



for a living planet®

Autumn 2005

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Dear Readers,

Several significant results of WWF-Russia's activity were achieved last autumn and in the beginning of winter: position of WWF and other environmental organizations was taken into account by the Government of the Russian Federation in consideration of the pipeline project in the Perevoznaya Bay; the voice of WWF was heard at two big international conferences - the Ministerial Conference on FLEG and UN Climate Change Conference; the new nature park Yergaki created with the support of WWF started its functioning.

Read about these and other success stories in this issue.

For Forests, for Partnership

On 22-25 November 2005, St. Petersburg, Russia, hosted the Ministerial Conference on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance. The main focus of the conference was illegal logging. WWF-Russia played a significant role in the conference initiation, the preparatory work and carrying it out.

The Russian Federation announced its intention to host the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA FLEG) process, supported by the World Bank, at the 4th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in May 2004.

The conference in St. Petersburg brought together nearly 300 participants representing 47 governments, the private sector, civil society and international organisations. As Valery Roshchupkin, Head of the Federal Forestry Agency of the Russian Federation, confirmed, the illegal logging issue would be of special importance for Russia as the G8 President and for the next G8 Summit, also scheduled to be held in St. Petersburg.

ENA FLEG is aimed to ensure the improving of the Russia's national forest legislation and intergovernmental cooperation for forest management, forest use and timber trade. However, according to WWF-Russia, not all the key stakeholders are still involved. It is crucial, that the Russian forest industry, especially environmentally responsible, plays more actively in the ENA FLEG process. As Elena Kulikova, the WWF-Russia's Forest Programme Director said, "ENA FLEG means frank dialogue on problems of forest violation and corruption, dialogue between governments, Russian and international NGOs, industry. It means also cooperation of countries which produce and consume timber; and it means a national action plan."

WWF-Russia calls to the following actions to be undertaken urgently: elaborating of the Russia's state forest strategy; cre-



ation of the reliable data base on the state of forest resources; establishing of the system of state control over the harvesting, transportation, processing and trade of timber; ensuring of the legislative and economic mechanisms for developing of the voluntary forest certification in Russia; reforming of the legislation for sustainable forest use and turn from export to full processing of timber; ensur-

ing that the population and NGOs have free access to the data on forest management, and right to make decision in allocation and use of forest resources; intergovernmental agreements for the fight against trade of timber of illegal or doubtful origin.

It is very important, that a significant part of the WWF-Russia's proposal is taken by the conference participants to elaborate the St. Petersburg Declaration on ENA FLEG. It includes an indicative list of actions, intended to serve as a general framework for possible actions to be undertaken by governments as well as civil society.

The brochure "Technologies for Wood Tracking: Verifying and Monitoring the Chain of Custody and Legal Compliance in the Timber Industry" was presented by WWF-Russia at the conference. It is published within the WWF and The World Bank Alliance and aimed to contribute to the ENA FLEG. You can find the PDF file in Russian on <http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/139/>

Additionally, a special issue of "Sustainable Forest Management" journal was fully devoted to ENA FLEG process, both publications are supported by the Russian Project on WWF/IKEA Partnership on Forests: <http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/magazines/doc776/page1/>

New office in Beringia



WWF-Russia is carrying out the preparatory works for the opening of the new project office for Beringia area, which is planned for the next spring.

The new office will be based in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and will manage conservation projects in the whole region of so-called Beringia, which covers four ecoregions - # 85 (Kamchatka Taiga and Grasslands), # 117 (Chukote Coastal Tundra), #204 (Okhotsk Sea), #197 (Bering Sea). They belong to the Earth's most spectacular and pristine natural areas. It is planned that the WWF-Russia staff on Kamchatka will work in close cooperation with the colleagues from WWF-US in Anchorage, Alaska.

WWF has been active on Kamchatka since late 1994, when it started with the population census of brown bears and issuing recommendations for the protection and stabilization of bear populations.

