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Russian Far East

John Williams - June 1995
Delivery Order 11, Task 2~~4~~

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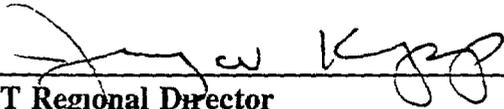


Environmental Policy and Technology Project
Regional Field Office / Moscow

(Managed by CH2M HILL)

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EPT Regional Director

15 Sept. 1997
Date

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Assessment of Community Development Prospects (Russian Far East)

Trip Report John Williams

(June 4-26) Vladivostok & Khabarovsk, including visits with selected team members to two small villages, Gvasyugi in the Khor Valley, and Krasnyi Yar in the Bikin Valley

Schedule

June 5-13 - Vladivostok

June 14-16 - Khabarovsk

June 17-18 - Gvasyugi

June 19-22 - Krasnyi Yar

June 23-24 - Workshop on Non-timber Products (Khabarovsk)

Summary

This visit was devoted to a consideration of a number of factors that affect the project goals to support community development of small rural villages, with a focus on villages in the upper and middle Khor and Bikin River watersheds. The populations of many of these villages are primarily indigenous, drawn mainly from the Udege and Nanai nationalities, but with other minority nationalities represented. Russian residents are well represented in the villages, and those villages that have few indigenous nationalities have economic and social problems highly similar to those of the more indigenous villages, according to knowledgeable observers. My visit included visits of two and four days to the village of Gvasyugi in Khabarovskii Krai and Krasnyi Yar in Primorskii Krai, both villages in which most of the population consisted of Udege peoples.

The EPT project, within the Biodiversity Component, includes a task (Task 23) on community development, with a focus on the Khor and Bikin valleys. This component of the project is included in that part of the project assigned to the direction of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) with a sub-contract expected shortly to the Pacific Environment & Resources Center (PERC) to administer the community development component. PERC had been working over the last two or three years in the Bikin Valley, and PERC Staff member Misha Jones has been supporting community initiatives in Krasnyi Yar. The Wildlife Foundation of Khabarovsk has been working in both areas, primarily with regard to developing wildlife inventories, with the support of hunters in the local communities, and has an interest in working with the communities for the long term sustainable use of the forest resources. PERC indicates that community development work under EPT in the Bikin would be headed up by Misha Jones, while that in the Khor Valley would be headed up by Andre Zakherenkov of the Wildlife Foundation. PERC was expecting partial support for the work of Misha Jones starting in the spring (1995).

Meanwhile, the vice governor of Primorskii Krai asked the project to withdraw all community development activities from the Bikin valley, due to political sensitivities. I presumed by this that this is to forestall community opposition to proposed logging in the upper Bikin, which is still relatively pristine. Proposed auction of rights to this timber extraction is currently scheduled for the autumn of 1995 and is strongly opposed by PERC and by members of the communities within the

Bikin This is quite understandable, as the proposed timber extraction, if like that in the Khor, will provide no economic benefits to Krasnyi Yar, but will very much hurt the hunting, water quality in the river, and fishing (Fishing in the Khor Valley has become virtually extinct) The EPT project has apparently conceded to the vice governor that it will not support community development activities in the Bikin This would be a setback for what PERC is attempting to accomplish in communities in the Bikin

If the project is forced to sidestep community development in the Bikin Valley, it may wish to provide additional support for the Samarga Valley, an area that is still quite unspoiled, but whose people very much need community development support A trip is proposed into this area by a project team in August

There is considerable expertise in working with the local communities held by PERC staff, notably Misha Jones, who has been living and working in the Bikin Valley for the last year and a half PERC is thus well-situated to play a leading role in this effort They are also concerned to leave behind the project community development expertise in local organizations, and they have targeted the Wildlife Foundation, which has had considerable experience in the Khor Valley and knows the villages It is noted that staff of the Wildlife Foundation has little experience with regard to community development issues, and my visit served to introduce to their staff concepts of "participatory rural appraisal" techniques This introduction needs to be followed up with considerable additional support in the form of written materials, support, and training

