

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	14:045
Project Title	Support for Biodiversity in Tomsk Taiga, Siberia, Russia.
Country(ies)	Russia
UK Organisation	Tree Council
Collaborator(s)	UK: British Trust for Ornithology (BTO); WTA Education Services Ltd (WTA); Pricebatch (Altai) UK; Traidcraft. Russia: Institute for International Environmental Safety (IIES); Tomsk State University (TSU); Pricebatch (Altai); Oblcompriroda; Tomsk City Ecological Committee and Department of Local Management for City of Tomsk; Tomsk Region Environment Protection Agency (TEPA); Tomsk State Forestry Agency (TSFA).
Project Leader	Wayne Talbot, WTA Education Services Ltd
Report date	October 18 th 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	www.tomsktaiga.net

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

- Final four-week fieldwork monitoring expedition in July completed with data on habitats collected ready for analysis.
- Discussions took place between Dr Chris Hewson of the BTO whilst he was in Tomsk for the first two weeks of the fieldwork monitoring with the academics from TSU concerning data collection and analysis.
- Preparation has begun of official documents for adopting three territories as Special Protected Areas (OZU) by the government using expedition data.
- An FSC Regional Working Group has been created and agreed with the FSC National Working Group, in partnership with local government and commercial interests, to develop and implement a regional standard, use the fieldwork monitoring methodologies to define high natural value forests selection criteria and control and monitor FSC certification development on the Tomsk region.
- IIES have delivered workshops about FSC to help overcome resistance by foresters to FSC and to overcome the lack of information for local logging companies.
- One logging company has begun to work with the project and regional FSC group to prepare for certification.
- Plans for continuing the ecological survey and monitoring work to reveal further areas of Forest High Value in the Tomsk region (Siberian taiga) have been drafted by Dr. Marina Olonova of TSU and other IIES researchers.
- Continuing forest schools initiative with Pupils and students walked 16 hectares of pine forest during the campaign. 4 full cars of “Kamas” model (16 m³ each) drove the garbage away. Two boards with the inscription: “Our children have cleaned the forest”. Besides, some posters about the danger of wastes for nature and human health with a call not to throw rubbish in the forest were hung in the settlement.
- Production of guidance for markets to develop local trade, focussing on marketing techniques to tell the story of the products. The techniques have been shared with the Department for Economic Development.

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

The logical framework has been reviewed in response to the suggestions by Annual Report reviewers to make the goals achievable within the time frame of the project. The money allocated for FSC certification will be used to train Russian partners on FSC auditing and to purchase a suitable vehicle for them to monitor and help prevent illegal logging. This change will not affect the budget.

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

The draft revised Logical Framework was sent to the Darwin Secretariat for approval.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: **yes, in September 2007 (month/yr)**

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: **yes, in October 2007 (month/yr)**

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No.

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

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

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**