

Forest Resources and Technologies (FOREST) Project

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Quarterly Report

October 1, 2000 – December 31, 2000

Submitted to

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Submitted by

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I. Introduction

Winrock International, in partnership with Chemonics, the Heron Group and the Russian American Educational Center was awarded the Forest Resources and Technology (FOREST) Project on July 21, 2000. This five-year project is based in Khabarovsk, Russia and will be implemented July 2000 - July 2005 in the Russia Far East and Siberia. The major goals are to reduce the threat of global climate change and preserve biodiversity by promoting sustainable forest management and preserving Russian forests as a globally important carbon sink and critical habitat for rare and endangered species.

The FOREST project will achieve this goal by focusing on four technical components: forest fire prevention, pest management, non-timber forest products and secondary wood processing, and renewable energy alternatives. In addition to the four primary components, there will be three crosscutting components (forest policy and legal reform; applied forestry research; and a forestry grant/loan program), which will support the technical components.

Quarter Highlights

Two advisory council meetings were held to review, amend and approve the first project workplan outlining activities from December 1, 2000, through November 30, 2001. The first meeting held in Khabarovsk on October 4, 2000, resulted in agreed upon bylaws for the Advisory Council, draft workplan approval, and procedure to invite additional individuals to be invited into the advisory council.

Interim project manager Carol Stoney continued her duties through October when Craig VanDevelde accepted the position. Alexander Zabelin accepted the position of Deputy project managers. Positions for component coordinators were advertised and expect to be hired by mid January 2001.

Project activities formally started December 2000. Detailed activities are highlighted in below.

II. Project Administration

Logistics/Staffing

Craig VanDevelde accepted the position of project manager for the FOREST Project. He attended one day of the first Advisory Council Meeting and fully participated in December in Krasnoyarsk. Several other candidates were interviewed at Winrock's office in Arlington VA.

Lydia XX has been hired as the Project Translator and Irina XX is working as XXX.

Winrock has explored new space that will fulfill the FOREST project needs and plans to move at the end of March to space that can accommodate current and new staff.

Winrock's home coordinator, Erin Hughes traveled to Arlington to interview possible candidates for the project coordinator, and she traveled to Khabarovsk and Krasnoyarsk to help with project activities and present components at the advisory council meeting.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council has been identified and convened twice in the last three months. The first meeting held in Khabarovsk on October 24 and 25 of 2000. List of attendees is in Table I.

This meeting gave the advisory council members the opportunity to

- Meet key FOREST Staff and learn about the FOREST Project
- Draft bylaws of the Council
- Review a draft workplan for the first year.

The second Advisory Council meeting was held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, December 6-7. During this meeting, the Advisory Council voted to:

- Approve of the first year's workplan
- Approve of Procedures for admitting new members to the Advisory Council
- Approve of the Provisions of the Advisory Council.
- Invite A.N. Kuilkov, A.V. Selikhovkin, N.L. Velikodnaya, and S. Mikhailov to become members of the Advisory Council,
- Hold the next meeting in Irkusk, June 27-28 2001.

TABLE I. Attendees to the Advisory Council Meetings

Persons and meeting Attended	October Khabarovsk	December Krasnoyarsk
Yury Kukuev, First Deputy Minister for Natural Resources	X	
N.A. Andreev, (title) Ministry of Natural Resources		X
Alexandr Levintal Khabarovskii Krai Economic Committee Chairperson;	X	X
Vladimir Kolomytsev, Deputy Head, Department for Natural Resources, Khabarovskii Krai;	X	X
Anatoly Prikhodko, Deputy Head Department for Natural Resources Primorski Krai	X	X
Gennady Chekurdaev Head Forestry Administration Sakhalinskaya Oblast;	X	X
Vladimir Chekhov; Deputy Chairperson Committee for Natural Resources Irkutskaya Oblast/Head	X	
Vladimir Vekshin, Chairperson Krasnoyarskii Krai Forest Committee	X	X
Konstantin Raspopin Chairperson Krasnoyarskii Krai Forest Committee;	X	X
Carol Pierstorff USAID	X	X
Lyudmila Vikhrova, USAID	X	X
Steve Bulkin U.S. Forest Service; and	X	X
Andrey Kushlin, World Bank	X	X
Mark Powell, Carbon Measuring specialist	X	
Carol Stoney, Interim Project Manager	X	
Nina Danilyuk, Senior Administrator	X	X
Craig VanDevelde, proposed Project Manager	X	X

