which will then be submitted to the Secretariat for approval and the results communicated to all relevant project partners.

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

The first annual reviewer recommended that more detail be included in this Annual Report rather than rely on the appendices to provide that. The responsibility for the report production has been given to the project managers WTA rather than the report writer identified at the project design stage, who realised shortly before the last report deadline that he was unable to produce the report. It is appreciated that the project is large and complex and not easy to fit into the report limitations recommended by Darwin, but it is hoped that this report contains a more satisfactory level of detail.

Information on the legal and institutional framework has changed towards the end of Year 2 with the introduction of the Forestry Code in January 2007. It has not clear what the impact will be in the Tomsk region. More work needs to be done on this in Year 3 if we are to put mechanisms in place to involve the local community in the development of trade in timber and non-timber forest products. IIES are being asked to consult with local economy and ecology ministries in order to implement the principles of FSC in this regard.

The timetable for progress towards certification does need to be reviewed. Progress has been made in negotiations with felling companies and FSC certification organisations and this may result in an application being made in Kaltaiskii in year 3. The timetable will be amended and submitted to the Secretariat for approval.

The reports on the fieldwork have been completed; the habitat surveying and social research were combined into one report by the UK expedition team, with the report from the Russian expedition team from the 2006 expedition translated into English in April 2007. Comments were sought from Dr Hewson at BTO on the outcomes of the Russian expedition.

The marketing reports produced by Traidcraft in birch bark products and pine nuts have been used by IIES in discussions with producers of such products and have illustrated the gap in understanding of the market forces at work. Simply, the UK market is unable to pay the prices expected by the Russian producers of pine nuts and birch bark products.

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

An issue arose some months after the 2006 fieldwork expedition and involved allegations of serious misconduct by one of the Russian students during the expedition. A thorough and delicate investigation took place which revealed that there had been miscommunication about what had happened, and that the allegations made were totally unfounded. The risk assessment has been amended for Year 3 to help ensure that all expedition members are aware of the possible distorting effects of alcohol and the distance from home.

7. Sustainability

The project activities fit the strategy of biodiversity conservation of the Ministry of Nature of the Russia Federation and the tasks required to implement the strategy. Expeditions conducted under the project are a great resource for the creation of special protected areas and genetic flora reserves revealed during the scientific research. IIES have received a proposal from State institutions to continue work on the creation of Special Protected Areas in the Tomsk region in order to protect the habitats of rare and endangered species. There was also a suggestion from WWF Russia to continue the project work to create principles to reveal "Forests of High Potential Value" that are required to be identified according to FSC principles. It is also necessary to identify these forests and put them on the map.

The two Traidcraft marketing reports have been of great value to the local community groups involved in birch bark and pine nuts products by explaining the characteristics of the UK and European market; these reports give directions for local exporters to follow in order to develop business with the UK. The Administration of Tomsk oblast is very interested in these results and in developing other steps to build bridges between Tomsk exporters and UK importers.

Literature published within the project is considered as being of high importance and IIES have received proposals to increase the number of some of the materials produced; this is of particular significance to around 50 forest schools that do not have an access to the Internet and have a lack of up-to-date materials.

IIES have already been asked to give advice to companies on FSC certification who will wish to retain their services and introduce FSC certification in the future. The plans of Svetlana Kozlova to apply to study a PhD on the stewardship also has potential for monitoring biodiversity and the impact on the local communities of any such trade in timber as well as the threats to the forest identified at the project's inception. The establishment of IIES as local experts on FSC has led to the organisation acting as advisors to local government ministries and this profile will be enhanced as the project continues in year 3 and the results of the expeditions are published.

Further funding is being sought by WTA to continue the project in order to build on the achievements beyond the life of the Darwin funding period.

8. Dissemination

Publicity for the expedition and the school forestry initiative has been generated by IIES during year 2 and the continued involvement of Russian partners such as Tomsk State University, TEPA and Tomsk city administrators, means that the endeavours to raise the profile of the biodiversity of the region are being successful.

IIES also disseminate information about the project and share the results of the project with organizations that work in other regions of Russia such as the Novosibirsk region, Kraskoyark region, Altay region and Moscow. Greenpeace of Russia, WWF – Russian, National FSC office

in Russia and other environmental organizations and universities like Moscow State University also receive information about the project via e-mail and during the visits of project staff to these organizations. Exchange of information has led to free consultations that IIES have with the most famous experts in forest protection in Russia. IIES have also been asked to publish articles in some popular magazines produced by WWF Russia and a commercial forest magazine in Tomsk region.

Information exchange will be continued when the project finishes via the Internet and by participation in seminars and conferences on the project themes that plan to be conducted by Taiga Rescue Network. IIES have also some regular financial support from local government that can be used for this purpose.