In addition, there are a number of other groups that are concerned with the development of these areas These include government agencies concerned with the nationalities and minorities issues, the Krai administrations for Lazo Raion of Khabarovskii Krai and the Pozharskii Raion of Primorskii Krai, the groups representing the indigenous peoples of the region, and non-governmental agencies concerned with other villages in the Khor drainage area It would be highly worthwhile to develop in the very near future a training session in participatory community planning and development issues for persons identified in these different groups

Major Recommendations

- For the Khor Valley work, it would be very useful to provide additional training and support for Wildlife Foundation staff slated for community development work in that area Misha Jones of PERC is knowledgeable about the issues and familiar with the literature on Participatory Community Development, he could provide substantial support in ensuring more effective meeting of project goals
- For Wildlife Foundation staff and for others concerned with the communities in the area, it is recommended that the project provide a training session (four days) in Khabarovsk suggested for October This would provide time enough to develop the framework for the training, identify those best suited to participate, and to identify existing resources in Russian for support of the training (I will contact IIED in England to identify persons fluent in Russian and literature available in Russian with regard to participatory community methodologies)
- Community development work is a slow process that usually takes at least five years to achieve substantial results The work in the Bikin valley has been proceeding for two years, and it is recommended that this community development work be continued Community

development activities that depend upon sporadic funding with start and stop activities rarely achieve objectives and are a waste of resources. Continued and consistent funding and personnel effort is necessary part of community development planning. In general the consistency and longevity of funding may be more important than the size of the funding. Large funding for short time periods often creates expectations while creating little of permanent value.

- Most villagers now maintain gardens, and the size of these gardens has been expanding in the last few years, a consequence of shortages of fish and other food. The gardens of many villagers are not particularly productive. It is recommended that community development support be provided in the form of provision of training and technical assistance for improving the productivity of gardens, and in the provision of higher quality seeds. Farming and gardening is not a traditional activity of the indigenous population, and the gardens of the Udege are not as productive as the gardens of the Russian villagers. Further, special support with regard to techniques of animal husbandry (cows, goats, chickens) could help solve some of the nutritional difficulties in the villages.
- The resources in the area with the greatest monetary value appear to be timber resources. These resources are being developed with little or no economic benefits to the villages, and considerable direct environmental impacts to resources upon which the villages depend for their very livelihood. Villages in the Khor Valley have essentially lost their fishery resource, a major food staple on which they depended for protein over the long winter. The fishery in the Bikin has been substantially depleted, while that in the Samarga is strong at this time, but vulnerable to deterioration if there is extensive damage to the watershed. If the timbering is to be continued in these areas, every effort must be made to provide a major portion of the control and benefits of such timber extraction to the local villages. The local villages are in a better position to provide sensitive management of the timber extraction, and in areas of traditional use, it is only fair that the benefits of timber extraction, as well as the environmental harms, be bestowed on the same people. Priority or monopoly of timber extraction should be endowed upon the local villages, with guarantees of employment opportunities for local people. It is my understanding that this has not been true in recent decades. Timber production provides employment opportunities throughout the winter, which could provide substantial income support to the villages, reduce the reliance on hunting, and reduce some pressure on wildlife resources.
- The development of non-timber resources for the communities can provide potential benefits to some segments of the community. In general, villages throughout the world that depend upon the sale of non-timber forest resources remain very poor, and those individuals in villages most dependent upon non-timber resources are the poorest in those villages. The exceptions are for those resources which have value added processing within the local communities. The greater the skill required for the processing, and the higher the degree of processing, the greater the benefit.

The project has identified several promising non-timber products that with careful and precision harvest, processing, and packaging, have market potential. It is noted that the type of harvesting, and the care of processing are not part of the indigenous culture, and such skills have to be painstakingly developed. See box on *Mushroom Collection*.

- The development of mushroom production in the villages involves a great deal more than the provision of drying equipment to the villages. The ready availability of drying and packaging equipment combined with access to investment and availability of training could help develop this one enterprise. This could provide limited seasonal employment and income opportunities to some members of the targeted communities.

It is recommended that further effort be made with regard to support of the development of mushroom production in the villages.

- The administrations of both Primorski Krai and Khabarovski Krai appear to be intent on the administration of a licensing and fee structure for the collection of non-timber forest products. The cost of developing and administering such a program is greater than the income to be derived from the fees. Scheduled amounts that could be collected would be allocated according to detailed inventories to be established. Fees equivalent to about 1/3 of the sale value of the product would be collected in advance. Such a fee structure would pose a significant problem to members of the poorer communities, and would serve to further devalue non-timber forest products that are inherently of relatively low value. The rationale for the licensing would be to protect the resource against excess exploitation.