Kelly Quinn, Workshop Assistant	X	
Raphael Vartanov, Energy specialists	X	X
Lydia Volkova, translator	X	X
Yuri Baranchekov, Pest Management Specialists		X
Ludmila Liamets Communications Manager for Fire Prevention		X
Natasha Marchenko Accountant		X
Erin Hughes, Home Office Coordinator		X
John Woods, Fire Prevention Communication Specialist	X	
Inna Uluanova, Office Assistant		X

Activities for the next quarter

Formal invitations will be sent to the new advisory council members,
Initial planning for the next meeting

III. Overall Project

A. Activities

The FOREST Project Team continued start up meetings that began in September through October, culminating in the draft workplan, presented at the first advisory council meeting. In addition, some components had meetings to begin implementation activities. A complete list of the meetings that were conducted during this period is attached in Appendix A. The start up team focused on meeting individuals and organizations to 1) introduce the project and the FOREST Team to government officials in Moscow, Khabarovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Vladivostok, 2) obtain more detailed information about projects and organizations working in the area of forestry and explore how the overall FOREST Project may collaborate with ongoing activities, and 3) identify organizations and individuals working on the specific technical components who could be partners or collaborators on the project.

IV. Four Technical Components

A. Component 1 – Fire Prevention

1. Major Activities

During this quarter, local staff hired were hired including:

- Ludmila Liamets, Communications Manager
- Dmitry Piven, Communications Manager
- Oksana Filina, Accountant

John Woods, Communications Specialist, traveled to Tucson, Arizona October 12-14 to meet with Russian participants (incl. 10 from RFE) of the Santa Cruz Institute's "Public Awareness and Education Programs as Tools for Preventing Forest Fires" study tour. He then traveled to Khabarovsk (Oct 18 – Nov 22) to assist with development of the Component 1 Communications Strategy and Year 1 Workplan.

The first Component 1 **Working Group Meeting** was convened November 16. The Working Group was chaired by Vladimir Pominov and includes Elena Svishcheva, Eduard Slipchenko, Natalia Platoshkina, Irina Ivantseva, Lev Zvenigorodsky, Valentina Sidorova, Vasiliy Rabskii, and Michael

Sheshukov. This was followed with a short briefing on the Workplan to the Component 1 Working Group by Component 1 staff on November 28 and another meeting December 20 to discuss the results of the Advisory Council meeting, request input regarding the development of fact sheets, and identify potential Contact Group members.

Fact sheet development is underway. The Working Group has suggested themes and these are being discussed and refined. Data and content for four fact sheets – “How Forest Fires Take Money and Jobs from the People of Khabarovsk”; “How Forest Fires Affect the Health of Your Family”; “People Cause Most Forest Fires – How You Can Prevent Them”; and “Forest Fires Steal our Future” – are being researched.

A Request for Proposals for conducting the **baseline public opinion poll** was issued to local research firms. Four proposals were received and evaluated. The All-Russian Center of Public Opinion Poll – Far East Branch was selected to carry out the work, as it offered the strongest plan and best expertise at reasonable cost.

2. Key Issues

Two main issues have been 1) locating the necessary data for the fact sheets and 2) developing strong channels of communication as a foundation for public awareness campaign work.

Component 1 staff analyzed data initially obtained regarding the incidence of forest fires and found it to be incomplete. Working Group member Vasilii Rabskii, Deputy Chief of the Far East Forest Protection Department, has been instrumental in locating more thorough and current data, which is being used to inform the fact sheets.

Component 1 staff have been actively meeting with potential local partners to inform them about the project and engage these organizations and individuals as valuable contacts to facilitate the future campaign work.

3. Problems and Findings Based on Work to Date

Clarifying the role of the project to the public: We have encountered considerable confusion or misunderstanding by Russian partners of the role of Component 1 (and the FOREST project as a whole). It has been important to clearly explain the goals and objectives of this component, so that people are not left with a wrong impression (e.g. that it is purely a grants project); Component 1 staff have made every effort to inform partners of the true nature of the project.

Managing expectations: Similarly, there has been some confusion among members of the Working Group concerning the role of this body. It has been important to stress that this group has been formed as a source of advice and information, but that all implementation (and decisions regarding implementation) will be the responsibility of the project staff – *not* the Working Group.