9. Project Expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 3.

Table 3 Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)	Expenditure	Balance
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10. **OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2006/07

Project summary		Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2006 - March 2007	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>				<i>(do not fill not applicable)</i>
<p>Purpose (insert original project purpose statement)</p> <p>To help conserve the biodiversity of the taiga forest and to raise awareness of its social, economic and environmental value, by creating a model of sustainable forestry use involving local communities.</p>	<p>(insert original purpose level indicators)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish FSC certified forests. 2. New knowledge on habitat and species composition of managed forests. 3. Establish sustainable community-led 	<p>(report impacts and achievements resulting from the project against purpose indicators – if any)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SLIMF considered but inappropriate in High Intensity Managed Forests. Meetings with foresters, felling companies and FSC audit organisations is helping to identify a potential chain of interested parties. 2. Second forest Assinovskii assessed on fieldwork expedition. Lower biodiversity found, suggesting Kaltaiskii area from Year 1 area of particular richness. Sociological research carried out in 	<p>(report any lessons learned resulting from the project & highlight key actions planning for next period)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further negotiations required to begin the FSC certification process in Kaltaiskii. 2. Third fieldwork expedition to be carried out in Kaltaiskii, on the edge of deep taiga and managed forest, with meadowland available also; 	

	<p>businesses for forest products.</p> <p>4. Greater awareness of the value of forests.</p>	<p>Kopilovka.</p> <p>3. Training has taken place for IIES in the UK on trading with UK. Negotiations with potential suppliers and buyers have taken place; price is the issue which suggests there is no viable trade in these products.</p> <p>4. More work done with School Forests to plant trees and raise awareness of biodiversity. School children to create Children's Red Data Book of Tomsk.</p>	<p>sociological research to be undertaken in Kirek village.</p> <p>3. Investigation into the status of potential trade in timber and non-timber products to be carried out by the project leader in May 2007 and a detailed plan produced if it is judged to be viable.</p> <p>4. The Children's Red Data Book to be completed and all required publications printed and distributed.</p>
Outputs			
4A (undergrads):	6 CUEX & 7 IIES students Expedition Aug-06	Done- Expedition reports produced by CUEX and Russians	Risk assessment expanded for Year 3. Equipment list to be reviewed prior to the expedition.
4B (training wks):	6 weeks each year Expedition Aug-06	Done- Expedition reports produced by CUEX and Russians	Risk assessment expanded for Year 3. Equipment list to be reviewed prior to the expedition.
4C (postgrads):	(UK); 2 (Russia) Expedition Aug-06	Done- Expedition report produced	Have improved recruiting methods and refined briefing for students.

4D (training wks):	6 weeks each year Aug-06	Done- Expedition report produced	Have improved recruiting methods and refined briefing for students.
6B: (training wks):	IIES training 6 tchrs/3 schs Sep 06	Tree planting initiatives were implemented in October 2006 by IIES in conjunction with Tomsk City Administration, who financed the tree planting and trained 5 teachers in 5 schools.	Evaluation strategy to be devised to assess the impact on local school children.
7 (materials):	School Forestry Posters and Leaflets Sep 06	Having produced Handbooks in year 1, it was felt by IIES that posters and leaflets would be a suitable format for year 2 and produced two posters sent to one school and 40 leaflets were distributed to two schools.	
7 (materials):	Field Survey Materials – Dec 06	Twelve copies of the Field Survey Handbooks from the 2005 expedition were distributed in December 2006 to the Russian expedition members and project partners.	
8 (UK proj staff in RU):	1 person x 1 week May 06	Wayne Talbot visited Russia 27 th April to 3 rd May 2006 to review progress. This visit proved invaluable in setting up new project management routines so that subsequent progress would be clearer.	Project progress to be reviewed in May 2007 and a further visit planned as part of the exit strategy.
10 (field guides/manuals):	100 on rare species	These are to be produced in December 2007 by IIES.	
10 (field guides/manuals):	50 on IIES activities	Booklets on IIES's activities were distributed amongst UK and Russian project partners as well as organizations encountered during meetings about the project.	
12A (new databases):	1 on biodiversity – Feb 07	IIES created a database of rare and endangered species in Tomsk Oblast based on the Tomsk Oblast Red Data Book.	

12B (existing databases):	1 enhanced – October 06	Done by BTO	
14A (seminars organised):	2 on FSC certification Aug-06	Done by IIES	
14A (seminars organised):	1 monitoring seminar – August 2006	Done by IIES	Led to training on FSC for IIES.
15A (national press releases RU):	2 – achieved December 2006	Done by IIES	
15B (local press releases RU):	3 – achieved March 2007	Done by IIES	
15C (national press releases UK):	1 - not achieved	The press officer used by the project felt there was no angle he could see for this year.	BTO press officer to be contacted to produce year 3 press release.
15D (local press releases UK):	1 – achieved June 2006	The Cambridge Evening News featured a piece on the expedition on 23 rd June 2006 which is included in Annex 3.	Further press coverage to be obtained by CUEX.
17A (new dissemination networks):	1 CUEX March 2006	New group of students recruited, 5 from CUEX and one Masters student at UCL.	
17A (new dissemination networks):	1 forest products – network established but not producing goods	Contacts established and developed with producers and potential buyers but these have not yet come to fruition.	Work needed to progress this if trade is to be developed in timber and non-timber products.

