



If Grizzlies Could Vote...

The plight of the grizzly bear in Canada is being cynically politicised by anti-environmental politicians. The ink has hardly had time to dry on a grizzly bear hunting moratorium in British Columbia, but now it looks likely to be repealed by the newly elected Liberal government. Scientists, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the tourism industry are appealing for the moratorium to be held in place.

Earlier this year British Columbia's (BC) premier Ujjal Dosanjh and his government put in place a 3-year moratorium on the sport hunting of BC's grizzly bears. The moratorium was hailed as the right thing to do from both an ecological and economic perspective, and is widely seen as a critical step in furthering grizzly bear conservation in BC.

However, since then there has been an election, won by the Liberal party, and premier-elect Gordon Campbell has promised to overturn the current moratorium on grizzly bear hunting during the first 90 days the Liberals are in power. Despite widespread support for the grizzly hunt moratorium from the independent scientific community, the tourism industry, conservation organisations, First Nations and the general public, Campbell has chosen to pander to an extremist minority of sport hunters who favour killing grizzlies for fun and profit.

The moratorium is backed by scientists concerned about grizzly bear numbers. The government estimate that there are 10,000–13,000 grizzly bears in the province is highly questionable. Just 20 years ago the official estimate stood at 6,000–7,000. In a comprehensive scientific review of the government *Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy*, wildlife scientists Dr Brian Horejsi, Dr Barrie Gilbert and Dr Lance Craighead stated that 'grizzly population estimates in BC have been consistently over-estimated'. The conclusion of a recent report by government biologist Dionys deLeeuw is that 'as a direct consequence of overkill, the BC grizzly bear population as a whole has declined and, unless immediate steps are taken, will continue to decline'. deLeeuw warns that BC's grizzly bears are declining from ongoing habitat loss and that 'exacerbating that decline by continuing the grizzly bear hunt is biologically irresponsible'.

Grizzly bears have the lowest reproductive rate of any land mammal on the North American continent. One reason for this is the late sexual maturation of female grizzlies, as they do not start breeding until 5–8 years of age. If optimum conditions exist breeding females will produce only 1–3 cubs per litter at 2–3 year intervals and at least 70% of all young die before reproducing. Grizzly bear populations are especially susceptible to the impacts of sport hunting because of these reproductive limitations. Grizzlies do not have the biological characteristics of a prey species; they reproduce slowly and their populations recover slowly from human induced mortality.

The conservation of grizzly bears is of concern to an overwhelming majority of the BC public. This concern is reflected in a poll which shows that 78% of British Columbians favour the moratorium on grizzly hunting, and even 66% of hunting families do as well.

There is also strong support for grizzly bear conservation from the tourism sector. Over 100 tourism operators from BC have called for an end to the hunt. One eco-tourism operation, Knight Inlet Lodge on the central coast, generates more annual revenue than all the guide outfitting associated with the grizzly bear hunt each year. Dean Wyatt, owner of Knight Inlet Lodge, has said that 'there is no economic justification for the grizzly hunt. In fact, it pales in comparison to the tourism values of saving the grizzly bear'.

Campbell and the Liberals are about to ignite a controversy which will have far-reaching implications. Raincoast Conservation Society and a host of other NGOs are preparing to bring the BC grizzly hunt issue to the international stage if the Liberals overturn the current moratorium.

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We need you!

Taiga Rescue Network (TRN) is currently looking for a volunteer to work with us from October 2001 and onwards. As an intern you would work at the TRN International Co-ordination Center, located in Jokkmokk, arctic Sweden and hosted by Ajtte, the Swedish Mountain and Sámi Museum. Like most other NGOs, TRN has limited financial resources and relies a great deal on volunteers to keep up with our work. Take this chance to work in a motivating atmosphere in a small, young team.

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Thinking locally

Centralised management of forests in poorly regulated, market-dominated economies has proved to be disastrous both for local communities and the forests in many regions including the boreal. Fortunately there is increasing recognition that local forest management has the potential to help local economies and to sustain the many other local and global benefits that forests provide.

In this issue of Taiga News we highlight just a few of the unique responses and initiatives by local communities in the boreal region to establish local forest management as a step towards greater self-determination, economic self-sufficiency and environmentally sound management. All power to them. We are proud that our own community is one of those represented here.

Mandy Haggith and Bill Ritchie

Global**UN Forum on Forests**

The first session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is being held 11–22 June 2001 in New York. The focus of the session is to set the course for the next 5 years of the UNFF. The UNFF Secretariat has launched an electronic Calendar of Major International Forest-Related Events that will be up-dated regularly at: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/unffdocs/unffcalendar.pdf

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New Certification Analysis

TRN and Fern have jointly produced an in-depth comparison of the four biggest forest certification schemes: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Pan-European Forest Certification (PEFC), the Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable Forest Management Standard (CSA) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The new report, 'Beyond the Logo', analyses the strengths and flaws of each scheme.

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Genetics Treaty

A civil society process has begun to propose a Treaty to Share the Genetic Commons, for adoption by governments and civil society at the Rio+10 Conference in South Africa in September 2002. This is a new initiative to establish the Earth's gene pool, in all of its biological forms and manifestations, as a global commons to be jointly shared by all peoples. The aim is to prohibit all patents on plant, microorganism, animal, and human life including patents on genes and the products they code for.

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'One Day For The Forests'

Demonstrations took place around the world on 19–20 April (northern and southern hemispheres, respectively), as part of the international day of action for forests and against free trade, in response to the Quebec talks on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) the follow-on from NAFTA. Activists from 9 different countries and 25 forest protection organisations took part in the day of action.

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North America**Destructive Dam Plan**

There is a proposal to build the huge Meridian Dam at the Alberta–Saskatchewan border on the South Saskatchewan River, Canada. Alberta's Environment Minister is pushing forward with a feasibility study but Canadian Wildlife Service biologists say the dam would be a disaster for wildlife. The 100 km long reservoir area would destroy some of the most important wildlife habitat in southeastern Alberta, including key portions of a National Wildlife Area and an Ecological Reserve.