4. Summary of Component 1 Tasks

Task	Location	Persons Involved	Status/Results
Task #1 – Analyze Forest Fire Data			
1.1 Identify sources of data	Khabarovsk	Working Group, Dmitry Piven	Working Group (WG) meetings were held November 25 th & December 20 th . The Forestry Administration of Khabarovskii Krai Administration was unanimously recommended as the primary source of data.
Task #2 – Identify Messages and Prepare Fact Sheets			
2.1 Identify initial fact sheet subjects	Khabarovsk	Working Group, Dmitry Piven, John Woods, Bob Kern	Basic topics were presented to members of WG separately and final recommendations were collected at the WG meeting on December 20 th . Several additional topics were added to the list.
2.2 Preparing fact sheets	Khabarovsk	Dmitry Piven	Beginning to outline four fact sheets. In process of researching designers, writers, and printing houses for future production
Task #3 – Visit Each Project Target Area and have Regional Coordinators Appointed			
3.1 Visit target regions and have Regional Coordinators appointed	Krasnoyarsk	Ludmila Liamets	Visited Krasnoyarsk December 04 th -08 th to attend Advisory Council (AC) meeting. Began establishing contacts with administrations and institutions. To be continued in January.
3.2 Identify initial Contact Group members in krai/oblast and have meetings with key ones	Khabarovsk	Working Group, Dmitry Piven, Ludmila Liamets	At WG meeting, members suggested contact people and organizations to Component 1 staff. Some meetings held. On-going.
Task #4 – Begin Forming Contact Groups of Media and Influential Groups			
4.1 Identify initial Contact Group in Khabarovskii Krai (activity 3.2 does this for the other 4 target areas for initial work).	Khabarovsk	Ludmila Liamets	Visited Krasnoyarsk December 04 th -08 th to attend Advisory Council (AC) meeting. Began establishing contacts with administrations and institutions in order to identify potential contact group members. To be continued in January.
4.2 Develop mailing list of all Contact Group members in each target area and at the federal level	Krasnoyarsk/ Khabarovsk	Working Group, Dmitry Piven, Ludmila Liamets	At WG meeting, members suggested contact people and organizations to Component 1 staff to include in database in addition to existing contacts. Special data base software will be installed in January to facilitate mailings.
Task #5 – Conduct Baseline Public Opinion Poll			
5.1 Determine basic information needed	Khabarovsk	Ludmila Liamets, Working Group, John Woods, Eric Abbott	Conducted review of Khabarovsk research firms; discussed information needed
5.2 Contract public opinion polling firm, design & test questionnaire, collect data & prepare report	Khabarovsk	Ludmila Liamets, John Woods, Eric Abbott, Laura Slattery, Research Firm	RFP issued to local research firms in early December. Four firms submitted proposals in response. Proposals were analyzed and best firm (technical and cost) was selected. Firm will begin work in January.

5. Level of Effort

During the quarter (October through December) approximately 241 person/days (11 person/months) were spent on the Fire Prevention Component. See Appendix C for detailed break out of persons, activities and time.

B. Component 2 – Pest Management

1. Major Activities

During the reporting period, efforts were directed at developing a component work plan that would be acceptable to the Advisory Committee. Early meetings in September and October provided an opportunity for McFadden and Sharov to discuss the concept of extensive monitoring of pest species with pheromone traps with a number of key individuals in Moscow, Khabarovsk, and Krasnoyarsk. While in Krasnoyarsk, Kucera joined McFadden and Sharov and with Yuri Baranchikov (Sukachev Institute) visited a number of potential field sites and to further discuss and plan for implementation of the monitoring system.

A draft work plan was prepared jointly by McFadden, Sharov, and Baranchikov and submitted for review by the Advisory Council in late October. Unfortunately, the plan was somewhat controversial and received numerous comments.

McFadden, Sharov, and Baranchikov immediately commenced discussions with Russian Forest Service representatives in Krasnoyarsk and Moscow to discuss revisions to the plan. As a result of this interaction, a revised plan was developed and submitted for review to the Forest Protection Center in Moscow. In mid-November, McFadden and Baranchikov traveled to Moscow to discuss the plan with Forest Protection representatives and were pleased to work out a few concerns in a satisfactory manner and to gain Forest Service support for the plan.

The revised plan was submitted to the Advisory Council in December at its second meeting and was approved.

Activities for the next quarter

- Procure necessary equipment and supplies to develop traps
- Develop Memorandum of Understanding with Sukachev Institute

2. Key Issues

There are several key issues confronting Component 2:

- a. The large area concept of monitoring for changes in population density has largely been abandoned for a much more limited and traditional approach. We are concerned about the sensitivity of this approach and its usefulness in predicting outbreaks.
- b. We are aware of differences, both scientific and personal, between key individuals in the Sukachev Institute and the Russian Forest Service in the Krasnoyarsk Krai where initial implementation of Component 2 will take place.