WWF-Russia played an important role in the creation of Koryaksky Zapovednik, the first governmental reserve in Koryak Autonomous Okrug (district). Its total area is 327,200 hectares, of which one third is the water area of the Bering Sea.

In March 1997, WWF's President Emeritus, HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, visited Kamchatka to introduce the international "Living Planet" campaign. As part of the campaign, two nature parks - Klyuchevsky and Golubye Ozera were created in 1999 with WWF's support as a "Gift to the Earth".

For five years WWF has carried out the "Panda-Link" Project, equipping 30 settlements, so-called "fishing spots", which are spread over the enormous territory of Bystrinsky Nature Park on Kamchatka, with radio communication.

Thanks to WWF's efforts in 2004, Wrangel Island Zapovednik in the Bering Sea was included in UNESCO's list of World Natural Heritage Sites. The reserve is the first territory in the Russian Arctic to receive the status of a World Heritage Site. WWF played a key role in preparing the documentation for this nomination.

The Chukotka-Alaska population of polar bear includes about 5,000 animals. In the 1950s-60s, intensive hunting of polar bears nearly brought about the disappearance of the species. Today,

the polar bear's well-being is threatened by poaching, radioactive and chemical pollution in the Arctic, and global warming. WWF-Russia in cooperation with WWF-US and the Wrangel Island Zapovednik is conducting a project to prevent poaching of the polar bear.

WWF-Russia supports one of the largest marine reserves in the world - Komandorsky Zapovednik, with its thirty-mile buffer zone. In 2004, WWF gave mobile satellite systems to border guards and to the fisheries management agency Rybvod on a trial basis for monitoring fishing in fishing areas. The first results have already been received and show that the satellite systems have increased the effectiveness of protection of Komandorsky Zapovednik and increased the number of violations detected. In 2005, WWF continued its project aimed at the prevention of the death of seabirds and to decrease economic loss during long-line fishing in the Bering Sea.

The new office in Kamchatka will overlook these and other projects in the area. Besides, it will be focused on cooperation with the customs officers and specialists of the local division of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision, preventing illegal hunting on the brown bear and endangered girdal falcon and their transportation abroad. This work will be coordinated by TRAFFIC Europe in Russia.



Project News

WWF-Russia in cooperation with the ecological organization Harmonic Development published a report on the environmental conditions of the coastal areas of the Murmansk region (Barents Sea). The problem of removing of sunken vessels from the sea bottom is analyzed. More than 100 ships are a threat to pollute the marine environment seriously and hinder shipping of the Kola Bay. The report covers questions of utilizing vessels, its law regulations and proposed measures for minimizing the negative impact on the coastal and marine ecosystems. It is aimed to join power and administrative officials, owners of old ships, business and public for environmental safety of the region.

See the report on <http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/161/>

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WWF-Russia announced the 8th contest of small grants for specially protected areas within its programme "Nature Reserves and National Parks of Russia". The subjects of the contest are "Areas Protection" and "Environmental Education", and the main topic of this year is "Local Initiatives in support of protected areas". According to Russian specialists on protected areas, the efficiency of nature conservation depends directly of active development of the local initiatives. For this programme WWF raises and allocates money of Russian business and private people.

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Igor Chestin, WWF-Russia CEO was nominated as a member of The Public Chamber of the Russian Federation. The Chamber is formed in response to a presidential order issued in April of this year to enable Russian citizens to interact with state agencies and local authorities in order to take into account the needs and interests of citizenry, in addition to defending their rights during the formation of state policy. In fulfillment of this need, the Public Chamber will actively examine proposed federal legislation, accepted federal laws, and other normative acts.