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Ontario FSC Row

A storm of protest followed an announcement by Ontario government officials on 23 March that a joint process with the FSC had begun to 'result in FSC certification of all Crown-owned forests managed in compliance with Ontario law'. A number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) promptly pointed out that FSC certification does not operate at the jurisdiction level, rather it is carried out on forest management units, by accredited certifiers (not governments), using a local FSC standard agreed by all local stakeholders. Despite refutation by the FSC, on 2 May the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources still said that 'Ontario is positioned to be the largest jurisdiction in the world to receive this international 'green stamp' of approval'. Wrong!

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Roadless Areas

The Bush Administration has announced it will implement the Clinton era Roadless Area Conservation Rule, restricting logging and road building activities in over 25 million ha of national forest lands. However, the administration opened up the possibility for local officials to alter the implementation of the law allowing resource development in some areas. Conservation organisations are concerned that this will undermine the new law. Several organisations, including logging giant Boise Cascade, believe this weakening does not go far enough and have filed lawsuits against the new ruling, as has the state of Alaska which opposes restrictions on roadless areas of the Tongass National Forest.

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Russia

Russian Red Book Thickens

414 animal species inhabiting Russia can be found in the newly published Red Book of Rare and Endangered Animal Species in Russia. The new edition of the Red Data Book lists 155 invertebrates, 259 vertebrates, including 65 mammals, 39 fishes, 123 birds and 21 reptiles, and 42 molluscs. The first edition, issued in 1983 contained only 246 species.

Greens & Industry in same boat

In April a meeting was held on board a Greenpeace ship in St Petersburg between the Socio-Ecological Union, Greenpeace and two big forest companies, US International Paper, with investments in Russia's Svetogorsk mill and Russian Ilim Pulp Enterprise. They discussed certification and possible joint research on undisturbed forests in Archangelsk.

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Santa Klaus Arrested

Ded Moroz, the Russian Santa Klaus, was arrested in Murmansk on 25 April when trying to deliver his suggestions on management of the Kola Peninsula's forests to the Murmansk Governor Yuri Evdokimov. He claimed that the current forest management is damaging not only local people's but also Santa Klaus' environment. The suggestions were signed by KBCC, Ecocenter Gaya, Nature and Youth, Murmansk regional Sámi organisation and some other regional public organisations. Together with Rainbow Keepers they organised the performance to attract attention to nature protection problems in the Kola region and to promote the creation of 4 new nature reserves. Santa Klaus was fined 200 rubles.

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Indigenous Congress

On 12–13 April, the Fourth Congress of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON) was held in Moscow with 330 representatives of 30 regional groups taking part. Over 60 presentations were given during the Congress, the majority of them concerning ecological issues and the rights of indigenous peoples. Many discussions were held on legislation and territorial self-determination. In addition, RAIPON's officers and council and a representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples were elected.

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For more Russian stories, see Forest News on www.forest.ru/eng/periodics/ or contact Vladimir Zakharov, forestnews@online.ru. Also see the Taiga Rescue Network Russian news updates on the TRN website: www.taigarescue.org/news_update

Europe

Old-growth Logging

Logging of old-growth forests in Finland continues, and the timber continues to be certified under the Pan-European Forest Certification (PEFC) system. In January Greenpeace and the Finnish Nature League published their report *Anything Goes?* which included plans by Metsähallitus (Forest and Park Service) to log forests of high conservation value. Several of these ecologically detrimental logging plans have now been implemented. Known habitats of endangered species have been logged and further logging has been planned in several areas. Only 3.6% of productive forest land in Finland is protected from logging. Further protection is essential in order to maintain biodiversity in Finnish forests. Stora Enso and UPM-Kymmene are Metsähallitus' two biggest customers.

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Estonia Opts For FSC

The Estonian State Forest Management Center, which manages 800,000 ha of state forest land has decided to try to certify its management with both FSC and ISO 14001 in a combined certification. It is believed that this is an attractive option for large forest owners and industry, because they can get two important standards at the same time. The assessments will be carried out by SmartWood and Bureau Veritas respectively.

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Indigenous Peoples Meeting

On 6 October 2001 the Second International Chum meeting will be held. This is a round table for non-governmental, governmental and inter-governmental organisations supporting Indigenous Peoples in Russia and Arctic Europe. On 4 October there will be a workshop on the Nenets language, and on 5 October there will be an international workshop entitled 'Nenets and Their Society: Projects in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug'. All these meetings will be held at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

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Oil and Gas in Siberia

Eric Wakker, Focus on Finance

Last June a World Bank study concluded that 'intensive energy resource exploitation has caused great damage to the nature of the Russian Federation, especially to the northern parts ... The accumulated amount of oil emulsions and sludge is estimated to be 1.2 billion tons. Every year, about 30,000 ha of land is damaged.' Rivers are polluted by oil, forests are fragmented, forest fires increase significantly and indigenous families have lost access to adequate pastures for reindeer herding. This is an environmental disaster, and what is the West's response? To pay for more.

In 1996, a wave of foreign investments swept the Russian gas and oil sector, with oil and gas companies forming partnerships with the Russian giant Gazprom (which controls a third of the world's gas reserves), and many new oil companies. For 2 years, western banks, including Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, Credit Lyonnais and Chase Manhattan, poured in massive loans for huge projects including Gazprom's US\$40 billion pipeline project from the Yamal peninsula to Europe.

Then in 1998, the bubble burst. The ruble collapsed and western bankers lost all confidence. For 2 years they were not prepared to consider any investment in Russia.

During 2000, the need for fresh investments reached high levels and the appetite for Russian oil and gas slowly returned in the western financial world after the election of Putin. The US Export-Import Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) began issuing loan guarantees, including for the controversial 'rehabilitation' of the Samotlor oil field, which the World Bank states 'is now classified as an ecological catastrophe zone'. There is now a new shower of private bank loans to the Russian oil and gas sector, from HypoVereinbank, Crédit Agricole Indosuez, WestLB, ING Barings, Société Générale and others.

In the meantime, while the West now has access to the Siberian oil and gas reserves, the Siberian environment and its inhabitants are still in the same deplorable state as they were under the Soviet regime.