It is recommended that the project actively oppose the imposition of such a fee structure on the collection of non-timber forest products from the village communities. Instead, it is recommended that the communities be given long-term rights to the collection of non-timber forest resources in their areas of traditional use, and the management of the collection of the resources be determined jointly by village and local forest rangers. In many cases, it is not the amount of resources collected that determines sustainable use, but the skilled manner in which they are collected, so as to assure future production. Those that have ownership rights over the resources have strong incentive for sustainable harvest, making it unnecessary for government to institute costly licensing procedures. It is certainly necessary to limit the number of those that harvest wild resources, but that is best done by giving rights to that harvest to local people and letting them manage and govern the manner.

In fact, the imposition of a detailed fee and licensing system is likely to prevent any functioning economic development based upon non-timber forest products.

Mushroom Collection

Traditionally in Krasnyi Yar mushrooms were collected by women or by family groups. The groups would go out for a week or so at a time to gather and bring back the mushrooms to the village where they would be used or dried for later use. The drying would generally be done by the women. Mushrooms dried by the existing dryers in the village would be more cooked than dried, which would lessen the flavor and result in a lower standard.

A high quality product delivered to the market place would require a different social organization and timing of collection and processing. Drying would need to start within 24-36 hours after picking, so that week long gathering trips would not be feasible without frequent transport of the picked mushrooms back to where the drying equipment was located.

The drying process must be continually monitored around the clock, which would require a trained and reliable staff team at the dryer site. Skills would be needed for selecting, grading, drying, and packaging. The development of such skills is compensated by a relatively high price for the mushrooms on the international market.

Logistics need to be developed for the transport of the packaged mushrooms, presumably in refrigerated transport. To develop the transport and marketing system, mushroom production would need to be developed in several villages.

- At the workshop on non-timber forest products, there was extensive discussion led by scientists and Forestry Department staff about the development of detailed inventories a data bank of non-timber forestry products. At the same time, those present could not give a good answer to simple questions such as: Where are the best sources of mushrooms currently located, and which villages are best situated to profit from mushroom gathering?

To the extent that there is data gathering with regard to non-timber forest resources, it would be helpful to involve the villagers, so that their knowledge of the area is used in gathering the resources, and what is learned is made available to them.

In general, the gathering of this inventory information is not likely to be of much direct economic benefit to the villages, and is further, not likely to maintain the presence of scarce plants. The dangers to the forest and fauna do not arise primarily from village use, it arises primarily from timber extraction and poaching. Timber extraction is driven by a dynamic that involves powerful interests far away from the villages. Poaching is best dealt with by giving better management control to the local communities, and enlisting their support in opposing poachers from outside. I would oppose the use of scarce project resources for data inventory purposes.

- The health conditions of the villages I visited were deplorable and deteriorating rapidly. Children are not getting basic elementary nutrition. Efforts should be made to improve the nutritional standards and the provision of dietary supplements (vitamins, calcium, iron) to residents. Deteriorating health conditions certainly are an impediment to effective community development. Substantial resources are devoted to health facilities. There are 8 or 9 people employed by the hospital, health facilities in Krasny Yar, a village of only 125 households. There seems to be some illogic with regard to achieving maximum health benefits with the resources that are provided.
- Communication is a basic problem in villages such as Gvasyugi, which has no telephone communication to the outside world. There is phone in a village 6 kilometers away. The provision of communication service to the village would be a necessary support for effective community development and could be seen as a development priority.
- There is no public transportation at this time to either Gvasyugi or to Krasny Yar. Bus service to Krasny Yar was recently terminated and weekly flights into the Bikin valley have recently ended. This makes access to markets and materials by residents of the villages extremely difficult. The Krasny Yar village council owns a jeep, which is available for village needs and is a substantial asset to the village. This is not true at Gvasyugi. The extension of the Military Highway into the Bikin Valley, and the development of a new road across the Khor, and possibly across the Samarga, may provide potential support to community development activities. To the extent that these new roads result in enlarged timber extraction, it is advisable to ensure village participation in that activity.

