

## **Project Update: February 2010**

The original project plan was for integrated field work to assess the present state of the 7 - 8,000 ha project site. This was necessary in order to prove the ecological significance of the area. However, because funding arrived later than planned, it was not possible to undertake the geobotanical field work, and we decided to change the order of our project work: to undertake an assessment of the area on the basis of archive documents, but covering the entire, approximately, 70,000 ha project area that is included in one administrative unit. In that way the area covered increased ten-fold. This will help us to fulfil the other project tasks.

The creation of a GIS data base of the forest reserves covering some 43,000 ha has been completed. This data were found in the archives of the National Park. There was some difficulty receiving archive material reflecting the area administratively allocated to the category 'agricultural lands,' but this material is now available and is being processed.

When work on the GIS is complete maps will be printed out in rough for carrying out the socio-economic survey which we plan to undertake in the second half of March 2010.