For full details see

www.focusonfinance.org/Siberia.htm

Community Connections



Communities are important spearheads of sustainability in forest landscapes. This is the message of a new profile of community involvement in European forest management, published in June. Several of the profile's case studies are from boreal Europe, and many of its lessons are applicable throughout the boreal region.

The new World Conservation Union (IUCN) profile, *People and Forests in Europe*, explores the diverse and changing nature of community involvement in forest management (CIFM) in western Europe. It examines how CIFM has adapted to industrial contexts, as well as envisioning the contributions of CIFM to sustainable futures in Europe's emerging post-industrial context.

The profile contains a history of people-forest relations in Europe. While forests have provided essential resources for many of the major transformations in social history, it has usually been at a cost to natural ecosystems and to poorer rural communities. From the 17th century, many traditional community institutions were undermined as they came into conflict with newly emerging state and private interests. Most natural forest ecosystems have been degraded by the intensification of agricultural and forestry practices, and urbanisation, leaving only a tiny fraction of semi-natural forests.

The profile also provides some comparative European-level data on important social institutions that shape patterns of community involvement in forestry: tenure arrangements; policy

frameworks; forest governance structures; and economic incentives. It briefly examines different national policies and contexts for CIFM.

The profile contains 12 case studies, including:

- Swedish Common Forests;
- Saami Reindeer Herders;
- Crofter Forestry in Scotland;
- Community Forestry in the Scottish Borders;
- Forest Workers and Unions in Europe;
- Small Forest Owners in Europe;
- Participation in Public Forest Management, with examples from Finland, Denmark and Switzerland.

The final chapters discuss some of the main economic, social, ecological and policy opportunities and challenges of CIFM in Europe in the future, and outline the principal lessons learned according to three main groups of actors: governments, NGOs and local communities.

CIFM is an important spearhead of sustainability in post-industrial Europe. There are hopeful signs of a transition in policies and activities, though analysis suggests significant historical and institutional constraints and powerful resistance to greater CIFM by some groups.

The profile proposes the following recommendations for policy and action:

- a diversity of approaches to CIFM;
- policy reform that emphasises the three interlinked goals of sustainability, economic viability, social equity and environmental protection;
- secure forest property and usufruct rights;
- participatory approaches to governance;
- partnerships and coalitions;
- economic reforms for sustainable livelihoods;
- forest agency reform;
- intersectoral integration of land use policies, such as farming, forestry, tourism and sustainable rural businesses.

A vision for the 21st century is proposed that sees CIFM in Europe as a way of (re)connecting people with forests in rural and urban areas for sustainable futures, and as a means of integrating economic, social, cultural, spiritual and ecological values in diverse, innovative and evolving ways.

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Woman of the Woods

Anna Mackay is the chair of Culag Community Woodland Trust, a community forestry group in Assynt, in the northwest highlands of Scotland. She put her chainsaw down just long enough for us to snatch a quick interview.



What is the Culag Community Woodland Trust?

It's a community group which manages a local 36 ha woodland, called the Culag Wood. We have recently bought 1500 ha of land called the Little Assynt Estate.

When was it established and what tenure arrangements do you have?

The notion of the Culag Wood becoming a community wood first came forward in 1991. The first moves were made by the community council. In 1996 we negotiated a lease from the landowner on the Culag Wood, for 50 years, with a further 50 year option. But we own the Little Assynt Estate outright.

Who are the members?

There are currently just over 100 members. Anyone from the community can join. We also have some members who are regular visitors but don't live here.

How is the trust organised and managed?

A subset of the members are really active, and we recruit them to become directors. The directors do the forest management, run events, look after equipment, funds and so on. We have eight elected directors plus four appointed to represent the community council, regional council, ranger service and Assynt Estate. We have a chair, secretary, treasurer, an annual general meeting, the usual committee structures that we are obliged to have as a limited company. There are actually six or seven of us who do the paperwork, writing and form-filling. There are 30 or so other people who get involved with practical work.

Is the community doing a better job of managing the forest than the previous manager?

100%. That's why we got the woods. They had been abandoned. They were derelict. The whole thing began because the paths were being blocked by fallen and windblown trees. The estate saw it as a burden on them, because they couldn't extract timber commercially from it and they were doing no maintenance.

What kinds of activities does the trust do?

We have a 5 year management plan, which everyone contributed to, spelling out 67 projects over 5 years. Every meeting we try to look at one aspect and push it forward. Most of them are in the woods, like clearing Sitka spruce, bringing down windblow, planting new trees, building paths and encouraging wildlife.

For the winter months, we have a monthly firewood collection day, when we gather fallen and dead wood. There's always a job to do at the same time, like fixing potholes in the road or moving logs. In the summer we have more socially orientated activities, also with a job to do. There's one to make a new path. There's one upgrading the Tipi. There'll be an artwork outing, with a bonfire and tea in the Tipi. For the past 4 years, at easter the choco-birds laid chocolate eggs all over the woods, and we had an egg hunt.

Do you have employees?

No. But we do give contracts to self-employed people, like our project officer.

What other benefits does the community get from the trust?

The use of the woods, and the pleasure and delight of having the paths maintained, and the place well looked after. There's the

social side of things. Also the school is right beside the wood. We built a path specially for the school. They have a weekly wildlife watch, which does lots in the woods. And the school runs a tree nursery.

We have a small-scale timber operation with a wood mizer. We've run five chainsaw certification courses, two footpath building courses, and several equipment demonstration days.

What are the biggest challenges that the trust has faced?

Financial difficulties, some of them quite hair-raising. For example, in order to start clearing windblow we had to put a track in. The feasibility study said that half-funding would be sufficient as sales of timber would pay for the other half of the costs. So we built the track, at great expense. Then the bottom fell out of the timber market. That was dreadful. Fortunately the quality of the timber was better than expected so we broke even. But even so it would have been impossible without external funding.

How do you balance ecological and social values?

We try not to make it a question of either/or. It is vital to make it possible for people to explore their own priority areas. I am very community orientated, but other directors are utterly conservation orientated. It is important to see people's energies going where they want. Because we are volunteers we must ensure that we all do what we're interested in, otherwise people will drop out. No one tells anyone else what to do. We have differences of opinion, but the management plan is useful as in it we prioritised all the projects, and having agreed those priorities previously it helps to guide us rather than debating the same questions again.

