

Presentation of our organizations

Introduction

One representative from each organization was asked to present information about their respective organization. Questions that each representative answered were:

- What the forest situation looks like in each country.
- What kind of activities does each organization have and how are they connected to the forest situation?
- How many active members, age?
- What area does the organization cover? Is it local, regional or national?
- How are finances obtained?

Tuesday, August 23, 2005

Estonian Green Movement (<http://www.roheline.ee>) , Jaan Paan
1988

View of Estonia forest is better than the rumours

Management has never been so intensive

1/3 of forests doesn't have an owner at all. Gov is currently "protecting" it, but the plan is to give it to someone (private?)

Theft is less than 1 %

10 hectare plot clear-cut has not ever been practiced

Wondering about the future management

Worried that Estonia will become intensively managed forest like Finland

Aims: avoid bad practices that will lead to more intense management. Land reform is still on its way (evolving).

Harvest rates are up.

Gov and industry – they are working with the on management plans for individual owners, how strict should they be, age of allowable cut, how strictly enforced. EGM thinks there should be more than one parameter for permitting a cut. Not just age. Age should be as high as possible.

Illegal harvesting is another issue. EGM is mapping the rate of illegal harvest.

Couple years ago EGM did an independent survey. 15% of Estonia timber produced is breaking some laws. Other groups, including industry, have also been interested in a survey. These and EGM are interested in illegal harvest. Result from these additional surveys says 10% of forestry is done illegally.

Tax frauds – current law forces individual loggers to avoid taxes. 15% of timber is sold with paying tax.

Certification – best results on an institutional basis.

Lack of certified wood in Estonia. EGM are introducing certification schemes to forest owners.

EGM has 800 members. Most are young people. One problem; the staff don't have a good connection with members. Members are not active.

EGM is national but is trying to work abroad.

Finances – next year money from government for forestry issues. Support from Netherlands embassy. 2005 TRN is supporting all finances.

Protected forest in Estonia – many categories of protection. Final harvest is forbidden in 11% of Estonian forest. Gov recognizes that they need to make that a larger percent in anticipation of Natura2000. Private protection is a gov initiative – they are making

contracts with forest owners, paying them to NOT harvest their OGF. The gov has a goal of 15% protected.

SPOK (<http://www.onego.ru/>) , Olga Iljina

1996

SPOK Promotes sustainable use of forests in their region and conservation of forests. Structure is diff then euro. 7 members are officially registered. 6 people in staff. 10-15 volunteers. 50 supporters (money, info, etc.).

Main issues are forest and OGF

Produce map of forest and OGF in Karelia. Map includes reserve areas. Only 7% of forest in Karelia is OGF, 2% of this is protected.

Currently working near Podash on creation of a new national park. 100 000 ha.

2005 Summer, established moratorium on OGF in Karelia. Will not cut until January 2006. In autumn they will meet with industry to decide what needs to be protected (OGF).

TRN, Luonto Liitto, GP and WWF are helping them put pressure on companies and officials.

Project: Search and Protect project – how to find red listed species in order to protect forest.

Project: Publicizing their goals – introducing the public to why forest, OGF is important, and why it is important to protect it.

Every region in Russia can establish their own rules re: forests. Federal forest regulations make forest companies clear cut. Non-valuable trees therefore must be cut and burned (birch, aspen). Therefore SPOK is trying to change regional regulations regarding forest cutting methods – more environmental ways, by leaving non-valuable trees to foster forest re-growth, and biodiversity.

Finnish Nature League (<http://www.luontoliitto.fi/forest/>) – Olli, Annina

Youth organization of the FANC - 1943

7000 members

TRN members

FNL activities are divided into two main groups:

- Environment education of children and youth. 220 all over country. Nature camps 30 annually to learn about nature
- Environmental policy work. Public debate. Several working groups include Forest Group, Wolf Group (and other predators), Energy and Climate issues, Environmentally Sustainable Consumption, The Baltic Sea (how to make it alive again, clean, stop pollution), Development co-operation and fair trade.

300 000 individual forest owners in Finland

Forestry roads in Finland equal about 80 000 to 100 000 km.

See PowerPoint for further NOTES.

PiM - Roman Antipin

Nature and Youth in Ru. 1999 in Murmansk, registered in 2000.

Late 90's there was a group of people working on forest issues, their goals were not forest based for this short period.

One main goal – promotion of ecological personality and working with youth.