19C (local radio RU):	3 – achieved February 2007 (not targeted)	Publicity for the project was obtained by IIES even though it was not targeted for year 2.	
Export market for timber & non-forest products	Not achieved	We have not yet been able to develop an export market for timber and non-forest products.	The impact of the new Forest Code is to be assessed in year 3.
1 international monitoring report on FSC criteria	Not achieved	We have not yet achieved FSC certification of any forests.	
Detailed reports by fieldwork leaders	April 2007	Reports produced on habitat and sociological research by CUEX in the UK and by Russian partners.	Translation of the reports needs to be done more quickly so as to allow partners to benefit from the findings.
Annual Reports for local gov, state forestry, NGOs	Mar 2007	Report produced by IIES coordinating work on the project.	
Annual Reports from Community Production Units	Not achieved	No Community Production Units in place.	
Annual Records of Community Meetings	March 2007	Records included by IIES.	
Project web site	January 2007	Transferred to WTA and domain name registered as www.tomsktaiga.net – to be rewritten using Microsoft Publisher as the previous author had used university software to produce it.	To be rewritten in May 2007 to include online copies of expedition reports and findings and support the dissemination of results.

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the UK to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.</p>			
<p><u>Purpose:</u> To help conserve the biodiversity of the taiga forest and to raise awareness of its social, economic and environmental value, by creating a model of sustainable forestry use involving local communities. This model will provide a detailed forest action plan as progress towards meeting Russian BAP targets.</p>	<p>Establish FSC certified forests. New knowledge on habitat and species composition of managed forests. Establish sustainable community-led businesses for forest products. Greater awareness of the value of forests.</p>	<p>Partner institution reports. Ecological monitoring and survey reports. Publications by partner organisations.</p>	<p>That Government policies and programmes remain supportive of conservation work. That all partners involved remain viable and committed.</p>
<p>Establish FSC certification.</p>	<p>Yr 1: Training given to IIES and selected forest managers on FSC certification Price Batch and Tree Council staff with advice from UK Forestry Commission. Yr 2: FSC certification over an</p>	<p>International FSC criteria met and independently monitored, with subsequent reports. FSC products produced and sold.</p>	<p>Existing protection legislation for forest areas remains in place. Forest areas selected for FSC certification not subject to threats from illegal felling or oil and gas exploration.</p>

	<p>area of at least 30,000 ha.</p> <p>Yr 3: Initiate FSC certification in at least 2 other areas of at least 30,000 ha.</p>		
<p>Ecological survey and monitoring.</p>	<p>Annual one-month monitoring and survey period in proposed FSC areas, with a minimum of 2 ecology professors and 5 ecology students from Tomsk, 5 students from Cambridge University (7 are currently involved), BTO, Forestry Commission and Tree Council staff.</p> <p>Yr 1: Establishment of methodology through discussion with experts from Tomsk State University, BTO, Forestry Commission and Tree Council.</p> <p>Monitoring work in other threatened forest areas.</p> <p>Increased information on bird and forest ecology and distribution of RDB species.</p>	<p>Detailed ecological monitoring and survey reports produced.</p> <p>This will produce a database of biodiversity data to be held by TSU, including information on distribution of RDB species.</p> <p>Reports given to local government, state forestry and conservation organisations.</p> <p>Findings highlighted in popular media and TV in Russia and UK, articles and reports, with copies of all publications sent to Darwin Initiative.</p>	<p>Weather and political conditions allow travel to remote areas.</p>
<p>Managed Forests: Develop community-based harvesting of sustainable forest products</p>	<p>Yr 2: Minimum of 3 Community Production Units established, producing sustainable forest products.</p> <p>Profits used by local</p>	<p>Production Reports.</p> <p>Records of Community Meetings.</p> <p>Traidcraft Market Research Report.</p> <p>Media articles.</p>	<p>Trade between Siberia and UK continues to be possible both economically and politically.</p>