How are you funded?

We get funds from a range of government agencies, and the council has provided people's time and land. Often the community raises funds that are then matched by an agency.

Do you think there is sufficient political support in Scotland for trusts like the Culag Woodland Trust?

The local councillors are consistent in their support, and our local member of parliament is supportive. The government is improving, for example by setting up the Community Land Fund. It's a sympathetic climate and increasingly so.

What are your future plans?

The development of the Little Assynt Estate is the main issue. We have the management plan to draw up. We need to work on the community side of things and try to get people involved in it. We also need to keep the Culag Woods burning ... but not literally!

What do you personally get out of it?

I just really like it in the woods. And I really like it when other people really like it in the woods. It's a great feeling when people work together. And you get so much done!

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Canadian Community Takes Control

Ramona Faust, Harrop Procter Watershed Protection Society

A Canadian community has achieved sustainable local management of 11,000 ha of forest

Imagine a jewel blue lake set between lush green mountains with a mantle of deep green cedar, hemlock, fir, larch, pine, birch and spruce trees. The rolling mountains are capped with pure white snow and ribbed with cold crystal clear running streams. Bald eagles and osprey circle the icy waters waiting for land-locked salmon to surface. The salmon are destined to become dinner for the hungry eaglets back in the nest, high on top of a dead tree in the dense forest. The stark black tree is also home to a pileated woodpecker, as well as many insects and rodents. The scene is an image of rugged beauty.

This is home to the community of Harrop-Procter, a rural area near Nelson, in British Columbia (BC). There are 700 full time residents in the tiny townships, bordering Kootenay Lake. The landscape is dotted with hobby farms and rural properties. The summer cottage population is dedicated to swimming, boating, hiking and fishing, and this influx of vacationers creates extra business for local merchants. The Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society is the latest in a succession of groups dedicated to protecting watershed integrity and other environmental values



in the community.

Since 1976, there has been a portion of the community that has resisted the conventional logging practices proposed by government regimes and timber companies. In the late 1980s new information indicated that Harrop-Procter was part of a dwindling ecosystem called the Southern Columbia Mountains. If logging were to proceed in Harrop-Procter and surrounding area, there would be less than 1% of this ecosystem protected in BC.

The campaign

The concerned residents of Harrop-Procter joined with many residents and Nelson town council and proposed that the area surrounding Nelson and Harrop-Procter become a wilderness park. However, the government of the times was less than receptive to the proposal and dismissed the application. This instigated a battle focused on a logging road into the proposed wilderness area at Lasca Creek. The dispute resulted in blockades, arrests and a divided community. After 5 years of civil disobedience and endless meetings and deliberations, the government's Commission on Resources and the Environment compromised to protect 11% of the provincial landbase in parks. This compromise meant the area above and surrounding the community of Harrop-Procter became a Class A provincial park but Harrop-Procter's watersheds were suspiciously excluded from protection. The community was deeply divided and exhausted from the past 5 years and their steep wet

watersheds were open to industrial logging.

It was decided that a steering committee should pursue alternatives to *status quo* logging and report back to the community. After investigating many options, the community decided that public participation in land-use plans and water protection were its key concerns but that they also wanted to see some economic benefits from resource extraction stay in the community.

The steering committee approached the Silva Forest Foundation to discuss creating an ecosystem-based land-use plan for the watersheds. Silva's belief in community decision-making and landscape-level planning fit very well with the community's needs. The planning method incorporates the community's values by involving residents in the mapping and planning of forest uses. Designated areas are then taken out of the landbase that is available for timber harvesting.

While forest planning was taking place, the steering committee became a registered society in order to apply for government tenure over the forestland and engaged in an exhaustive public outreach campaign. Due to public pressure from forest-dependent towns around the province, the forest minister opened up a competition for Community Forest Pilot Proposals.

The proposal

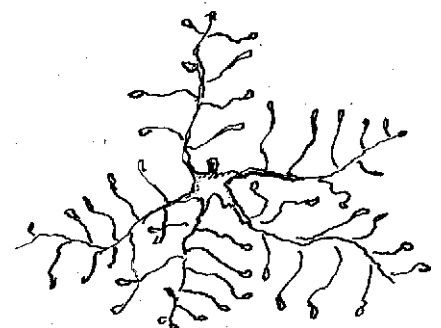
With much of the required groundwork already done, the Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society was able to focus on a creative economic proposal. By conducting sensitive timber harvesting in ecologically appropriate zones, the community would seek FSC certification. Gentle timber harvesting will allow for non-timber forest product development and enhancement. These forest plants will be integrated with herbs from a community herb farm to market medicinal herb products. Over the long-term, low-impact eco-tourism will be incorporated. Plans for value-added wood product development incorporating the local sawmill was also part of the proposal.

The Harrop-Procter proposal was one of seven proposals accepted by the BC government as a pilot. In the summer of 2000 the community of Harrop-Procter and the Ministry of Forests signed a 5-year agreement to harvest 2603 cubic meters of wood annually from the 11,000 ha landbase. This Allowable Annual Cut was determined by the community and will conserve biodiversity.

In 1999 the Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society incorporated a co-operative in order to conduct business and it has employed 21 people during the past two summer forest and farm seasons. The residents have pulled together to give thousands of hours of volunteer labour and financial support to meet the huge challenge ahead. They realise that this is an opportunity to make a difference in community economic development and conservation.

Hopefully the story of Harrop-Procter will be an inspiration to other rural communities around the globe.

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Spearheading Sustainability

Ken Veitch and Tom Clark, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.

A community-led forest management company is improving standards in Ontario

Westwind Forest Stewardship is a multi-stakeholder not-for-profit forest management company that in May 1998 became the first such organisation to receive a Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) from the Ontario government. The SFL puts Westwind in charge of timber harvest, tree-planting, operations monitoring and forest management planning for 540,000 ha of public forests in Muskoka-Parry Sound, central Ontario.

