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# Darwin Project Ref: 14-045: Sustainable Support for Biodiversity & Forestry in Tomsk Taiga, Siberia

## Minutes of meeting Friday September 29<sup>th</sup> 2006

**Time:** 10:00 to 12:00

**Venue:** The British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU

**Attendees:**

BTO: Rob Fuller (RF), Chris Hewson (CH)

CUEX: Katie Barber (KB), Alison Beresford (ABe), Aidan Brown (ABr), Lucy Malpas (LM), Blaise Martay (BM), Stephen Whitfield (SW)

Tree Council: Margaret Lipscombe (ML)

WTA Education Services: Wayne Talbot (WT)

**Apologies:**

Janet Sackman (JS)

Purpose: To review progress on the Year 2 Expedition to Tomsk

## 1. Brief overview of the project status

WT explained that the project was focusing on the FSC certification and the production of birch bark products. The development of pine nuts and eco tourism are a secondary priority at present.

## 2. Discussion of expedition results

SW outlined the sociological research undertaken after referring to FSC certification criteria. A report will be sent outlining the main points - to be circulated after this summary.

The key recommendations from this research are:

- The need for better communication and education concerning management
- A need to build confidence and motivation in smaller communities

The ecological part of the expedition has provided data that was handed over to CH and RF from BTO to analyse. There is a possible contact for someone interested in helping with data analysis. When the contact details are provided RF will contact to discuss.



Actions:

- 2.1 SW to produce report and send to JS for distribution and inclusion with the next report to Defra.
- 2.2 RF/CH to analyse the data and produce a summary report for inclusion in the next Defra report.
- 2.3 Contact for data analysis to be passed to RF.
- 2.4 RF to contact data analysis helper.

### 3. Lessons learned from the expedition

Several issues were outlined in a paper circulated by the students. These will be used to raise key issues with IIES in Russia. The key areas of concern are:

- The provision of food and water
- The transport provision
- Lack of clear explanation of how the expedition supports the project
- Need for clearer protocols for risks

Actions:

WT to discuss student feedback with IIES staff.

WT to incorporate feedback into recruitment and training of the students for the Year 3 expedition.

### 4. Dissemination of the Year 2 expedition results

This will be discussed further when reports are complete.

Actions:

- 4.1 RF/WT to discuss when reports are complete.

### 5. Discussion of incorporating RF's sabbatical in plans for Year 3

BTO staff are to discuss further and decide on next steps.

Actions:

- 5.1 RF/CH to discuss sabbatical and update WT on progress.



## 6. Aims and objectives for the Year 3 expedition

The context for the existing data in Kaltaiskii needs to be created. This will require mobility in the forest for next year's expedition to identify the extent and locations of stand types. Maps from Russian partners are needed.

Actions:

6.1 RF to advise WT on year 3 expedition location.

6.2 WT to obtain maps from Russian partners as required.

## 7. Recruitment for the Year 3 expedition

Fresher's week offers an opportunity to recruit potential members of next year's expedition. A meeting between WT and this year's expedition members is to be arranged as soon as possible.

Actions:

7.1 WT to meet with students asap.