	<p>communities for forest conservation and community benefit.</p> <p>Yr 3: minimum of 3 Units self-financing.</p> <p>Traidcraft research UK markets for products, products sold in UK in yr 2.</p>		
Raising awareness of the value of forests.	<p>Establishment of at least 3 schools with School Forests by yr 2.</p> <p>Production and maintenance of project website.</p> <p>Publicity in local Tomsk media.</p>	<p>Project Reports.</p> <p>School Forestry and Tree Nursery Manuals.</p> <p>Website.</p> <p>Media and TV articles.</p>	School Forests will be match funded (agreed).
Development of Eco-tourism.	<p>2 'fieldwork-style' & 3 'home-stay' ecotourism projects established in FSC forests & elsewhere by end of year 3.</p> <p>2 articles & 1 TV broadcast in Tomsk, & 2 articles in UK national press.</p>	<p>Project reports.</p> <p>Publicity for taiga forest tourism in UK and elsewhere.</p> <p>Media articles.</p>	<p>That international tourism trends do not predicate against visiting Russia or Siberia.</p> <p>No Darwin funds are needed for this part of the project (agreed).</p>

Activities	Milestones
Market research reports	May - June 2005 Traidcraft reports, completed in time for visit.
Workshops	April –June 05 IIES, Tree Council and Price Batch agree 1 st potential FSC forest.
Fieldwork.	July 05 All partners and students meet in Tomsk:
Production of non-timber products	Workshop on ecological survey and monitoring facilitated by Dr Fuller and Dr Blinova and other Tomsk State University academics.
FSC certification	Monitoring fieldwork led by Dr Fuller & Dr Blinova, with UK & Russian students.
Publicity Material	FSC framework discussions with IIES, Tree Council and Pricebatch, identifying further suitable forests and training their managers to apply for FSC.
School Forests	Year 2: 2nd Monitoring fieldwork. School Forests begin. First Community Production Units (CPUs) established. First sales of products in UK. FSC certification process begins in at least 2 new areas.
Ecotourism projects	Year 3 - 3rd Monitoring fieldwork. 3 CPUs self-financing, ecotourism projects begin. Final Assessment and Future Planning workshop.
	Articles and media reports from year 2 onwards.

Annex 3 Supplementary material by IIES

A CD of supporting documentation has been compiled by IIES containing:

Report on the Project Year 2

Annex 1. The list of RV programmes in which SK made exclusive interviews.

Annex 2. Copy of the article that was published in the Tomsk regional newspaper.

Annex 3. Questionnaire from Kurlekskii timber conversion industrial complex Ltd that was analysed and sent to WTA.

Annex 4. Translation of the FSC certification costs for timber company Magor-Plus.

Annex 5. The results of the Round table regarding FSC development in Tomsk oblast that was conducted on 20 of June, 2006.

Annex 6. The results of business trip of SK (internship) to Moscow under the Darwin project.

Annex 7. Received contacts and useful links within framework of the internship “The forest certification integration in Tomsk Oblast for socially active business development” under the Darwin project.

Annex 8. Draft of the program and strategy to organize Inter-regional FSC seminar in cooperation with WWF – Russia and FSC Russia office (Tomsk, 7th June, 2007).

Annex 9. The first version of expedition 2005 report

Annex 10. Second version of expedition 2005 report

Annex 11. Russian scientists’ reports with the results of the expedition 2006 (translated version)

Annex 12. The list of possible Tomsk city excursions for participants of the expeditions and other visitors.

Annex 13. Some photos from Assinovskii expedition camp and expedition 2006

Annex 14. Potential places for research expeditions.

Annex 15. Some photos with the view of the camp for the expedition 2007

Annex 16. Photo from the action for planting trees conducted by school forestry members.

Annex 17. Sample of the diploma that was given to the members of the action to plant trees.

Annex 18. Information about the products of Pine nuts company Lesnoi tzar that was translated under the Darwin project and sent to the potential importer in the UK

Annex 19. Some protocols from the main meetings with Pine nuts company Lesnoi tzar

Annex 20. First ecotourism proposal for the Naturetrek

Annex 21. Response of the Naturetrek to the 1st ecotourism proposal of IIES and WTA

Annex 22. 2d ecotourism proposal for the Naturetrek

Annex 23. New forest structure in the Tomsk region

Annex 4 - Supplementary material by WTA

Annual Report 2

Item 1 Minutes Tree Council Mtg 25th April 2006

Item 2 Reports Meetings in Russia May 2006

Item 3 Aims for the social research

Item 4 Cambridge Evening News feature on CUEX expedition

Item 5 CUEX Expedition Final Report

Item 6 Minutes BTO Mtg 29th September 2006

Item 7 Programme for SK visit to UK 2007

Item 8 Traidcraft course for SK – Terms of reference

Item 9 Traidcraft pre-course questionnaire

Item 10 Traidcraft training programme for SK

Item 11 Minutes Project meeting 24th January 2007

Item 12 Minutes Tree Council meeting 6th February 2007

Item 13 IIES Action Points February 2007

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please advise Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk that the report will be send by post on CD, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table?	
Do not include claim forms or communications for Defra with this report.	