The movement to form Westwind as a non-profit corporation started in 1996, with the objective of taking over responsibility for Crown Land forest management. The wide variety of users in the Muskoka-Parry Sound forests provided the impetus to make Westwind a community-based company, an innovative approach in Ontario. In this community-based model, logging contractors and forest companies still provide all of the funding for forest management, but don't hold all the decision-making power.

Westwind is run by a board of seven directors: three representing the local forest industry and four with no ties to the industry at all. The community directors are selected through a

public advertisement and interviewed by a nomination review committee. They require a good knowledge of the forest, business acumen, dedication and respect for forest users, all tempered with a desire to maintain an active and sustainable forest economy.

Westwind is currently progressing towards becoming a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified Forest, an achievement targeted for summer 2001. It would be the first large public forest to be FSC certified in Ontario. Other activities include producing a series of educational conferences called 'Your Forest – Your Choice', and twice annual meetings with forest operators.

High-grade logging in the two districts was rampant from the mid-1800s for some 60 or 70 years, first for white pine, then for other species in succession. In the 1970s the decline was halted with the implementation of a careful multi-objective tree marking system. Now, under the guidance of Westwind, forest operators are committed to sustainable forest management.

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Tenure and Trusts

Lisa Ambus, International Network of Forests and Communities

As interest grows in local community control over Canada's forests, new tenure arrangements are needed. The Community Ecosystem Trust offers an innovative alternative designed specifically to address community and ecological concerns.

Ninety-four percent of Canada's vast areas of forested land, covering 418 million ha, is owned by the citizens of Canada. Ownership, however, does not necessarily denote management authority, responsibility or ability to derive benefit from the forest resource. Indeed, the principles of local control, and local benefit, which are central to the concept of community forestry, remain largely unexplored and unrefined in Canada's forest policies and legislation.

In Canada's nine provinces and three territories, a system of forest tenures is granted to timber companies for periods of 5–25 years. The majority of these tenures are volume-based, meaning that a specified volume of timber may be harvested over a certain period of time, typically far beyond what is ecologically sustainable. The consequence of Canada's outdated tenure structure, and global economic forces influencing the forest industry, has been the concentration of forest tenures among a few, large timber companies, largely to the exclusion of community-based and other smaller-scale forest operations.

With growing public awareness and concern over the ecological, economic and social impacts of conventional forest

management, attention to tenure reform and 'alternative' forest management regimes is increasing.

Over the past three decades, several commissions of inquiry have urged the British Columbia provincial government to redistribute tenures to smaller operators and communities. In 1991, for example, the Forest Resources Commission recommended that government take back 50% of timber quotas from existing (industrial) licencees with manufacturing facilities for re-allocation as area-based tenures to First Nations, communities, woodlot operators and other small businesses. The government has yet to fulfil any of these recommendations to any meaningful extent.

We propose a new legislative model that creates *Community Ecosystem Trusts*, a vehicle by which lands and resources under Crown control can be shifted to a community management body through an ecosystem-based 'trust' agreement. The trust offers an innovative legal vehicle through which government can enable communities to take on more management authority and responsibility. The Community Ecosystem Trust model seeks to fulfil four key objectives:

- developing sustainability;
- reconciling Crown sovereignty with Aboriginal title;
- enabling participatory and healthy communities; and
- reforming the regulatory process.

See: Michael M'Gonigle, Brian Egan, Lisa Ambus. *When there's a Way there's a Will Report 1: Developing Sustainability through the Community Ecosystem Trust*. Victoria: Eco-Research Chair of Environmental Law and Policy, University of Victoria. 2001.

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Community Forest Email Lists

Forest Community is the discussion list of the International Network of Forests and Communities. To subscribe look on their website at:
www.forestsandcommunities.org

PANIC (People and Nature in Cahoots) is a new network for community management of local resources. To subscribe send an email to:
Majordomo@slu.se
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First Nation Favours FSC

Jean Maurice Matchewan, Mitchikanibikok Inik

The Algonquins of Barriere Lake, Canada, see Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification as a way to help them secure recognition of their land rights and to gain some benefits from resource exploitation on their traditional lands.



Mitchikanibikok Inik or, in English, Algonquins of Barriere Lake, is one of ten Algonquin First Nation communities inhabiting the Ottawa River watershed along the border between the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Mitchikanibikok Inik means 'the people of the stone fence' or 'the people of the stone fish weir' and is taken from our former rendezvous place on Barriere Lake at the headwaters of the Ottawa River. We speak a distinct local dialect of Algonquin, a language native to this region.

Resource industries and businesses, settler governments and their institutions and a rapidly growing population have squeezed our First Nation into an ever more limited world of options for adapting to change. By the late 1980s the combined effect of clear-cut logging, flooding and fluctuating water levels from the operation of dams and reservoirs within our territory, and the depletion of fish and game by sports users, caused us to organise a peaceful campaign of protests and blockades against logging. After a great deal of pressure, the governments of Canada and Quebec responded by agreeing to sign the Trilateral Agreement which provides for Algonquin input into resource management decisions within our traditional territory, 10,920 km² in the area of the La Verendrye Wildlife Reserve in Western Quebec.

Signed in 1991 (and recommitted in 1998) by the governments of Barriere Lake, Quebec and Canada, the Trilateral Agreement was inspired by the Brundtland Report on Environment and Development and the doctrine of sustainable development. The objective of the agreement is to develop for implementation, a draft Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) with a commitment to the principles of sustainable development, conservation and continuation of our traditional way of life, while at the same time allowing versatile resource use. The Agreement seeks to reconcile forestry operations within the territory with the environmental concerns and social and economic needs of our First Nation.

The Trilateral Agreement is an important pilot project in that it puts the doctrine of sustainable development into practice; establishes a partnership between government and an aboriginal community; blends traditional knowledge with contemporary processes; and promotes a working relationship between aboriginal people and other stakeholders within the territory.

For our First Nation, sustainable development implies the recognition and incorporation of all uses of the forest, not just commercial uses, into the development planning process. Forest management and operational planning within the Trilateral territory must evolve to take into account the environmental regime, land tenure and subsistence activities of the Algonquin people.

