

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

Minutes of review meeting September 8th 2005

Time: 12:00 to 14:00

Venue: WTA Royston office

Attendees: Kevin Hand, Wayne Talbot, Janet Sackman

Apologies: Nick Langley

Review of project plan

- 1) WT to update the plan with IIES. Copy sent to JS for distribution.
 - Action: JS to update and distribute project plan
- 2) WT still to contact Steve Trudgill at Cambridge regarding moral geography and a possible project to research this.
 - Action: WT to contact Steve Trudgill at Cambridge
- 3) KH has passed on the action point for Norwich University to Rob Fuller. To be followed up.
 - Action: Rob Fuller to contact Norwich University
- 4) Profile of the students next year discussed, JS suggested contacting Dr Miller regarding potential involvement of Cambridge-based Russian speakers.
 - Action: JS to contact Fiona Miller regarding possible involvement of UK-based Russian speakers

Administration update

- 1) WT went through the invoice with Svetlana – copies of original receipts were left in Russia; the receipt for the largest single item – car hire – had not been seen. This had increased from around £1,000 to £2,500. It was agreed that JS would ask Svetlana Koslova of IIES to provide copies of receipts even though these are in Russian – there would be no need to have them translated.
- 2) The salary costs of the Russian partners were itemised on the invoice to include taxes. This is not paid for by Darwin and was not included in the original budget. This amount to be adjusted and the concept explained to IIES by JS.
 - Action: JS to contact SK of IIES to ensure that Darwin guidelines for salaries are followed and that the claim reflects what was budgeted for.



- 3) KH pointed out that the people listed in the Darwin budget may not be the ones receiving the monies itemised in IIES's invoice. This is to be checked up by JS.
 - Action: JS to clarify the significance of salaries being paid to nominated employees.
- 4) JS to attend the meeting with the CUEx on 22nd & 23rd October with KH to discuss with Wing Sham to transfer the web site to WTA for future use. This will be maintained by JS to have input into it and develop it to add other functions such as eco-tourism, birch bark products and pine nuts.
 - Action: JS to attend meeting on the late afternoon/evening of 22nd October, with KH there for at least some of the time.
 - KH to confirm times to JS.

2. Action points from report on WT's visit to project

- 1) KH talked about the possibility of BTCV volunteers to go out in 2007, it was agreed that he would contact them to discuss.
 - Action: KH to contact BTCV
- 2) Concerns raised about the workload being proposed for IIES - overcome by the new organisational structure outlined by WT in his report. WT to clarify key points with IIES on workload.
 - Action: WT to contact IIES to discuss workload and identify any problem areas

3. Administration update

- 1) Public Relations – update from Nick required. Copy of final version of the press release to be obtained from NL by JS – to be sent to the editor of Horticulture Week and Taiga Rescue Network as well as any other organisations identified.
 - Action: NL to provide copies of press releases and confirm when they were/have been sent to Horticulture Week and Taiga Rescue Network etc.
- 2) Copies of press releases to be sent to NL for inclusion in the October report – including those from Russia.
 - Action: JS to contact IIES to ask for copies of press articles etc to be sent to NL.
 - Action: NL to include copies of press articles in report to Darwin.
- 3) The first 6-monthly report is due to Darwin by the end of October, to be produced by NL. To meet Defra requirements, it was noted that this report should be 3-4 pages long with copies of minutes of meetings, reports on activities, press articles, and any literature produced by the project both in the UK and in Russia. JS to contact Svetlana to ask for them to send copies of anything that could be contributed to the report – email if possible or by post/courier if within the budget.
 - Action: JS to contact SK to ask for copy for the October report.



- Action: JS to ensure NL is sent copies of relevant documents for inclusion in the report.
- Action: NL to produce report by the end of October.

4. FSC status update

- 1) Discussion about the tension between FSC certification and the desire to protect the biodiversity. Potential problem with the value of the output timber – this may result in the Kaltai forest failing the FSC criteria.
- 2) A different potential approach was discussed, that of switching from the Kaltai forest for timber production to another forest and getting some kind of protection status for this area. The Red Data information obtained has already enhanced the status of the forest – this may translate into designating the forest as a World Heritage site, or equivalent. KH to follow this up once WT has approached this topic with SK by email.
 - Action: WT to email SK to propose possible change to FSC forest.
 - Action: KH to consider appropriate designation for Kaltai forest if IIES agree to this.
- 3) Possible discussion with Heather from Price Batch to be had – she wants timber to be exported, possibly FSC certified, so that we may protected status for Kaltai, and timber could be sourced from a forest in the north-west of Tomsk.
 - Action: WT to contact Heather Godsmark from PB.
- 4) Konstantin Koslov is investigating what forests might fit FSC criteria, report to be included in the October report.
 - Action: WT to email Svetlana Koslova to discuss the idea of changing the forest.
 - Action: KH to discuss with Heather Godsmark once reply has been received from SK.

5. Birch bark & pine nuts

- 1) **Birch bark:** information awaited from IIES about distribution of the finished products. To be chased up by WT.
 - Action: WT to contact IIES to get details of distribution of pine bark products.
- 2) **Pine nuts:** Dr Adam's recommendation of the existing company was discussed. KH has contact information on producers; WT was promised such information but that has not yet been received. It was obvious from the visits from KH and WT that commercial pine nut production from the forests needs to be combined with that already being done by the company suggested by Dr Adams. This helps to give value to the forest independent of FSC certification.
 - Action: WT to contact IIES to chase up information on pine nut production.
- 3) The issue of which organisation might handle the setting up of Fair Trade with the communities involved in production was discussed; KH had approached various organisations from existing



and new contacts but no-one was able to take this on. It was decided to stick with the original plan of Traidcraft investigating trade in these products.

- Action: WT to discuss both pine nut & birch bark production with Jackie MacAdam of Traidcraft as originally proposed.
- 4) It was agreed to go ahead with Traidcraft to investigate both pine nuts and birch bark products. It was noted that the report will not cover the issue of exporting these items to the UK. This is to be investigated by IIES.
- Action: WT to ask IIES to provide details of proposed distribution channels for products.

6. Eco-tourism

- 1) The project looks at eco-tourism being developed in Year 3 but despite this apparent long lead-time it was agreed that we need to look at planning this activity now, given the time taken to get the message out into the potential markets and help to identify possible clients. Methods of generating interest in visits to Tomsk were discussed but at this stage no firm proposals were made. It was however agreed that a timeline for eco-tourism would be produced.
- Action: WT to produce timeline for eco-tourism.
- 2) Hotels – range of places visited by KH and WT. Prices included in the report of WT's visit to Russia.
- 3) Boats – cost seen to be prohibitive, possibility of contributions from students on expeditions.
- 4) Ace Tours – KH discussed the types of work they do, to explore further the possibilities of tours there. The use of the web site to promote such tours was discussed, as there were a variety of possibilities. To be discussed further.

7. Any other business

- 1) KH raised the question of Marina's email from TSU asking what to do with the information gathered by them during the expedition. It was decided to reply to ask her to translate the results so that they could be included in the Defra report, and be retained as part of the evidence of biodiversity in the event of an application to World Heritage status.
- Action: KH to contact Marina to ask for a translation of her findings for inclusion in the Defra report as well as being sent to the Database in Russia.

8. Date of next meeting

- 1) JS and KH to meet on 22nd October.
- 2) Project team meeting date to be decided.