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On New Year's Eve WWF-Russia started a campaign aimed to urge consumers no to buy caviar. In recent years, all of the sturgeon species native to the Caspian Sea and its feeding rivers have undergone serious declines because of habitat loss, destruction of breeding grounds, pollution and mismanaged fisheries. WWF and TRAFFIC Europe in Russia are particularly concerned over the impact of unsustainable harvesting and illegal trade on wild sturgeon populations. All consumers in Russia have to be aware that the caviar they buy is illegally obtained and traded, and buying it they are contributing to an illegal trade that is driving species to extinction. Refraining of buying caviar for several years can help to restore the populations of Russia's sturgeons. Read more about the WWF-Russia's campaign in the next issues of the bulletin.

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"I do not eat caviar until poaching is stopped" - the Governor of the Astrakhan region has supported the WWF-Russia's campaign for protection of sturgeon.

WWF People

WELCOME!

Julia Khachaturova, Administrator for Corporate Marketing and Fundraising.
Tatiana Yanitskaya, HCVC Coordinator for WWF-IKEA Partnership on Forest.
Vera Beryozova, Communication Coordinator for Membership Programme.
Liliya Trostianskaya, Social Advertising Officer.

MOVED

Katya Babina, Social Advertising Officer, moved to the position of Head of the Programme "Nature reserves and National parks of Russia".

WWF Board

Alexander Gafin, Member of the Board of Directors of Alfa-Bank, is elected as Acting Chairman of the Board of WWF-Russia.
WWF-Russia welcomes its new Board member, **Igor Akimov**, CEO of TetraPak in Russia.

At the 3rd meeting of the Altai nature parks WWF-Russia has signed an agreement with the government of the Republic of Altai for further cooperation on support of protected areas, ecological tourism, conservation of rare and endangered species, restoration of cedar forests, development of energy efficient technologies, improving of trans-boundary cooperation, etc. Besides, the decision to establish the Association of Natural Parks was supported by representatives of protected areas.

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WWF-Russia was one of the first who alarmed the power structures, the Ministry for Emergency Situations and mass media about the toxic spill resulting from an explosion at a petrochemical plant in Jilin, China in November. Works on mitigation of the spill's effect on Russian populations, people and wildlife were also initiated by WWF, several weeks ahead of its reach to Khabarovsk, one of the largest cities of the Russian Far East. Now WWF-Russia jointly with Greenpeace is elaborating measures to minimize consequences and to prevent such disasters to happen in the future.

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More that 60 endangered Canada Aleutian geese were bred up and released on the Kuril Islands with the support of WWF in 2005. The reintroduction of this species is under realization in Kamchatka peninsula for 14 years, thanks to ornithologists of the Pacific Institute of Geography (Kamchatka division) and Japan. In 2005 WWF joined the project; and for the first time in ten years the local administration has obliged to partly finance the Aleutian goose reintroduction in Kamchatka in 2006.

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WWF-Russia expresses its deep sadness following the sudden death of Nikita Glazovsky, Chairman of the Board of WWF-Russia, Deputy Director of the Institute of Geography and member-correspondent of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Nikita's distinguished role in the conservation movement in Russia will be remembered, as will his kindness, energy and wisdom.



New nature park in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion

On November 28 the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation approved the project of the new Yergaki nature park in the Krasnoyarsk region. Regional administration and WWF-Russia have been lobbying for the signing of this order since May 2005.

Yergaki nature park was proposed for creation as a part of the 100th Gift to the Earth, which the governor of Krasnoyarsk region Alexander Khloponin presented this May. Up to the end of November, the park's status remained unclear, until the Decree of organization of the Directorate of the Yergaki Natural park was signed. Finally, the new regional protected area has started its functioning.

The park has an area of 230,000 hectares, with picturesque lakes and waterfalls, in the heart of the Sayan mountains, often hard reachable and so attractive for hikers and climbers. This area has a high potential for developing ecological tourism and education of local people and tourists. About 80,000 visitors can be accepted annually, and in future this figure is expected to reach 120,000. The federal road leading to Kyzyl, the capital of the Republic of Tyva, is running through the park providing access for the visitors. The park authorities hope to set an active cooperation with tour operators, which should bring new funds to the region. According to the Deputy Governor of the Krasnoyarsk region Andrey Gnezdilov, it is planned that in 2006 the

Yergaki will get financial support from the regional budget of 3 million rubles (appr. 94.000 EUR).