Our First Nation has designed a set of criteria and indicators in order to know if ecosystems are being managed sustainably and in a culturally appropriate manner from the Algonquin perspective. These indicators, when used in concert with criteria

and indicators for other objectives of the Agreement, should provide a basis for the development of a certification audit protocol for use on the Trilateral territory.

Although we have managed to force the federal and provincial governments to take measures to mitigate impacts on our traditional way of life by getting them to sign the Trilateral Agreement, the fact is that neither Canada nor Quebec recognises or respects Algonquin aboriginal title. In other words, contrary to FSC principle 3 ('The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognised and respected'), they do not recognise and respect our First Nation's right to own and manage our lands, territories and resources. As a result, we do not have *de facto* control of our traditional lands and, other than subsistence activities, we derive no economic benefits whatsoever from resource development activities that are taking place on our lands, including forestry activities. Despite the fact that we have never signed away our aboriginal title by treaty or otherwise, the province of Quebec claims outright ownership of our territory and takes all the benefits for itself.

Quebec signs forestry agreements, issues permits and receives stumpage dues and taxes.

Could Barriere Lake benefit from FSC certification? Yes, we could if this implied the full implementation of principle 3. Our community is extremely socially and economically disadvantaged. We suffer from 80–90% unemployment. Our houses are extremely over-crowded; education levels are very low — we only have a few high school graduates; and we depend almost exclusively on government transfers. In contrast, millions of dollars in revenues are being generated from our traditional territory. We estimate that Canadian \$95 million per year is generated from our waters. In 1994, \$56.5 million was made from forestry, tourism, services and nature activities within the Trilateral territory. This includes \$33.0 million in the forestry sector. We would benefit if we were able to obtain even a fraction of those revenues.

Our First Nation favours FSC certification. We are well positioned for it and we have encouraged companies operating within our territory to pursue FSC certification. However, we will insist that the principles and criteria be adhered to. More specifically, we will ensure that social benefits to which we are due, accrue to our community.

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We do not have de facto control of our traditional lands and we derive no economic benefits whatsoever from forestry.

Forest Fair Trade

How a Russian community benefits from Fair Trade

Nadezhda Strakhova, Pricebatch (Altai-UK) Ltd

A year ago, in March 2000, the first two Russian companies gained Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificates. Local communities have benefited from the Fair Trade ethic which the companies have adopted, and the companies find that it gives them a competitive edge.

The two companies are Kosikhinsky Forestry and Timber Production Ltd, both located in the Altai Region, Western Siberia. Kosikhinsky Forestry is situated in the Kosikhinsky district, 60 km from Barnaul, the centre of the Altai Region. The predominant species in the forest is birch, but there is also pine, aspen and poplar. The FSC certified forest area is 32,714 ha. There are 70 employees in the company and it is the major supplier of sawn birch for Timber Production.

Timber Production is located in Barnaul and is a private company with more than 200 employees, manufacturing small items made of birch, such as wooden combs, massagers, wooden soap dishes, files for hard skin, i.e. mainly accessories for body care. These products sell on the Russian market and abroad.

The main foreign customer of Timber Production is Body Shop International, with headquarters in the UK. Their closest foreign partner is the UK company Pricebatch (Altai-UK). Pricebatch works with Timber Production arranging sales of its products and facilitating their export trade. The most significant services are: providing foreign market information to meet customer requirements and trading standards, provision of communications and translation, support of negotiation processes in the UK and other countries on new product ideas and sample approvals, warehousing, and meeting delivery deadlines set by The Body Shop and other customers.

The trading partnership between Timber Production, Kosikhinsky Forestry, Pricebatch and The Body Shop was established in 1992 in the period of *perestroika* in Russia. From the very beginning, all the companies involved in this trading relationship were committed to building 'fair trade' based on humane principles, taking into account not only economic benefits but social and ecological business aspects as well.

The initial drive for voluntary certification of the Russian supplier came in 1996 from The Body Shop which indicated to its suppliers its objective of moving towards buying FSC wooden products by 2000. Both Russian partner companies greatly valued their international trade and the sustainable and reliable relationships built up with their UK trading partners. They also appreciated the FSC ideas and principles and recognised the importance of certification to world trade.

Preparatory work started in 1997 with an evaluation by the Soil Association. In summer 1998 Timber Production and Kosikhinsky Forestry conducted a trial self-evaluation of their companies against the FSC requirements, supported by Pricebatch. In September 1999, the Soil Association issued FSC certificates for both companies. In the course of preparation for the FSC inspection both the Russian companies made serious improvements in labour safety, development of records and management of written policies and ecological research.



Achieving certification has strengthened trade and relationships between the trading partners, giving added confidence in future successful trade and proving the reliability of the mutual commitments. Kosikhinsky Forestry has stable orders for FSC certified wood from Timber Production. Timber Production is expanding its range of products and receives more proposals from The Body Shop and other potential customers interested in buying FSC certified products. Both Russian companies have opportunities to expand and realise that the FSC certificate is a powerful market tool and gives them competitive advantages.

One important point proven by this case is that there is no conflict between voluntary FSC certification and the forestry legislation of the Russian Federation.

The achievement of FSC certification for Kosikhinsky Forestry and Timber Production is remarkable, but it is not the whole story. Since its inception Pricebatch has instigated social improvements through trade via its Community Action Fund. Substantial assistance has been provided to social establishments in Barnaul including orphanages, the osseous tuberculosis hospital for children, and a refugee home for homeless children. Following certification, ten computers were bought for the district

school and the Kosikhinsky regional hospital was bought an ambulance minibus. Nothing of this kind would be possible without on-going stable 'Fair Trade'.

Another important social factor guaranteed by stable Fair Trade is that of employees' well-being. Kosikhinsky Forestry and Timber Production employees receive wages regularly, without the delays now common in Russia. The employees' wages are higher than the average for the region, and holidays, medical certificates and sick leave are paid by the companies. In cases of need, Timber Production gives employees long-term interest-free loans. Both Kosikhinsky Forestry and Timber Production have become greatly respected companies within the region, providing stable employment for the workers, regularly paying taxes to the city and district budgets. This is not the case with many other companies in the Altai Region. Both companies present a good example of successful small 'fair trade' businesses, which could be imitated by others in the wood processing industry.