Workshop on Non-timber Products

This workshop was held in Khabarovsk June 23-24. It was organized together by David Gordon (PERC) and Andre Zakherenkov (Wildlife Foundation) and supported by EPT. Speakers included Kenny Powers, director of the Khabarovsk EPT office, John Dawkins, business development specialist with EPT, and included about 40 participants, including representatives from the Forestry Department, universities in Khabarovsk or Vladivostok, and representatives of communities in the Khor and Bikin river valleys. Bill Schlosser and John Williams (consultants to CH2M Hill) both were asked to address the workshop. Bill spoke of market aspects of non-timber forest products, particularly wild mushrooms, while I spoke on the implications of information raised at the workshop for community development.

The workshop format consisted of sequential speakers followed by questions, with little opportunity for real exchange. It included a lot of good information on the prevalence and value of non-timber forest products that have been harvested by the villages. It was weighted toward scientists interested in wildlife conservation and government staff devoted to forest management, with an under representation of voices from the communities.

The major formal conclusion of the workshop was that the participants supported the development of a major effort directed toward inventory analyses with the development of a data bank. Leaders of the conference prepared a statement in support of the development of such a bank, but this was developed by them, and did not really evolve out of any deliberations of the workshop. The workshop may have missed an opportunity to provide a coherent voice in support of institutional and legal structures to better support community harvesting, use, processing, and sale of non-timber forest products.

Issues from the Workshop

- (1) Proposed Fees for collection of non-timber forestry products -
Forestry Department Manager

Several representatives of the forestry department talked the first morning, focused on management practices of the forest department in order to ensure sustainable gathering of non-timber forest products. Among those that spoke were Lansa Vachaeva, Victor Skachkov, of the Forestry Department, whose remarks included the following information about the proposed management of non-timber forest products:

The proposed plan for imposing a permit system for the collection of non-timber forest products from Khabarovsk was given. It was stated that there needed to be tight limits on the amount of such plants extracted from the forest. The number of permits to be issued and the allowable extraction per permit, and the season in which extraction was allowed would be determined by specialists from the forest department and health departments. The amount allowed to be harvested would be refined from year to year based upon detailed inventories of forest plants to be undertaken by scientists year after year. The imposition of such a detailed fee structure was seen as the optimum way to manage the forest. Management would thus be a matter of both education of the local people and regulation of use.

The following list is a partial list, as best I could understand from the presentation. (I missed the value for some of the products to be harvested which are not included.)

ferns	300 Rs/kilo
birch sap	90 Rs/kilo
berries	400 Rs/kilo
raspberries	340 Rs/kilo
cowberries	300 Rs/kilo
blueberries	260 Rs/kilo
choke cherry	220 Rs/kilo
viburnum	200 Rs/kilo
mountain ash	200 Rs/kilo
polar beech	300 Rs/kilo
wild rose hips	1200 Rs/kilo
eleurococcus roots	1600 Rs/kilo
lilies of the valley	7600 Rs/kilo

This list is indicated to show the level of detail for the proposed system. When I asked the question of whether the income from the permits would cover the cost of administering the system, the answer was given that it would not begin to cover the cost.

My note on fee structure

This is exactly the kind of imposition of regulation from outside a community which IUCN has come to oppose (as expressed in its strategy document Caring for the Earth). Local people must derive value from parks and forests and management must be locally determined. Sustainable use of resources may best follow when local communities are given legal responsibility and in a sense ownership of a resource. Only in the case of particularly valuable resources that are not harvested sustainably, should any kind of regulatory attempt be made from outside. Such a regulatory attempt is costly, rigid, not suitable for local conditions, and is likely to breed the contemptuous disregard of local people, resulting in irresponsible harvest by people who will harvest today what is not seen as theirs tomorrow.

Victor Skachkov noted the need to regulate the permits for the quantity or amounts that may be collected so as to sustain the production. A special law is proposed which will allow the taking from the forest by permit only of all non-timber forest products. Permits will be given by a special unit which are determined on a scientific basis. The permits are a system of environmental limits, to preserve sustainable use. Unfortunately, it is necessary, he said, to establish a system of decrees, and to develop a detailed inventory of the products. This is an extensive job, as the inventory is not always reliable, and must be developed for each local area. The first steps are already done, as they have now made an inventory of ferns, with a correlated determination of how much may be taken from the forest. They are now proceeding to do an inventory of birch, and will follow this up with inventories of ferns, birch sap, mushrooms, and berries. "We need a scientific way of determining the amount that may be harvested. We will work in collaboration with scientists so as to base our results on science."