"We plan to build a visit center here, provide everyone with a map of the park with all routs and places of recreation, and also information about its biological and landscape diversity" - said park director Vladimir Ryzhenkov. "The routs and paths will be available for charge, as we believe that this is the only way to keep these wonderful places clean. Also, we plan to invite the local people to clean the park area." The park will provide 20 working places for full-time staff. Taking into account the level of unemployment of the local population, involvement into the park's life should improve its well-being and minimize the poaching press.

WWF-Russia played an active role in the creation of the Yergaki nature park and plans to support it in the future. In particular, the ecological route in the park and educational projects for the local people will be financed by the WWF Project "Long-Term Biodiversity conservation in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion".

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HRH Prince Henrik of Denmark (in the center) is visiting planned nature park Yergaki in May 2005. Left: Andrey Gnezdilov, Vice-Governor of Krasnoyarsk Region; right: Igor Chestin, CEO WWF-Russia



forest

WWF-Russia's active promotion of the FSC certification in Russia has led to great results. According to FSC International, the total area of the certified forests in Russia has reached 6.36 mio hectares, which is about 10 % of the area taken by FSC-forests around the world. Russia has left behind Baltic countries and Poland, and slowly but surely is moving towards the Europe's leader - Sweden with its 10,4 mio hectares of forests. Today 20 companies of Russia's Northwest, Southern Siberia and Far East have certificates. Russia's major enterprise Ilim Pulp has certified the rented area of more than 1.589.000 ha. It is expected that by the beginning of 2006 the area of certified forests will be close to 8 mio hectares.

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marine

WWF-Russia and IFAW launched the results of joint research organized in July-September 2005 in the summer habitat of Western Pacific gray whales, off the Sakhalin coast. Observations on the gray whales distribution and behavior in the year of the installation of the "Sakhalin-2" project PA-B platform showed that the number of whales in the area adjoined to the platform is less than in other places. WWF urges Royal Dutch Shell, the operator of the Sakhalin-2 project to stop all marine works until the results of the next census are available, and also to postpone construction of the surface pipeline which destroys the spawning rivers up to carrying out an independent expertise.

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oil & gas

WWF-Russia continues the campaign for the protection of the Perevoznaya Bay in the Primorski Region from the construction of the pipeline Eastern Siberia - Pacific Ocean. Specialists of Russia's leading NGOs – WWF, Greenpeace, Baikal Regional Union and Baikal Environmental Wave summarized results of their independent expertise of environmental safety of the construction. The data confirming that the route of the pipeline has to be moved away from the Perevoznaya Bay, is passed to the Federal Service for Environmental, Technological and Nuclear Supervision.

Active position of the ecologists has influenced on the Government of the Russian Federation in taking decision to exclude Primorski Region of the schedule of the pipeline construction.

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climate change

Alexey Kokorin, Coordinator of WWF-Russia's Climate Change programme, took active part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal, Canada, in November-December 2005. Unfortunately, Russia was a barrier in decision making on the new international post-2012 treaty. Therefore, WWF-Russia had to play an outstanding role as a trouble shooter in the last nights of the negotiations. Finally, we have got very good results: Marrakech Accords have been adopted and negotiations on the new treaty officially started with involvement of all countries including USA. We expect that this "hot" topic will be discussed at the G8 summit in June 2006 in St. Petersburg, and a greater progress will be achieved.

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Play lottery - help WWF!

WWF-Russia launched the charitable momentary lottery "Living Planet". One ticket costs only 10 rubles (about 0.3 EUR), and the amount of maximum prize is 100.000 rubles. Every third ticket provides a win. All profit of the lottery goes to support of WWF-Russia's projects.



