

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to: jane@rufford.org

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Anatoly Lebedev
Project title	Informational and consulting support to the local forest communities in framework of new reform.
RSG reference	9365-2
Reporting period	13th January 2011 – 13th January 2012
Amount of grant	£ 5500
Your email address	swan1@vladivostok.ru
Date of this report	20th January 2012

1. PLEASE INDICATE THE LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT'S ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES AND INCLUDE ANY RELEVANT COMMENTS ON FACTORS AFFECTING THIS.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Three rides over the area, activate local community to control responsibility of FSC-certified company, non-logging of restricted species and efficient supply of firewood for local people				We met with timber companies "Roschinski KLPH", "Terneilesstroy", "Yappi", "Primorski GOK", "Gefest", "Dalnerechenskles", municipal administrations, local Forest service offices, national park "Udege Legend", indigenous commune, commune of old believers. Two rides were conducted by our volunteering journalists Natalia Fonina and Kon-stantin Yanchuk to Dalnerechenski and Chuguevski municipalities and two rides by project coordinator and team to Krasnoarmeiski. <i>Our team and volunteers conducted four rides in April, June, August and November 2011</i>
Preparation of the set of publications, releases, TV shows, their distribution				TV shows were presented to the Regional administration officials of Primorye and to RFE State University students. Two articles of N. Fonina on the issue of illegal logging and violated community interests were published in regional paper "Arsenyev's News". Magazine "Ecology and Busi-ness" published two articles on forest problems in the issue # 1, four in # 2 (Bikin intact forests battle, what is law enforcement, State forest control recreation, Forest use in Primorye by Americans). The most rich on forest issues was # 3: Logging in protected areas, timber business in Primorye – pro and contra, is controlled wood realistic?, FSC in Asia, Reforestation at the RFE, GIS ob forest fires. Magazine # 4 contains our report on Moscow meeting on State Forest Policy, on Climate-forest discussions in Durban, on the legal problems of certified timber in Sweden etc. We distributed our magazine to all local respondents personally and to others by post all over RFE and East Siberia forest concerned agencies (local and regional), NGOs, libraries, schools, universities, mass media and forestry

				<p>businesses.</p> <p><i>K. Yanchuk prepared TV show, N. Fonina a set of articles, A. Lebedev blocks in four magazines. 6 news releases were presented to RSG site</i></p>
<p>Activating sustainable system of firewood supply for local needs</p>				<p>Awaited changes in legislation did not happen, and it was impossible to change the basic model of dealing with logging remainders and processing wastes on the regional and especially municipal level. But we succeed, together with Krasnoarmeiski municipality and local forest service, to initiate companies "Terneylesstroj", "Yappi", "Gefest", to supply firewood for the list of retired and poor citizens and municipal needs in the forest dependent settlements by symbolic price, available for poor. That experience was pointed out and described in some publications of local newspapers and our magazine, and submitted to Primorye Forest service for further official promotion and support.</p> <p><i>Achieved partially by some private initiative</i></p>
<p>Submitting suggestions into upgraded legislate-on and forest governance models, based upon ideas, collected from local communities and businesses, to establish governmental status of State Forest service</p>				<p>Besides collection progressive ideas on sustainable community oriented forestry from local communities, we organised special tour for USA Forest service experts and local forest activists from US West. Also we, together with US Department of Justice organised workshop for RFE forest governance and law enforcement officials regarding US legislation, restricted to import timber products from any country without appropriate justification of it's origin. This workshop clearly demonstrated to Russian officials that there will soon be a legal fence at Chinese border for Russian illegal timber, since US is a key importer of Chinese wood products from Russian timber. All that was published in our magazine and later presented to President Medvedev personally at our meeting in Kremlin in June. After that Medvedev's order to government on the set of environmental issues was partially implemented, and Russian Forest Service</p>

				was excluded from Ministry of nature resources and became independent governmental body with returned authority on the forest inspection. Also, by the end of 2011, government launched process of creation Russian Forest Policy, which BROC was actively involved in as the only representative from RFE.
Provide presence of all news on the current forest reform in mass media and our magazine, including protection and providing community interests in non timber products, warranty of non logging restricted tree species				The problem was that despite increasing status of State Forest Service and adoption of their inspecting authority, legal changes did not still tough many essential legal mistakes before State Congress elections in November and started new wave of staff changes in Forest Service.
Activate pilot projects on timber labelling and checking from logging site to customs point				The problem was that there was no awaited governmental steps and initiative of State Customs to establish such system, which can not be done on regional level
Continue promotion of FSC certification				BROC submitted to the Russian standard a set of remarks and suggestions to the list of FSC criteria and indicators, reflecting RFE specifics, and participated in two workshops with FSC-Russia as a member of Russian working group. But, despite our activity there and many talks with timber businesses we did not turn the mind of timber industrial lobby, trying to block basic FSC standard to keep rights to legally continue industrial logging in protected forests under FSC certificate and reduce environmental patterns of high conservation value forests.
There was request from RSG to currently submit some information on the project progress for RSG website				BROC submitted six analytic reviews on different problems of local and regional forestry and forest dependent communities to RSG website: in January, March, April, May, August and November.
To help local officials and foresters to more reasonably organise forest leases				We promoted in direct talks with forest officials, on workshops and in our appeals to the State Forest Service the project of "Terneilesstroy" company, target to create deep timber processing in mining mono-town, where mining industry failed

				and left thousand people unemployed.
Receive constant and free access to the information on forest use				It remains impossible despite a lot of efforts from NGOs of all levels, including national ones

2. PLEASE EXPLAIN ANY UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES THAT AROSE DURING THE PROJECT AND HOW THESE WERE TACKLED (IF RELEVANT).