3. Problems and Findings Based on Work to Date.

These are listed above and are being addressed during the implementation phase. No actual work on any task will commence until detailed plans for on-the-ground implementation are in place. We expect to have most of this detailed planning completed by the end of January. Procurement should also begin in January.

4. Summary of Pest Management Component Tasks

Task	Location	Persons Involved	Status/Results
1. Planning and Coordination	Krasnoyarsk and in U.S.	McFadden, Sharov, Kucera and Baranchikov	Workplan developed and approved
2. Site Selection	Field sites to the	Heron Group, Sukachev	Field sites have been

	north and south of Krasnoyarsk	Institute, and Russian Forest Service	selected and approved.
3. Field Monitoring	At field sites	Heron Group, Sukachev Institute, and Russian Forest Service	Plans for field monitoring and procurement of needed items under way
4.Data Management and Analysis	Krasnoyarsk	Heron Group, Sukachev Institute, and Russian Forest Service	Procurement of needed equipment, software and personnel about to begin

5. Level of Effort

During the quarter (October through December) approximately 4.9 person months (20 days/month) were spent on Component 2. See Appendix C for detailed break out of persons, activities and time.

Component 3 – Non Timber Forest Products and Secondary Wood Processing

1. Major Activities

Initial startup meetings to learn about organizations and problems in the NTFP and SWP sector continued during October. Interim Project Manager, Carol Stoney traveled to Krasnoyarsk early in October to meet with forestry and government officials and to identify possible associations with whom to work.

The draft workplan for the component was submitted to the first advisory council meeting in October. Changes based on feedback from the advisory council were made and a final workplan for the first year was approved at the second advisory council meeting.

During December, criteria were established to select the first two associations for year one.

Activities for next quarter

Plans for the next quarter include the following activities:

- Hire local Coordinator for Component
- Survey and select two associations to work with
- Develop job descriptions and identify consultants for the tasks of the next six months (Market Study, Association Building and XXX).
- Send delegation to Wood Processing Trade Show in Portland (March 16-19) and Natural Product (NTFP) Show in Anaheim (March 6-9).

2. Key Issues

There are two key issues for component 3. One is to identify sound associations that will be able to make positive use of the technical assistance and demonstrate sustainability. All associations we met during the initial start up phase will be further interviewed to understand their structure and based on criteria, two associations will be selected.

The second issue is how do we work with associations that may form within the next few years. The FOREST project will provide support and volunteer technical assistance to build newly forming associations practical advice and guidance to build their capacity. These organizations will have the opportunity to be a partnering association in future years.

3. Problems

No problems were encountered during this quarter.

4. Summary of Biomass Component Tasks

Task	Location	Persons Involved	Status/Results
1. Meet with Forestry Officials and Key Government Officials	Krasnoyarsk, Russia	Stoney	Initial Meetings Completed
2. Complete draft of workplan and revisions	Khabarovsk, U.S.	Stoney, Hughes, Gibson	Workplan approved with minor modifications
3. Identify 2 Associations to work with Year 1	U.S	Hughes, Pagan, Stoney	Criteria Identified.

5. Level of Effort

During the quarter (October through December 2000) approximately 30 person days (1.36 days) were spent on the Non-Timber Forest Products and Secondary Wood Processing Component. See Appendix C for detailed break out of persons, activities and time.

Component 4 – Renewable Energy Alternatives/Biomass

1. Activities

The Work Plan/Budget was developed target results and determined activities to achieve those results. Developed draft and final input to Year One work plan, including timelines/milestones, levels of effort, etc. Biomass consultant, Raphael Vartanov, presented workplan at both Advisory Council Meetings. During the second meeting, the biomass component proposed two candidates, Mikhailov and Reutov, to be invited to the advisory council.

The job description of the local component coordinator was developed, and based on the tasks, a draft subagreement with NREL was developed. Biomass consultant Rapahel Vartanov interviewed possible, local consultants including Ms. Khodos of Krasnoyarsk.

Several wood waste biomass feasibility reports or sites in Russia were reviewed for possible replication. The Russian draft Energy Strategy was also reviewed. Began planning for Biomass workshop to be held immediately before or after next Advisory Council meeting (summer 2001).

In October, consultant Raphael Vartanov) traveled to Moscow (Ministry of Energy, Intersolar Center), Irkutsk (looked into possible sites for biomass, interviewed possible in-country candidate for Biomass Component), and Khabarovsk (Advisory Council) then to Krasnoyarsk (to discuss possible sites there). See separate table of meetings. Regular discussions with RV and individuals who will eventually be on Biomass Component team, for example Ken Touryan of NREL, Serge Adamian of Ecotrade, and Gary Elliott of International Applied Engineering. These discussions were largely to develop specific plan of activities for Year One and other years. In December, Vartanov first joined Craig Van Develde

and participated in energy conference in Moscow, immediately prior to Advisory Council meeting (Dec 4). Prepared trip reports.