University students are members.

Main problems - 1, poor people and 2, corrupt government. Stemmed from here are illegal logging, illegal export, building in forest territories, illegal logging in territories of private owners.

He thinks that the main problem is in the mind – Russia is seen as big and therefore everlasting forest supply.

Murmansk is filled with forests.

Murmansk has the Gulf Stream, so the climate is a big warmer.

Before now, not many campaigns on forest. Came to the youth camp to build contacts with the forest scene in neighbouring countries.

Main projects – nuclear weapons, PCB products in water, air and soil pollution, garbage project (campaigns, camps, annual cleanings, this project also has an Eco-Bus project inside it), oil project.

Help from Murmansk Gov, Natur og dom in Norway.

Hold trainings on actions and seminars.

Many protest actions; PiM receives a lot of publicity in the Murmansk Oblast

Xantoria – Svetlana

Name is the name of a indicator lichen

1999 as a student's org

Kola branch of Petovavodsk University

Public environment education program, program of endangered species. Learning about and protecting it.

Public education means raising awareness in community about forest in region.

Direct actions in the streets of town. Doing this in cooperation with other NGOs. In university.

Annual action – go to streets with banners and ask people what they know about state of environment situation, then tell them the truth.

Endangered species research - going to forest and search for them. Collaborate with Kola Center of Wild Nature (specialized biologists and ecologists).

All participants are volunteer.

No private owners of forest in Russia. State rents the land.

Each spring, survey of birds and sea animals. In winter, survey forest animals.

Searching for red listed (rare) species.

Organization is made up of 10 to 15 members. Most students graduate then leave org.

They accept everyone including school children

Fältbiologerna (<http://www.faltbiologerna.se>) - Jonas

Of the Swedish forests, the larger part is boreal.

Main exploration of forests started 100-150 years ago, smaller areas up to 400 years. In densely populated areas exploitation has been more intensive. Before 150 years ago logging etc. had been small scale, large exploitation of old forests. Oldest law protecting oaks is from 1700's.

Consumption of wood products in Europe quickened exploitation of Swedish forests, starting mostly in the south and moving up, by the end of the 19th century most forests had been cut at least once. Re-growth has been promoted and laws very strict. 1920's had fewer forests than ever. In 1990's there is more trees than ever, but not forests.

Less than 1% is protected. In Scandinavian mountains its 40%. 5% of Swedish forests remain, and maintain value and diversity. 1997 official investigation stated that to

preserve biological; diversity need to protect between 15-20% of forests. Some would therefore need to be restored.

Most that is protected is so because it is difficult to utilize, thus were not of any use.

2000- Government formulated a proposition with 50 goal areas, where action would be taken to solve all environmental problems in Sweden. One is Living forests, to protect 900,000 hectares of forest. Plan to protect 400,000 in nature reserves, and 500,000 in voluntary actions from forest companies and environmental; protection agreements with private landowners (valid for 49 years).

This goal will not be reached in time due to too little money, problems with finding people willing to protect more forests; some are lazy or inefficient. Voluntary protection seems to be difficult to realize. Difficult to know where it is taking place, supposed to let public know where is protected, but many do not make this information accessible. Voluntary can also move the protection area to access forests that were protected.

1997 investigation showed 50% of voluntary protected areas do not have any ecological value. Some areas that are supposed to be protected were harvested anyways.

Seems to be a view that it needs to be done, but it should always be someone else who should do it.

Last years the debate has been among government and companies to think about production, not just protection, thus cutting is increasing. There is a shortage of older forests, and they are starting to cut younger forests and areas that were previously protected. Made a check to see how much of state forests is old-growth and found much in northern area, which they could protect, but choose to protect only half, and some more in southern Sweden.

Faltbiologena is a youth organization with a 25 year age limit (not strict). 2300 members. 300 or so are active. National organization, 9 regional, and some city organization.

Funding from different public sources, and some national funds.

Working with forests since 1999 actively and steadily.

A national network for people to work with forests. Make inventories once a year. And try to convince companies to protect more areas.

Try to influence forestry politics, and meet with everyone who has some interest in forests.

Aetas – Svetlana P.

Archangel, east from Murmansk. Covers area of 40million hectares. Nature reserves cover area almost 10%, including different reserves (national and regional).

Organization is 5 years old, 150 volunteers, mostly students.