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Communities and FSC

TRN, in cooperation with the Boreal Footprint Project, is publishing a paper on FSC and communities. It examines the policy and legal conditions needed for certification to reward forestry that both benefits the environment and provides economic livelihoods for local people. It documents opportunities and challenges through case studies of small-scale forest management projects (Canada and Sweden), which are both FSC certified and locally beneficial. It analyses FSC's potential for social as well as ecological reform and sustainable community development in the boreal region.

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Towards True Participation

Kaisa Raitio, University of Joensuu

Metsähallitus, the state enterprise managing a quarter of the Finnish forests, has been involving the public in its planning since the early 1990s, but stakeholders need to be able to influence the rules of the game if they are to develop genuine trust in the process.

Public participation first began in the Sámi area of northernmost Finland, where the high percentage of state owned land (over 90%), cultural diversity (a third of the 12,000 inhabitants are indigenous Sámi people) and the multiple use of the land created a great need for stakeholder involvement. Public participation in the area is not just a voluntary exercise: traditional Sámi livelihoods are protected by the Finnish constitution. Although many Sámi people today work in modern occupations, reindeer herding remains the heart of the culture and the main livelihood keeping remote villages inhabited.

The southern half of the Sámi area is covered with boreal forests. There is a long history of conflicts between state forestry operations and reindeer herding, because the arboreal lichens of old-growth forests are important reindeer winter food, but old-growth forest logging is depleting this crucial resource in many Sámi herding co-operatives.

As part of the more open planning policy, meetings between Metsähallitus and reindeer herders nowadays take place on a regular basis. For each planning process a steering group with key stakeholders is set up and all local people are asked for their input.

However, several key issues still remain unresolved. One is the controversial nature of the planning data. Planning is done

with the terminology, mapping systems and time frame of forestry, but these are difficult and irrelevant for people not involved in forestry. Reindeer herders have demanded that the maps be based on reindeer pastures in each co-operative or on other locally relevant units. In addition, a common understanding should be developed regarding the environmental, social and ecological impacts of forestry, reindeer herding and tourism. At the moment all three claim to be best adapted to the area. 'Whose data are the right data?' has become a political question.

Opinions and data are collected from the people. But then what? Many feel they can affect the detail of the plans, but not the issues most crucial to them. As they enter discussions with Metsähallitus, the agenda has already been set in a way that excludes the most controversial issues: for instance, until now herders have only been able to move or postpone logging, but not affect the annual harvest levels within their co-operative. It remains to be seen whether the new negotiations triggered by the recent joint NGO-herders campaign will lead to a better solution.

The views inside Metsähallitus on the role of participation vary greatly. It seems Metsähallitus is not quite clear about the role of stakeholders in decision-making. Decision-making, however, is why the participants are there. In order to develop genuine trust in the planning process, stakeholders need to have a better opportunity to affect the issues most crucial to them, and most crucial for the outcome: the rules of the game, the alternative goals and the means to achieve them.

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Learning from success

Olof T Johansson, Tåssåsen Sámi Community

Indigenous peoples and nations need to learn from the examples of successful campaigns. I have had the privilege to play a small part in a successful campaign concerning the Haisla First Nation's struggle to protect their lands from exploitation and repatriate cultural objects.

Haisla Nation is an Indian band with 650 members who live in Kitmaat village, 800 km north of Vancouver in an area called Kitlope which has around 400,000 ha of temperate rainforest, the old home range of Haisla Nation's Eagle clan. In 1966 the area was given to the forest company Eurocan (at that time half-owned by Finnish Enso) for logging.

In 1991, a Haisla delegation visited the Museum of ethnography in Stockholm, Sweden, where a Haisla totem pole was displayed. It was originally raised in 1872 and it tells the story of G'psgolox, chief of the Kitlope Eagle clan, and the good spirit Tsoda. In the late 1920s the Swedish consul of British Columbia, Olof Hansson, had got hold of the totem pole and given it to the Swedish state, but representatives of the Eagle clan say that they never gave

Hansson permission. The Haisla Nation wanted to get the totem pole back as it was seen as an important symbol for their fight against exploitation of their lands. Sámi organisations pressurised the government. In 1994 the Swedish government took the decision to return the totem pole to the Haisla nation.

The Haisla Nation promised the Swedish museum a replica pole which was crafted in Sweden in September 2000 by Haisla craftsmen. An additional replica was made and raised at the original location of the totem pole in Kitlope. Around 200 participants took part in this Eagle clan ceremony, during which, symbolically, 12 eagles soared in the sky.

After many years of discussions between the provincial authorities, the forest company and the Haisla Nation, 275,000 ha of Kitlope was protected in August 1994. The forest company gave up their logging leases without demanding compensation. A moratorium on grizzly hunting has been established and the bears are now returning. The First Nation has started guided tours in the area. During our stay we saw a beach where fresh tracks

of bear, wolf, moose and eagle crossed. Seals, beaver and thousands of spawning salmon swam in the lake. Killer whales and humpback whales showed in the fjord.

So, what was the reason for the success? I don't see a single reason, but good timing played a large part. The Haisla Nation had strong leaders and the campaign was well organised and had strong internal support. The Nation co-operated with various environmental and scientific organisations to raise international attention and for documentation and lobby efforts. The Sámi council pressured the Finnish forest company and the Swedish museum. A wide range of delegations visited the area. On top of this there was a stubbornness and enthusiasm that has kept the issues alive for 10 years.

We indigenous peoples and nations need to learn from successes like that of the Haisla Nation. We must never give up, despite temporary setbacks.

Thanks to the Sámi newsletter *Samefolket* for permission to reprint this article.

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UN Forum for IPs

Rudolph C. Ryser, Center for World Indigenous Studies

After more than 10 years of lobbying United Nations (UN) officials and government representatives, indigenous peoples' activists gained approval of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples' Permanent Forum. The forum will have a 15-member body appointed by governments. The Forum's mandate is to hear and report on the situation of indigenous peoples to the ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly. The body is advisory to the UN system.

