

Progress Report
On the Rufford Foundation (RSG) grant to the
Association of Minority Indigenous Peoples of Irkutsk Oblast, Russian Federation
for the project “Organisation of a Territory of Traditional Land Use (TTP)
for the “Kiringa” Evenk community, Russian Federation”

No. 20.11.2005

Project time – 21.02.06 – 15.04.07

Technical introduction: The project involved work on a area of 305,630 hectares, however, staff pay made up no more than 20% of the necessary amount and it was born in mind that items 2-5 of the budget were calculated as minimum requirements and that the association would seek additional funds if necessary. For this reason we made applications to the Global Green Foundation (USA) and the Grassroots Foundation (Germany) and received an additional \$5,477 US dollars from these foundations for this project.

The project:

In the process of project work it became clear that the area of traditional habitation and activity of the Kirenga and Tutura Evenk communities covers an area of 670,667 hectares. This is more than twice the size of the territory we had planned for originally. For this reason part of the work had to be undertaken by the Association without external support and there has been a delay in obtaining the final product – the “Project for the organisation and sustainable use of the Territory of Traditional land use (TTP) *Tuturo-Kirengskaya*). The communities occupy four villages – Chinonga, Tyrka, Murinya, and Vershina Tutury to the south of the project area.

Project results:

1) Ecological and other information on the area was collected:

- State forest survey information was obtained and transferred into electronic form;
- Local organs of state control of natural resource use in the area supported the project work and assisted in endorsement of the borders;
- The mayor of Kachug district supported the idea of setting up a TTP and endorsed the borders, so helping us to start preparing cartographic material;
- Greenpeace (Russia), who we cooperate with, supplied us with a space image of the area;
- Previous publications on the area were collected and studied, the main being the work of Professor B.I.Petri “Hunting and reindeer herding of the Tutura Tungusy in connection with the organisation of a hunting enterprise,” 1930 and the memoirs of I.I.Burlaeva, an important document on the life of the Evenk communities in the mid-20th century, that we issued in the 6th No. of the bulletin “Orlinga” in 250 copies that were distributed to district libraries and to the Evenk communities - <http://www.akmnio.da.ru/index.htm> ;
- A GIS of the territory was created;
- The socio-economic situation in the settlements of the communities was studied;
- Population counts of the main game animals over two field seasons 2005-2006 were undertaken and information on fish stocks collected;
- All the information was processed and transferred into electronic form in the GIS base;
- At present, preparation of cartographic material characterizing habitat types, habitat conditions of the main animal species, descriptors of count sections, and present use of the territory is being completed;

- Project materials are being prepared for publication - two copies, three volumes each, (one for the local administration, the other for the authors):
 - a) One volume of tables describing habitat type and conditions of the main species;
 - b) A volume with descriptors of the hunting lots with their main characteristics;
 - c) The main volume with a description of the present state of the natural environment and socio-economic conditions of the area with recommendations on its sustainable and economically valid use, and also on the main principles of monitoring.

We were not able to do the following according to plan:

- 1) Some changes had to be made to the budget because of the increased area covered;
- 2) We were not able to obtain the archive hunting surveys of the Lensk Hunting Cooperative, that had included this area up until perestroika, in order to transfer it to electronic form, as these archives no longer exist.

The project will be completed by the end of May and the support of the Rufford Foundation will be noted in the final publication with the Rufford logotype.

When the Project has been handed over to the Mayor of Kachug district, we will supply Rufford with an additional report and photographs.

On the basis of this Project the Mayor of Kachug district must make a decision on the setting up of the Tutura-Kirengskaya TTP with the status of a Specially Protected Territory (SPT) of local status.

Following this, together with the district Mayor, the Association will seek funds for implementation of the Project, i.e. for the implementation of the project recommendations, and apply to the Irkutsk Oblast (Regional) Governor to confer regional SPT status to the TTP.