The federal government has taken the approach of leasing land for local products, but there are problems of doing so at the local level. In Khabarovskii Krai, the local population may harvest as much as they need for families (not so in Primorskii Krai, according to one commentator). Medicinal plants need special protection, and there is a need to protect, limit, and control

Further, there will be a limit on who may apply for permit, so as to make sure that those that gather have the correct knowledge and equipment. All collectors will have to qualify, based upon their abilities. We will have to develop tests to determine their abilities, and to determine by scientific manner the standards required, so that we can correctly determine the qualifications of those to whom we grant permits.

We are thus developing a law that protects the products.

My note

This scheme is too complex and costly for what is being regulated. It is based upon an approach that only central (and scientific) authority can determine how best to collect local products from the forest. Whereas the experience with regard to protected areas throughout the world is that giving greater responsibility to local people and to their indigenous knowledge, plus assuring local people of long term access to and use of the resource is the best single approach to maintaining sustainable harvest of such products.

(2) Proposal for developing data bank of information on non-timber forest products

During the second day of the workshop, a proposal was presented by Andre Zakherenkov with regard to the development of a data or knowledge bank with regard to non-timber forest products. I did not see a translation of this, but part of it was verbally summarized for me in English, and I listened to the discussion of the proposal, as a concrete outcome of the workshop. From my perspective, the workshop seemed more oriented toward a scientific, data collection structure than to a more pragmatic basis of developing non-timber forest products as a value and support to local communities, and a source of value of the forest in addition to or as an alternative to timbering.

Certainly, there is nothing wrong with establishing a bank of existing knowledge and information with regard to the non-timber plants of the Russian far east. And it is certainly useful to develop standards or laboratory analysis of selected marketable plants so as to determine their precise use for pharmaceutical industry or to the food industry.

Finally, some of the non-timber "functions" of the forest were not mentioned at all. By this, I mean the maintenance of a continuing source of quality water for fisheries and for urban areas downstream, maintenance of water tables, etc.

(3) Bill Schlosser's presentation on market potential for mushrooms and other products

One of the best single presentations of the workshop was Bill Schlosser's carefully reasoned and carefully presented analysis of the market for non-timber forest products, particularly mushrooms. This presentation, which included an analysis of what was required to produce a dried mushroom product that would meet an international quality standard, was very well-received. The equipment needed for effective drying and packaging of mushrooms is not expensive, but requires considerable organization in order to create a scale in which an international market may be effectively reached.

(4) John Williams talk on Community use of non-timber resources

My own talk started from a statement of Bill Schlosser's, and was organized as follows (general summary of remarks that were not fully written out)

"Be careful with the harvest levels" It is certainly necessary to manage the use of scarce and wild resources. One must limit the number of those who harvest, and of the amount that they harvest, the place that they harvest, and the manner in which they harvest.

However, the small communities that I have visited in the Bikin and Khor valleys in their day to day activities have not caused any major degradation of the forest or the loss of scarce forest resources. The damage that they have brought, or are likely to bring, are quite small compared to the destruction waged by others. Throughout the world, the traditional use of local resources is by and large done in a sustainable manner by small local communities, particularly in cases where you have small populations adjacent to large forested areas. The major damage comes from outside, and to prohibit local use of those resources when the local people have maintained their resources with care in unnecessary and punitive.

The small villages that I visited in the Taiga face deplorable conditions. Health conditions are disgraceful and deteriorating. Unemployment is prevalent, and so is alcoholism. There is urgent necessity for the development of these communities. The failure to bring such development to the communities can be costly. It can result in the loss of an entire culture, it can result in the need for ongoing subsidies which are not constructive to the life and well-being of local people.