In collaboration with Nature and Youth Norway. Get support from Greenpeace Russia.

Projects- genetically modified products, and about burning garbage.

Financially supported by local authorities.

Only organization in the region involved in forests. Many areas with many trees, but lack biodiversity. A large problem is illegal logging. Clear cutting is widespread. Local authorities are not interested in conserving the areas.

Problem is less and less forests for pulp and paper industry, and must take from areas of old growth, even through these areas are less economically useful but are very ecologically valuable.

Students Druzhina – Nina

Is situated in Moscow. Will soon celebrate 40 years as an organization. Is small (17 members). Members attend different universities in Moscow.

In Russia, and former Soviet Union are other student teams making up Student Nature Teams Protection movement. Have some joint campaigns and summer camps.

Situation in central Russia, half is covered by natural forests (all is secondary forests, younger than 120 years). Very small areas are old growth.

Clear cut Logging is forbidden, but companies have tricks to avoid the ban. Building is a major threat to forests (as cities grow). This is a problem in the past 10 years as private houses began to be built.

Illegal logging is common, as well as illegal garbage dumping. There are a few legal sites to dump, and all forests near big cities are filled with garbage.

Druzhina checks up on nature reserves. What is protected in these areas, and what is prohibited may vary. More than 200 of these reserves, half of them were made by Druzhina. Many are not properly protected because there is no administration to oversee. Druzhina monitors these areas and writes to authorities to stop activities when there are breaches.

A project in Northern region in one reserve; a complex of field, forests and marshes. A problem with fires, and Druzhina is educating about starting fires, and try to prevent them. Main purpose of work there is to make a model of sustainable development.

First Flower Campaign – to save a very rare species of plant named first flowers. They only grow in forest regions on mountains in specific areas in Russia. Populations are declined due to picking, and Druzhina tries to stop illegal selling of flowers. Try to urge people not to buy these flowers.

Another struggle is for good forest code in Russia. Trying to push for Forest legislation. The main part is forest code, where all rules about forestry are acknowledged. Now existing forest code is very bad, but new one would be worse (it was written by economists and not ecologists). It pushes for privatization of forests. It also denies public access to forests. First draft proposed to destroy the status of many protected areas. Finances are provided by former members of the organization. Also try to get money from foundations, but there has been no result.

-Vladimir

Chebosakry, 50% covered by forests mostly oaks, and pine. They plan to grow the trees and educate people about the forest. They also educate students in schools, and camps in the summers, afterwards students become member. Tree operation, struggle against illegal logging and actions in logging market, and change factories. And also marsh park actions in April which population is involved in. Try to make contacts with other like-minded organizations. Work involves scientific study, and counting the animals. There are summer expeditions to evaluate the status of the forest and try to join unprotected areas to protected areas. There are 11 members, 16-30 years. Projects from national authorities and local foundations.

Tartu Student Nature Protection (<http://www.ring.ee>) - Raido

1958- First student conservation organization in the world.

40 active members, another 600 are on email list.

Every year there are hikes and bus trips organized, as well as seminars and visiting grave yards of fallen conservationists.

On one of these hikes they discovered illegal logging within the borders of a national Park. A protest was held, and discussions with environmental ministers to tighten laws and gain more control over the use of the timber. Government and parliament changed laws so that companies would know where their timber came from; to be sure it was not due to illegal logging.

Million plants were planted in a campaign "Let there be at least one forest".

Seminars are held about important events; such as trees which have crosses cut into them (cultural tradition for relatives of dead). Some of these trees were cut down for a road, causing problems.

Hiking tradition every summer to “get lost” and discover the forest.

Organization is aimed at students in Tartu. Aim is to develop environmental education. Most projects are organized voluntarily. Mostly there are no finances, but some projects are funded.

Robin Wood (<http://www.robinwood.de/>) –Tobias Lesseur

Established in 1982 by some people in Greenpeace, who wanted to fight acid rain which affects forests in Germany. Now a non-violent action group for nature and environment.

Work is for forests, rain forests, transport and energy. Campaigns often connect these, especially related to climate change. Funded by members and donations.

Organized in a grassroots democratic way and work with local groups, sharing experience. Direct action and climbing action are used in campaigns. Campaign to protect a forest which is planned to be cut down to expand Frankfurt Airport.

Sonya (German Student)

Forests must be handled in a sustainable way in Germany, and generally there are good traditions regarding the forests (secondary).