While the subject of indigenous peoples has been a matter of concern to international bodies like the League of Nations as far back as 1918, no formal effort to establish a channel for the voice of indigenous peoples in the international arena has existed before 2000.

The body being created is supposed to be representative of more than 6000 indigenous nations, most of which know nothing of its existence. This fact poses a serious problem for supporters of the Permanent Forum.

The supporters hold the view that this is the first major step toward gaining respect and acceptance by states' governments. Some suggest that through the Forum it will be possible to inform the terms of reference of new international laws and agreements, and it will be more possible to reform the UN. The fact that some of the supporters of the Forum have themselves been actively engaging governments and other interests at the international level for more than 20 years makes the UN approval of the Permanent Forum a crowning success.

Others are less enthusiastic. Experience at the government level suggests an experience of uneven success and failure at governmental reform and institutional building. In Australia the National Aboriginal Council existed for many years within the framework of the state government, but its ability to adjust state policies favorable to aboriginal peoples can only be described as limited. That is essentially what can be said of the Maori Council in New Zealand too. In Canada the First Nations' Assembly is an advisory body that frequently engages in activities of ceremonial value, but is of little political value to Indian peoples.

The UN Indigenous Peoples' Permanent Forum has not yet had a chance to be tested. We shall wait and see.

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Identity and Ecology in Arctic Siberia: the Number One Reindeer Brigade.

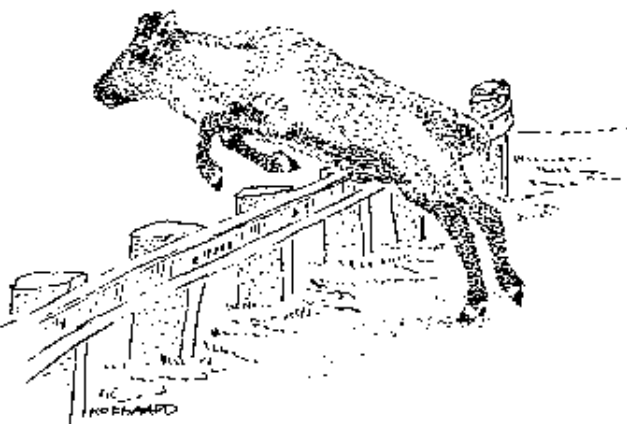
David G. Anderson, Oxford University Press, 2000

Review by Marcus Colchester, Forest Peoples Programme

The Evenki, a widely dispersed people thought to number some 36,000, range across a vast stretch of North-East Asia from near Tomsk in the west to Kamchatka and Sakhalin in the east. How such a sparse and extensive people could maintain its linguistic identity and social coherence over such a huge area, without modern communications or any centralising institutions, is one of social science's mysteries.

This unusually intimate and perceptive anthropological study gives us an insight into the lives of the reindeer-herding Evenki people on the wind-blashed northern fringe of the Taiga. The area they inhabit is one of the last great ranges of the wild arctic deer (*Rangifer tarandus*), their traditional prey, an area which the World Wide Fund for Nature now proposes be turned into a Biosphere Reserve to conserve them. The text mixes an erudite analysis of the experiences and concepts underpinning Evenki knowledge and sense of belonging with personal anecdotes and extracts from the author's diaries and notebooks to give one a strong savour of life in the ecologically diverse forests in the Taimyr Autonomous District around the mouth of the Yenisei.

Despite centuries of interventions into their lives, the Evenki emerge as a robust if sometimes taciturn people proud of their traditional knowledge and their skills at managing reindeer. Their sense of being is closely related to the landscape they inhabit and with which they see themselves as interacting materially and spiritually in a two-way relationship of give and take. Although ownership of the lands and herds theoretically lies with the State, *de facto* ownership rests with those who know how to live in these sparsely populated forests. Evenki knowledge is learned through practice with a minimum of guidance. The traditional cues of ridicule and hostile criticism, blended with Soviet-style harshness and culpability, make for a daunting initiation into life in the blizzard-swept wastes. This strict, unforgiving atmosphere, in which the apprentices learn their trade, instils the key virtue of the reindeer-herder — self-reliance.



Although the study looks specifically at the life of one reindeer-herding 'brigade', the author addresses wider issues about identity and political change in Russia. He explores the history of impositions of categories on the indigenous world. Where there was a kaleidoscope of merging, overlapping and shifting identities among the sparse and mobile northern peoples, Russian ethnographers and administrators imposed a rigid framework of exclusive and hierarchically ranked categories according to peoples' perceived 'cultural level' and economic purpose. Soviet policy made these national identities one of the central distinctions of civic life. Ironically the new liberalisation in Russia has now tended to further formalise these social boundaries as groups borrow these imposed terms in their struggles to assert rights to lands and natural resources in order to secure themselves a place in the market.

The rise of Evenki nationalism can thus be seen as fusion of 'traditional' and imposed orders as a renewed sense of identity and belonging to the land bubbles up from an interaction between 'the people' and 'the State'. The Evenki believe that their future lies in maintaining 'their' collectives, asserting exclusive rights to 'their' territories and in the 'rebirth' of their culture. But the departing author, as he thrusts himself into one of the increasingly scarce State-subsidised helicopters on which the whole economy of the North now depends, is sceptical. He worries that the Evenki survival strategy of mobility, interaction, and shifting and opportunistic alliances may not function well within the exclusive bounds of 'nation' and 'territory'. He does not venture to propose an alternative path, however.



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Indigenous Peoples and Forest Management in Fennoscandia and Canada

Jokkmokk, Sweden, 10–12 October 2001

Organised by the Sámi Council and the Grand Council of the Crees, and supported by Taiga Rescue Network, this conference will bring together indigenous representatives, environmental groups, governmental and intergovernmental bodies and industry. The focus will be on forest use, land rights and indigenous strategies for sustainable development. The programme will highlight market-based and legal instruments emphasising forest certification schemes.

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Future issues

The focus of the next issue of Taiga News (number 36) will be on boreal forest ecology. The deadline for contributions is 15 August and the issue will be produced in September.

The autumn issue (number 37) will be produced in November and will focus on the forest pulp and paper industry and its impact on boreal forests. Please send contributions and suggestions to the editors by the end of October.