The proposed law and complex commission based regulatory and permit system for non-timber forest products has few advantages and many disadvantages. As outlined, it would require extensive enforcement, and would as a result serve to further antagonize local people. At best, it costs far more to administer than it would receive in fees. It penalizes poor and local people and would further siphon off the rights to harvest from local people to outsiders, who care less for the resource. The costs of the permits is relatively high for products that now have relatively low market value, and hence would serve to dampen the market or the development of enterprises that could support the communities. And perversely, since it deprives the local people of a sense of "ownership" of the resource, it would result in the more rapid destruction of the very species that the law was designed to prevent. This has happened in location after location throughout the world.

Management control is necessary, but regulation by central and distant government is problematic. There are alternatives. You do have to limit collection and manage it. However, it is better to give the collections rights to those who locally may derive the benefit, year after year. Give the local communities, perhaps in cooperation with the local ranger districts. If there is over harvest, the feedback comes quickest to those there, and they can adjust. Management is best made by local communities of community managed resources, or by individuals of privately owned resources.

The advantages of community management are several. Local community residents then work with forestry managers, non in conflict. The communities become responsible not only for collecting, but also for monitoring and enforcement. The feedback over the harvest

is quicker. The local village is the first to want to protect next year's harvest, and this reduces the enforcement needs for the forestry rangers. Eliminated altogether are the needs for bureaucratic mechanisms. And the community stands to gain more economic benefit.

It is true that some local communities are sufficiently disorganized that they cannot manage the resources. Local community management does not always work, and local people can make mistakes. Local environmental education is still necessary, to help make the goal of sustainable harvest a mutually agreeable goal.

Observations from visits to the Villages in the Bikin & Khor Valleys

There is a certain hesitancy in each of the villages for anyone to step forward, and to take the initiative to organize any economic enterprise. They expect that someone from outside will come in with a salary to oversee such work, or that any individual in the village will not want to start something until paid a salary from day one for doing such work. There is very little sense of taking individual risk to develop an enterprise on speculation.

This is not only true for the development of enterprises, it is also true for some of the things that we would consider for "voluntary community service." The women in one village said that as recently as one or two decades ago, that there were frequent village get together events, based on old village songs and traditions, but that this had died out. While the school teacher teaches the children some elements of the Udege traditions, the women complained that "there is no one paid to do this for adults in the village."

They said that our culture is now in a museum in St. Petersburg, and that there was extensive ethnographic work done on the traditions, which is now stored there. Culture however is not something that is stored in books or museums. For indigenous cultures, it is a manifestation of the way that groups make their living from their land. One expression of this is the way that men go into the forest to hunt. They go in groups, and in the forest they support each other. This activity of the men is one of the remaining forces of cohesion within the village. Some of the women noted that there were considerable factions and friction among the women of the village, and it was too bad that there were not some of the old traditions that could be used to get the women working together. There is a lot of suspicion in the village that some are getting benefits at the expense of others. Some of the traditions, such as those associated with the fall salmon fishery, have died out because those elements of the economy no longer exist.

The future economy and viability of these villages depends largely upon their relationship with the resources that are around them. If timbering destroys the remaining wildlife as a significant resource for the hunters, if the fisheries disappear, and if the villages cannot derive the benefits from the timbering, the communities are destined to continued poverty and probable disappearance as communities. Some indigenous villages in Primorskiy Krai have already dissolved, with the remainder population moving into more urban areas. The deterioration of the culture of the villages is seen in the rapid loss of the traditional languages. Only the old people in the village now speak it, and even though there is some language education in the school, even the middle aged adults can no longer converse in the old languages. If these villages lose the rights to control the resources upon which they traditionally depended, their culture will be lost, and community development activities will be unsuccessful.

The loss of traditional resources such as fishing has resulted in considerable hardship. The health workers with whom we spoke talked of deteriorating health conditions, a result in part on an inadequate diet. A result in part of an economy in which there is increasing poverty and unemployment, and a greater falling into alcohol abuse. I heard repeatedly that children are having more trouble with their teeth, the infant teeth falling out by age five.

The villages have been hit by five separate calamities: (1) the loss of their fishery, a major source of nutrition, (2) the falling apart of the international market for furs, and a reduction on the price paid for furs, (3) the breakdown of the administrative structures which were subsidized by the government and provided support to the villages for economic enterprises within the village, (4) the reduction and threatened elimination of a host of government supported benefits devoted to health, education, transportation, communication, and (5) the overall reduction of the country's economy and drop in demand for all products locally produced. These things have mostly hit together within the last decade, and the villages are reeling. Community development under these conditions is exceedingly difficult. The community residents are apathetic, dejected, pessimistic, and are hurting badly.