Actually the only unforeseen difficulty we've met during this project year was unexpected attack of RFE timber lobby. Biggest holdings, forest service of Primorye and Khabarovsk and forest scientists on actually recently updated Russian FSC standard, and their efforts to equalise high conservation value forests with legal status of protected forests, which means serious reduction and weakening of conservation role of FSC.

3. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES OF YOUR PROJECT.

- Our main outcome was successfully used opportunities to submit our ideas on improvement of the forest practices, summarised from the forest community talks, to the government, timber business and President Medvedev, also in the form of publications in our magazine.
- We achieved good understanding and mutual trust, never existed before, with the most progressive timber industry companies, and started discussing opportunity to create special independent fund of sustainable forestry with broad participation of environmental NGOs, scientists, local community leaders and timber businesses.
- We entered very important process of working out Russian Forest Policy in deep collaboration with top Russian environmental NGOs (Greenpeace, WWF, Socio-ecological Union) and leading forest scientists, as well as with State Public Chamber of Russia.

4. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND HOW THEY HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THE PROJECT (IF RELEVANT).

It was really important first of all that BROCC continued to publish and distribute its magazine with the biggest block on forestry and conservation over the vast range of forest dependent communities and municipalities on the RFE, which still have problems with access to internet and rapidly changed legislation. We collected plenty of thanks from the people in forest for our publications, particularly from middle and small community concerned timber businesses and forest service officers for clarification of the rules of firewood supply, fire protection, public rights to get into the leased forests for non timber products collection, responsibility of FSC-certified companies etc. It was very important for local people and farmers to know that logging operations in protected zones, conducted by small brigades under the label of "forest maintenance" in favour of regional state owned enterprise, are usually illegal by the set of their violations, but the problem is to proof that, which needs involvement of law enforcement group with good and independent forestry expert.

5. ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO CONTINUE THIS WORK?

For sure, BROCC will continue this work, applying for another grants to RSG Foundation and others, including some technical support from local timber businesses. Currently in 2012 we are applying for grant from EU-EIDHR program, titled "Increasing role of local mass media in the involvement of

forest dependent communities into resource management, municipal governance and livelihood improvement” and partners grant from US-based Eurasia Foundation with the project “Support of forest and timber dependent communities in Asian Russia, China and USA in the process of legal compliance verification for timber chains of custody from Russia through China to USA “ (our designated partners are Friends of Siberian Forests – Krasnoyarsk and “Forest Trends”, Washington DC) .

6. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO SHARE THE RESULTS OF YOUR WORK WITH OTHERS?

We keep doing it currently by the broad distribution of our magazine with special articles on all specific projects of BROCC. We also constantly distribute press releases on the most essential and significant events concerned to the project and our activities with the forest communities. Also, being constantly involved into community life thanks to this and other similar projects, we remain deeply aware of the situation in the real forest use and life, and conduct consulting for our special network of specialised mass media, writers and reporters. We also already get feedback from our releases, presented on the RSGF website and on Siberian website “Ecodelo” in Russian, which is getting broadly popular in Russia.

7. TIMESCALE: OVER WHAT PERIOD WAS THE RSG USED? HOW DOES THIS COMPARE TO THE ANTICIPATED OR ACTUAL LENGTH OF THE PROJECT?

As soon as we’ve got the funds by this project just at the beginning of 2011, all our activities were allocated in this year. But since we never stop this kind of collaboration with our forest community activists in different municipalities, we now continue working by the small grant of Global Green Grants – USA, titled « Development of dialogue of environmental NGOs with RFE timber industry in conditions of sharpened conflict and imperfect legislation»

8. BUDGET: PLEASE PROVIDE A BREAKDOWN OF BUDGETED VERSUS ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND THE REASONS FOR ANY DIFFERENCES. ALL FIGURES SHOULD BE IN J STERLING, INDICATING THE LOCAL EXCHANGE RATE USED.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Salary (project coordinator, field driver, designer)	2400	2100	- 300	Sometimes we used car driver from friendly comp-any for free
Per diems	400	400	-	
Travel expenses	500	600	+ 100	
Printing magazine	1100	1100	-	
Communication, post	500	700	+ 200	
Accountant fee	600	600	-	
Total	5500	5500		

9. LOOKING AHEAD, WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS?

As the next steps we first plan to continue working with Russian group on the state forest policy, update our methodology to monitor and analyse logging practices with local communities involvement in the key municipalities. Currently we plan to do it with the help of existing modest grant from GGF-USA, in future rely more on Eurasia Foundation partners grant and, if available, on the next grant from RSGF.

10. DID YOU USE THE RSGF LOGO IN ANY MATERIALS PRODUCED IN RELATION TO THIS PROJECT? DID THE RSGF RECEIVE ANY PUBLICITY DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR WORK?

Yes, we pointed out RSGF as our key donor on all four issues of our magazine published during grant period - 2011. Thus is a very good publicity not only over the Russian Far East, Siberia, but also among Moscow based environmental NGOs, official state political and resource concerned agencies.

11. ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

We with our group of volunteers, willing to enter BROCC staff in time, would be happy to continue relations with RSGF and will highly appreciate any information on the following opportunity for us to apply for the next year.