

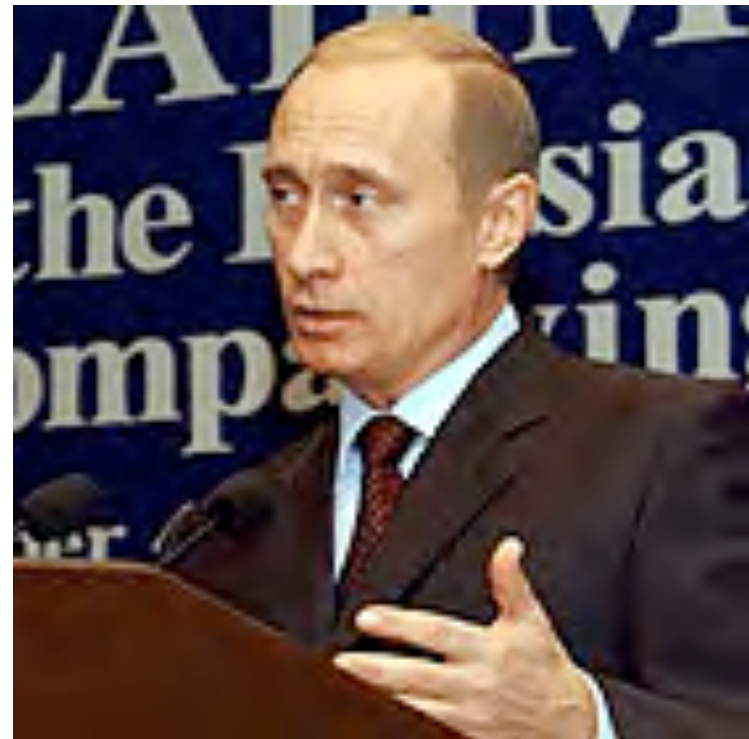
Green Belt in Russia: Alternative Livelihoods Development

The World Conservation Union



G8 Country, but Poverty is Still an Issue

“The improvement of rural life is, in my opinion, an obvious priority. Poverty and unemployment induce the loss of life goals, cause alcoholism and other problems.”



G8 Country, but PAs are Still in Decline

- Lack of adequate state governance;
- Lack of adequate financial resources for nature conservation and research;
- Poor acceptance by local communities



Alternative Livelihood Strategies: What are They?

- Wild medicinal, aromatic and food plants harvesting;
- Ecotourism;
- Alternative energy sources



Alternative Livelihood Strategies: Benefits for Communities, Benefits for Nature

- Additional income for communities and protected areas;
- Traditional knowledge and skills preservation;
- Improved harvesting practices



Alternative Livelihood Strategies: Risks and Concerns

- Overuse of resources and new threats to biodiversity;
- Increased risk of forest fires, disturbance, *etc.*;
- ‘Commercialization’ of protected areas



Alternative Livelihood Strategies: What is Missing?

- No long term research to set norms for sustainable harvest;
- No awareness of decision-makers;
- No relevant regulatory basis
- No clarity on tenure rights
- No marketing knowledge and production capacity in communities



Alternative Livelihood Strategies: What Can Green Belt Do?

- Success stories from different countries;
- Develop incentives for communities and PAs to support initiatives for alternative livelihood strategies development;
- Raise stakeholders' awareness on opportunities



Alternative Livelihood Strategies: What Can Green Belt Do?

- Develop cooperation between PAs, small producers, decision makers;
- Co-branding and co-marketing;
- Certification



Alternative Livelihood Strategies: What Can Green Belt Do?

- Develop partnership projects;
- Share lessons learned and success stories;
- Green Belt as a streamline of cooperation for better life of local communities



Alternative Livelihood Strategies: IUCN-Russia

- NTFP small business development and traditional knowledge conservation project in the Russian Far East (CIDA, 2000-05)
- Assessment for sustainable traditional crafts production in Magadan Region (IFC, 2003)
- Assessment of NTFP harvesting on PAs' biodiversity on Kamchatka (UNDP, 2004)
- NTFP project in Kemerovo Region (DOEN, 2005)
- Annual Traditional Knowledge Camps (various donors)
- Annual NTFP Fair and Forum in Moscow (various donors)
- Marketing opportunities for NTFPs of the Russian North-West (BBI-Martra, 2006-2008)



Thank you!

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