Credits for nature conservation

The new international charitable Diners Club affinity card is issued by the Moscow Credit Bank in support of WWF-Russia's programme for conservation of Amur tiger and Far Eastern leopard. 0.5 % of each payment will be forwarded to WWF.



A new Visa credit card issued by one of the Russia's leading banks Alfa Bank gives the advantage to its holders to support nature conservation in Russia. 0.3 % of each payment is forwarded to WWF. The card is valid both in Russia and abroad. The clients of Alfa Bank

can also make a donation or monthly money payment to WWF. If the sum of donations will exceed 300 rubles a year, the client become a member of WWF-Russia. "The co-branding card of WWF

and Alfa Bank is one of the first project of its kind in Russia. We want to attract public to conservation issues", - said Alexander Gafin, Member of the Board of Directors of Alfa Bank and Acting Chairman of Board of WWF-Russia.

Alfa Bank is one of the first Russian companies who helped WWF-Russia to found its Corporate Club in 2001 and has supported conservation programmes ever since.



2006: The Year of Charity in Russia



World famous Russian sportswoman Irina Rodnina and pianist Denis Matsuev supported the initiative of The Year of Charity.

Russia's biggest and international public organizations and charitable funds - WWF, Donors Forum, Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), International Association of Business Communicators/Russia (IABS/Russia) and International Communications Consultancy Organisation (ICCO) announced 2006 the Year of Charity in Russia. The National Initiative was signed - the appeal to the power structures of Russia, as well as to business organizations, public organizations, mass media and private persons. The goal of the Year of Charity in Russia is to provide special conditions for the effective charitable actions, to make charity the integral part of every citizen's life, regardless their social status, level of income or political preferences.

The founders see their aim in providing

more information about the meaning of charity, charitable organizations' activities and its effective mechanisms. "On average, a Dutch person donates to nature conservation in Russia 30 times more than a Russian; a German person donates 6 times more than a Russian. At the same time, both Netherlands and Germany have programmes for conservation of their own nature. Why we in Russia do so little to save our huge natural wealth?" - said Katya Pal, Development Director of WWF-Russia at the press-conference dedicated to the Year of Charity.

The initiative of Russian NGOs is already supported by some popular Russian actors, composers and sportsmen. Hopefully, many other people will also make efforts to realization of the Year of Charity in 2006.

Publications

Climate Change. Review of scientific data on anthropogenic climate change. *In Russian, 20 pages.*

You will find answers to the most critical questions: what is the main indication of climate change? Why the natural causes can be lighter than anthropogenic? Is the lack of oxygen a myth or a reality? The brochure includes links to websites on the topics of climate change problem.

<http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/156/>

Illegal turnover of species of wild animals and plants in the Russian Far East. *Analytical review. In Russian, 124 pages.*

For the first time in 10 years the situation with both the legal and illegal turnover of wild species in the Russian Far East and measures of the fight against it has been analyzed in the brochure. Description and analysis of cases of crime should help specialists to improve their work.

<http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/160/>

Ordinary Cod. *In Russian, 36 pages*

This popular brochure describes biology of Atlantic cod and allied species. The role of fishing in the Russian and world history has been analyzed as well as the reasons of its crisis, problems of conservation of fish stocks and sustainable fishery in the Barents Sea.

<http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/159/>

Reference Sources on CITES Implementation in the Russian Federation. *In Russian, 176 pages*

This book is aimed to delete the lack of information on CITES and provides data for drawing permit by the CITES Management Authority in the Russian Federation for import and export of species of wild animals and plants, their parts and derivatives.

<http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/165/>

High Conservation Value Forests: The Practical manual.

In Russian, 184 pages.

For the first time the detailed manual on determination of HCVF is published in Russian. It is based on the "HCVF Toolkit. Guidance for High Conservation Value Forests assessment" prepared by ProForest company (UK), and translated and adapted by WWF-Russia.

<http://www.wwf.ru/resources/publ/book/164/>

Find these and other publications online or ask Julia Kalinicheva, Publications Officer (jkalinicheva@wwf.ru)

