

INTELLGREENBELT

INTELLECTUALLY DRIVEN MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF GREEN BELT OF FENNOSCANDIA – KA 529

Newsletter 2 August 2014

The overall objective

of the project is to contribute to socio-economic development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia by creating the system of sustainable use and enhanced reproduction of natural resources.

Lead partner: Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences (KarRC RAS), Russia

Partners:

Forest Research Institute of KarRC RAS, Russia
Institute of Biology of KarRC RAS, Russia
Administration of Muezersky Municipal District, Russia
Kostomukhsky Strict Nature Reserve, Russia
Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) Joensuu office, Finland
Future Missions Oy (non profit company), Finland

Associates:

Hunting farm Black Stones LLC, Russia
Directorate of Regional Protected Areas of the Republic of Karelia, Russia
Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for North Karelia, Finland



European Co-operation Day in Petrozavodsk



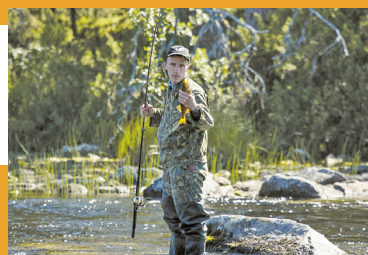
Expeditions



Expeditions



Kick-off seminar



Expeditions



Study tour



Working meeting



Training seminar



Training seminar



Working meeting



Photo exhibition



Training seminar

Photos by Anastasia Vasilieva, Igor Georgievsky, Andrey Tuyunen, Konstantin Tirronen

Implementation of the project

Much emphasis since the very beginning of the project has been placed on the research component as the basis for working out intellectual models of sustainable nature use. Project experts utilized previously available data, archival materials, modern research methods (satellite imagery, GIS), as well as carried out field work to investigate the current condition of the ecosystems. Based on this work, setting of the specializations and functional zoning of the pilot areas was completed and a package of thematic maps was prepared, recreational zoning for the Kalevalsky District and Kostomukhsky Strict Nature Reserve was performed, delineation and mapping of ecological corridors in the Muezersky District, wetlands and forests in GBF areas was carried out.

The zoning is the scientific baseline for decision-making on the management of biological resources in pilot areas. Draft of the feasibility study of the Tulos Landscape Reserve, taking into

account the interests of the hunting farm situated in its territory and the project target groups, was prepared.

Estimation and analysis of the current resources of game animals and fish in the pilot areas, assessment of activities of hunting farms, analysis of best practices and international materials have established the basis for bioresource (game and fish) conservation and management models, and development plans for hunting farms that will be produced in the project.

The problems and questions of infrastructure-building projects and elements of information support for hunters, fishermen and tourists are actively discussed by local administrations, PA administrations, scientists, businesses and other stakeholders.

Based on assessment and inventory of available natural and recreational resources of the PAs in the pilot areas their specializations and brands were defined, the Concept for promoting educational excursions and learning tourism in pilot PAs, as well the Draft of the Biosphere Reserve nomination were prepared, to aid tourism development in the pilot PAs.

**Vladimir V. Belkin***Institute of Biology,
KarRC RAS,
Leading Researcher*

The involvement of specialists from the KarRC RAS Institute of Biology in the Project is a possibility to give an unbiased assessment of game and fish diversity and resources, to look at them through the eyes of ordinary tourists, hunters or fishermen, as well as the people responsible for managing and conserving these resources. It is safe to say that the application of the sustainability approach in game and fish management will not only promote the socio-economic development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia, but also charge all those who will get a better access to the forest and lake fauna with positive emotions.

**Andrey N. Gromtsev***Forest Research Institute, KarRC
RAS, Head of Laboratory for
Landscape Ecology and Forest
Protection*

A key premise for tourism development is designation of areas and sites of top recreational value, especially harbouring undisturbed natural ecosystems (wilderness), which will further be assigned a conservation status. KarRC RAS has been working on that for decades, and quite a number of such objects have either been officially designated already or feasibility studies for their designation have been prepared and published. The protected areas founded in the Republic of Karelia lately are the Kalevsky National Park, landscape reserves Gridino, Syrovatka, Voinitsa, as well as landscape nature monuments Vottovaara and Kumi-porog, covering altogether nearly 125,000 ha.

**Tamara A. Putrolainen***Head of Muezersky
District Administration*

Our border district, with all its natural attractions, remains difficult to access and poorly studied. Implementation of the international project «Intellectually driven management of natural resources of Green Belt of Fennoscandia» in our territory will give us the opportunity to estimate the available natural resources and wisely manage the development of fishing, hunting and nature-based learning tourism using nature conservation techniques and environment-friendly approaches. Furthermore, small hunting and fishing infrastructure built within the project will attract more people willing to enjoy the wilderness they can find in our district, and motivate our businessmen to advance in this direction.

**Raimo Heikkila***Finnish Environment Institute
Natural Environment Centre, Head of
Biodiversity Unit*

I find the project interesting in the sense of putting together biodiversity conservation and environmental education as well as the development of sustainable tourism based on nature, fishing and hunting. The project has been successful and promotes strongly the idea of the functional Green Belt of Fennoscandia. It also supports the Memorandum of Understanding between Russia, Finland and Norway.

**Sergey V. Tarkhov***Kostomukshsky Strict
Nature Reserve, Director*

The project «Intellectually driven management of natural resources of Green Belt of Fennoscandia – IntellGreenBelt» is an important landmark in the development of the Kostomukshsky Strict Nature Reserve. National legislation has lately been changing rapidly, especially in what concerns strict nature reserves. The modifications were meant to adapt protected areas to modern realities. The reserve's participation in this project has enabled us to work out the missing local standards for further development of the territory, to prepare and upgrade the Regulations of the Strict Nature Reserve with regard to its new task of promoting learning tourism. Owing to this project we can integrate the Kostomukshsky reserve's nature conservation potential into the socio-economic development of surrounding areas, more specifically, through establishment of a Biosphere reserve. Other aspects of the project, i.e. establishment of ecological corridors, create favourable conditions for the recovery of natural wildlife migration pathways.

Cooperation with other ENPI projects

- Effective contacts have been established with other relevant ENPI projects («Karlands» – KA528, «Multi-Effort» – KA401, «Establishing the cross-border cooperation to safeguard the declining wild forest reindeer population» – KA518).
- The Concept for promoting learning tourism in pilot PAs prepared within the IntellGreenBelt project has become the basis for the Tourism Development Strategy worked out within another ENPI project («Quality-CET» – KA333) which, in turn, will be implemented within a large-scale ENPI project (Fennoscandian Green Belt – Welfare from Sustainable Cross Border Nature and Culture Tourism (FGB)).

Information about the project:

- [1] intellgreenbelt.krc.karelia.ru
- [2] twitter.com/IntellGreenBelt
- [3] vk.com/club62161001



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