

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 time of crisis , Russia – Far East Asia
RSG reference	01.02.09
Reporting period	09 July, 2009 – 08 July, 2010
Amount of grant	£5,500
Your email address	swan1@vladivostok.ru
Date of this report	20 June, 2010

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
3 rides over the area, interview and analysis of current processes /problem				We met with timber companies "Ternei-lesstroy", "Yappi", "Primorski GOK", "Gefest", "Energy", municipal administration, Forest service, national park "Udege Legend", indigenous commune, commune of old believers . <i>Conducted 3 rides in July 2009, February and May 2010</i>
Prepare a set of publications, releases, TV shows,				Prepared and published 4 articles on local issues, based upon collected data and 1 on national forestry for magazine # 2 (34). 2 articles on local issues and 4 on Russian forest problems for # 3 (35). 1 article on forest and climate with local approach for # 4, 2009 (36). 2 articles on local issues and 5 – on national forest problems in # 1 (37), 2010. <i>Could not produce TV stories since our cameraman left</i>
Appeals to governments				We prepared a set of questionnaires with local ideas and suggestions to improve forest management system and submitted to Russian IUCN initiative
Present analysis and ways to solve local conflicts, information on technologies of NTFP processing and marketing, eco-tourism opportunities, models to get permits for resource use and system of state control				We regularly 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 businesses. Thus we exchange experience and knowledge between different forest communities, governmental vision and legislation. We also distribute specially prepared informational kit with the most useful quotes and reviews on the key legal approaches to forest use, essential for the forest communities
Evaluate changes in community life caused by the project.				<i>We distributed press release about one conflict (robbery of old believer, beaten by local criminals and all commune thus got specific attention and support from regional governor, and some</i>

				<p><i>families decided to come back to Primorye from Uruguay. We also succeeded to help 2 formerly conflicting udege indigenous communes to get together in applying for the hunting lease by new legislation. We presented some business contacts in other regions and countries to new forest leasers target to conduct NTFP harvesting and marketing without any logging in valuable forests. Generally our publications helped forest dependent people to better understand each other and more efficiently use their new legal opportunities. Thanks to our and other publications on the problems with illegal logging there was serious TV show on the national 2 channel in late May, 2010, with direct examples from Primorye, and after that the Chief of gerional forest service was fired, and Moscow commission came to check criminal involvement of the agency. We unfortunately lost in our efforts to protect national park's director from replacement by timber concerned business person</i></p>
<p>There was request from RSG to currently submit some information on the project progress for RSG website</p>				<p><i>We did not succeed to do it since had not a time to create specially formatted English news</i></p>

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

One essential unforeseen difficulty came with official statistics on the forest use, which we always got from regional forest service – by companies, municipalities, volumes officially available to cut and really done ones. Under new Forest Code it turned out that such detailed statistics do not exist more or, probably, became too secret to hide really catastrophic data on the forest dynamics and growing volumes of logging versus officially annually available by regulations. These statistics are very important for any kind of monitoring forestry end economic dynamics, particularly in comparison to the export statistics, which we get from customs.

Another unforeseen difficulty a loss of our TV camera and car, needed repair – they both gone together with our former driver-cameraman, who needed much more salary than it was available under the project. Now we use more complex model of TV coverage, distributing media release first and then figure out creation of TV story by the staff TV shooting groups from different local, national or foreign channels. Thus we conducted series of TV stories from our area of focus (Krasnoarmeiski

municipality) for BBC TV and radio, Al Jazeera, some French analytic magazines, local and national channels, local newspapers.

Regarding RSGF request on the current news in English for the website, we found that it is too serious to make journalistically satisfactory products in brief – that goal needs more or less prepared auditorium, which require not short article but something more serious. What we hope may be finally found in this report.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- Increased local public awareness on the new forest management system, problems, relations and opportunities. As a result, we slowly turned people's attitude to recently created national park, which was often negative after slanderous media campaign funded by the local timber company and one indigenous commune, used to conduct not fully legal hunting before the park was created. We helped people to understand that slander and too rude attitude of some park's inspectors to indigenous hunters, legally granted with exclusive hunting rights. We also helped people to easier go through the new model of appeal for the firewood, which is important for this big forest area in a cold winter season. Abstracts from regional forest law, including legal quotas for available firewood and NTFP volumes, which we distributed in our informational kit, was quite demanded and useful for people.
- Better mutual understanding between different social groups on the local level – timber and non-timber business, environmentalists, officials, inspection and law enforcement, regular people, indigenous and old believers' communities. It was very important since the level of illegal timber business here is traditionally high, which cause equally high level of mistrust and jealousy. We succeeded to soften this conflict point trying partially explaining and justifying illegal activities by the weaknesses and wrong approaches of the current legislation, subject of the further development.
- Via our magazine and other media in Moscow and abroad we focused public and legislating attention on the weaknesses of the current legal model of forest management and timber trade, causing more improvement. Some specific legal initiatives concerned, for instance, to including of lynden (honey species) and Korean pine into the list of restricted species were drafted with our and WWF consulting.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

All local communities, even though are often in conflict to each other by the competing for resources, are equally dependent on that forest resources. Therefore, the more reasonable, publicly transparent and scientifically justified is forest use and management, the more sustainable and wealthy forest is. If lynden is protected, as the most of community members want, the famous honey industry here is alive and involves more people, currently unemployed. The more Korean pines and highly valuable oaks are safe, the more food wild boars have, and the more tigers remain alive in the Ussuri taiga. That will mean more and more tourists for national park and small businesses. To the other hand, we tried to help local timber businesses to shift from high value lynden, oak and pine to low value species via their processing, learning and entering more new environmentally progressive, certified markets.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

For sure, BROCC will continue this work, applying for other grants to RSGF and others, including some technical support from local timber businesses. Currently for 2010 we'll use to continue our current grant (second portion) from Pacific environment (USA).

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.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Since the grant generally was quite modest regarding the current expenses in RFE and distances for riding, and we had only one more grant, RSG funds were over around March 2010. Our key problem was that we lost in efforts to gain another grant for the similar activity from Whitley Awards Foundation.

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	2440	2440	-	
Per diems	600	450	- 150	Since 2010 I travelled alone, when cameraman gone
Travel expenses	800	600	- 200	We used cheap home stay for lodging
Printing magazine	1200	1400	+ 200	
Communication	460	610	+ 150	We developed a list of post distribution for magazine
Total	5500	5500		

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

As a next step we plan to focus upon development of two significant forest leases, concerned to non timber forest products – to publicise the process of development harvesting and processing infrastructure, marketing, and efforts from corrupt officials to charge leasers with unreasonable extra payments. We shall also support efforts of local communities to stop logging Korean pine and lynden, and, if fail, to work personally with loggers trying to attract them out from these species. Another important goal is to continue support and monitor development of recreated traditional

culture of the forest use by old believers, whose more families are returning back from Uruguay after 80 years of their ancestors' escape. This story is extremely important and essential for the highly criminalized Krasnoarmeiski municipality.

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. But we don't use just the RSGF logo, as well as not use the logos of other donors. Magazine "ecology and business" thus is a very good publicity not only over the Russian Far East, Siberia, but also among Moscow based environmental NGOs, official state resource concerned agencies.

11. Any other comments?

We with our new 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.