2. Key Issues

The key issue during the quarter was determining reasonable results targets, activities for Year One, and assembling biomass team.

3. Problems and Findings Based on Work to Date.

No Problems to date

4. Summary of Biomass Component Tasks

Task	Location	Persons Involved	Status/Results
1. Data Collection and Analysis	Arlington, VA (US) Irkutsk, Russia	Vartanov, McNulty, Khodos, Touryan	Some data collection and analysis has occurred. In particular for Yogidney and Irkutsk possible sites.
2. Identifying financing	Moscow, Khabarovsk	Vartanov, McNulty	Some meetings were held in first trip to Khabarovsk – meetings with commercial finance institutions, and World Bank
3. Support an environment conducive for replication and expansion of biomass projects	Arlington, VA, Golden Colorado (US)	McNulty, Touryan	Obtained draft of Feasibility report for Waste Biomass in Russia Northern Territories. Not yet disseminated for replication.
4. Enhancing local capacity for biomass project implementation	Irkutsk	Vartanov, McNulty	Initial planning for Biomass Workshop to be held summer of 2001 in Irkutsk

5. Level of Effort

During the quarter (October through December 2000) approximately 58 person days were spent on the Biomass Component. See Appendix C for detailed break out of persons, activities and time.

V. Cross-Cutting Components

The Cross Cutting Components, Applied Forestry Research, Forest Policy and Legal Reform, and the Forestry Grants/Loan Program are designed to support the four technical components. No additional resources were used on these components during the first quarter. Individuals working on the overall project and/or specific components explored these issues within the scope of the technical components.

A. Applied Forestry Research

1. Major Activities

The Applied Forestry Research Activities focus on establishing base line carbon data and base line information for the four technical components. The workplan was developed and several activities with respect to establishing the carbon baseline. For example, Dr. Vlady Alexeyev was nominated as the leader of the carbon working group and Mark Powell developed and submitted a draft Terms of Reference for his participation in the FOREST Project. Dr. Alexeyev and Mark Powell started the search for a subcontractor to generate baseline digital vegetation/carbon maps of Khabarovsk Krai and part of Krasnoyarsk Krai.

2. Key Issues

Key issues include:

1. The need to generate a digital vegetation/carbon maps at a scale that can be used to detect significant changes in vegetation over time;
2. Use existing carbon data and new data to assign carbon values to vegetation classes on digital maps, and;
3. Identify permanent sample plots for verifying the digital maps.

3. Problems and Findings Based on Work to Date

Dr. Alexeyev contacted the Far Eastern Forest Inventory Enterprise, the Far Eastern Forest Research Institute, and the Sukachev Forest Institute about producing digital maps at the 1:500,000 scale but they can not produce maps within the carbon activity's budget. Mark Powell contacted the Woods Hole Research Institute and they have submitted a proposal to generate a map of Khabarovsk Krai at the 1:500,000 scale with 10-15 vegetation classes. The proposal is within the first year's budget and is being considered. Powell has also asked for them for a proposal to generate a map of part of Krasnoyarsk Krai.

4. Summary of Component 6 Tasks

Task	Location	Persons Involved	Status/Results
1. Select Carbon Group Leader	Khabarovsk	M. Powell	Done
2. Select subcontractor for carbon maps	Russia, US	M. Powell, V. Alexeyev	Subcontractor identified, reviewing proposal

4. Level of Effort

During the quarter (October through December) approximately .75 person months were spent on Component 6, carbon activity. See Appendix C for detailed break out of persons, activities and time.

The FOREST Team met with staff from research institutes in Moscow, Khabarovsk, and Krasnoyarsk to learn about their activities and to explore collaboration. The first forestry research activities will be conducted to determine the baseline indicators for specific technical component.

B. Forest Policy and Legal Reform

Each component team member explored how policy and legislation affected the goals of their component. The overarching issues involve policy implications at the regional level and how the new structure for government forestry and natural resource management agencies in Russia will affect FOREST Project activities.

B. Grants/Loan Program

The FOREST team met with a variety of USAID-funded projects in Russia that are currently implement grants or loan programs. These include the Replication of Lessons Learned (ROLL) Project, the Targeted Grants Program, the Ecolinks Project, Ecoregional Grants Program and the Sakhalin Micro-credit Program. The FOREST grants component will not start until the second year of project implementation.