The forest areas of the Bikin are rich in a variety of resources, and the people living there few in number, so there is the potential for earning a living and making community development work. The major resource of present value is timber, but the structure of timbering and timber permits has not enabled these villages to benefit from that resource. The market resources for other forest products has been badly affected by the overall poor economic conditions. The idea that local residents can take charge of their livelihood is not readily accepted by residents of the community, who feel that the structure is stacked against them. They have no financial resources for starting new enterprises, nor the knowledge and skills for undertaking such activities.

Outsiders such as those supported by the EPT project can play a useful role. They can provide capital for new enterprises, information on markets, and help in accessing such markets. However, the activities within the village, the harvesting of resources, and the organization of groups for processing those resources must be done locally, from within.

Appreciation

Special thanks to Birgit Pashkarova and Vera Harberger for superb support and interpretation service. The Khabarovsk office was extremely helpful in setting up arrangements for visiting sites in the Khor and Bikin Valleys. Special appreciation to Misha Jones of PERC for his arrangements for the visit to Krasnyi Yar, and to serving as interpreter for all the meetings and discussions there over five days. Also to the Wildlife Foundation, to Alexandr Kulikov and Andre Zakherensky for their support in visits to Gvasyugi. I also appreciate the support of Zoe Williams of the Washington EPT office in making arrangements for the trip.

Persons met with

Dean Stepanek, EPT Project Director, Vladivostok
Vladimir Karakin, EPT Project, Pacific Institute of Geography
Pavel Suliandziga, President, Primorski Krai Association of the Indigenous People, Vladivostok
David Gordon, Pacific Environment & Resources Center, Project Director, Siberian Forests Protection Project
Misha Jones, Pacific Environment & Resources Center, (Khor Valley Project)
B J Chisholm, ISAR Representative for the Russian Far East (Vladivostok office)
(Grants to non-profits)
Olga Green, Blue Bird Training Center, Vladivostok (training for environmental education, and possible support for training in participatory community planning methods)
Bill Schlosser, Consultant to EPT project for non-timber forest products, Area Extension Forestry Specialist, Michigan State University
Keith Blatner, Consultant to EPT project for non-timber forest products, Associate Professor in Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University
Kenny Powers, EPT Khabarovsk site manager, deputy project director
John Dawkins, EPT Project Staff, Business development fund specialist
Alexandr Kulikov, President, Wildlife Foundation
Andre Zakherenkov, Wildlife Foundation, director of business development activities for the Khor Valley, consultant to PERC for EPT project (pending)
Larisa Vachava, Department of Natural Resources, Head of department for management of nature use relations
Anatoly Morozov, Head, Department of Minorities & Nationalities, Nationality Affairs & Policy in Khabarovsk Krai
Nickolay S Sipin, President, Association of the Peoples of the North Khabarovsk Territory
Nikolai Poplynkun, Director of the Django National Community for Gvasvugi (legal entity for business activities of the village)
Valentina Kjalundzuga, administrative leader, Gvasyugi, Laso District
Alexey Uza, Director of AO Bikin, (formerly GosPromKhoz), Krasnyi Yar
N D Tupikova, Assistant Administrator, Krasnyi Yar, Pozharskiy Raion
Jenne de Beer, author of report on problems and perspectives of the Udege Forest Enterprise, prepared with the support of the Rainforest Information centre (Australia)
In addition, in Krasnyi Yar, met with head of forestry ranger district

Villages Visited

Gvasyugi (June 17-18)
(With Andre Zakherenkov of the Wildlife Foundation, Kenny Powers of EPT Khabarovsk, and Vera Harberger interpreter from Khabarovsk)

Focus Groups in Gvasvugi
Older members of the village
Hunters of the village
women of the village
Additional informal meetings with villagers

Krasnyi Yar
(With Misha Jones of PERC Keith Blatner and Bill Schlosser, consultants to EPT on non-timber forest products)

Focus groups in Krasnyi Yar
Hunters of the village (two meetings)
Medical workers (8 women)
Additional informal meetings with villagers