

**Final Report on the project “Organisation of a Territory of Traditional Land Use (TTP)  
for the “Tutura” and “Kiringa” Evenk communities,”  
Irkutsk Oblast, Russian Federation”**

Over the past two years the (2006-2007) the Association of Minority Indigenous Peoples of Irkutsk Oblast has been working on the project for a territory of traditional land use (TTP) – the “Tuturo-Kirenga TTP.” The project was supported by funds from the Rufford Foundation (UK), Global Greengrants Fund (USA), “Grassroots” (Germany), PERK (USA) and “Baikal Environmental Wave” (Russia).

The approaches used in the project corresponded with the aims of supporting the traditional ways of life of the minority indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Russian Far East in conditions of market relations and dramatic loss of slightly impacted and virgin areas in which it is possible to practice a traditional way of life. The follow work was carried out:

1. An ethno-historical substantiation was made for the TTP of the Tuturo-Ocheulskiye Evenks.
2. The present-day legal grounds for allocation and juridical registration of a TTP for the Tuturo-Ocheulskiye Evenks were analysed.
3. The borders were substantiated and the basic principles for the TTP project were determined.
4. A description was made of the GIS methods and approaches to determine the state of hunting resources used in the project.
5. A short description was made of the natural and economic characteristics of the TTP and the state of the forage resources of the game.
6. Cartographic work was carried out after having determined habitat type for the main animals with the help of a new method presented by Viktor Kuznetsov at an enlarged meeting of the Dean’s office at the Wildlife Faculty [of the Irkutsk State Academy of Agriculture] in 2003 when it received the high appraisal of academic and teaching staff.
7. An evaluation of the TTP was made according to habitat conditions of the main game animals, presenting it both in table and cartographic form.
8. Population counts were conducted over two seasons and permanent count sections were planned and used for descriptive passports.
9. A general analysis of the social situation was made in all three Evenk settlements – Vershina Tutura, and the villages of Chinonga and Tyrka.
10. A separate analysis was made of the male population in these settlements, as at present in these Evenk groups women do not take a direct part in the hunting economy.
11. Lists of hunters and maps of their hunting grounds were compiled.
12. A survey was conducted that showed how the members of the Kirenga and Tutura communities rate their present social and economic state and also their expectations.
13. The possible load on hunting and fishing resources of the Tuturo-Kirenga TTP was determined and corresponding recommendations were made for hunting and fishing.
14. Conclusions were drawn from project data.
15. Perspective areas of development for the Tuturo-Kirenga TTP were proposed and a plan for their realisation was designed bearing in mind that the protection and monitoring service of the TTP would not interfere in the economic activities of the community but, apart from its main work, would be concerned with the introduction of new economic and ecological areas of activity such as eco-ethno tourism, hunting and fishing tourism, gathering and processing of medicinal plants etc.

The resulting work takes the form of 7 volumes. The project structure is as follows: the main volume consists of two parts – one on the Kirenga site, with a volume containing the descriptive passport of its hunting grounds; a volume on the Tutura site, with a volume containing the descriptive passport of its hunting grounds; a volume with data for the whole TTP, including the typology of animal habitats and an assessment of habitat conditions for the main game species; and 11 cartographic items.

The project was presented for review at the Wildlife Faculty of the Irkutsk State Academy of Agriculture on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and an official review was issued by the dean of the faculty - O.V.Zharov, by the head of the department of general biology and ecology -A.P.Demidovich, and by the head of the department of economics and organisation of the hunting trade - V.C.Kambalin, with the following assessment: “The work undertaken has very high significance for assessment of perspective development not only for the Kachug district, but also for the sustainable use of natural resources in other TTP. It should be underlined that this area of research goes beyond the limits of Irkutsk region. In essence the work is of a pioneer character and is extremely important for the revival of the traditional husbandry of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

Part I of the Project’s main volume evaluates the factual state of natural, labour and material resources of the area proposed for the TTP. The hypothesis of the social and economic practicability of the creation of a TTP to support the vital activities of the indigenous peoples of Irkutsk Oblast is substantiated.

Part II of the Project’s main volume is devoted to socio-economic grounds for the organisation of the Tuturo-Kirenga TTP. The estimations made convincingly show the necessary direction of expenditure and can be taken as a basis. Measures are proposed – the development of tourism of ecologo-ethnographic, hunting and fishing kinds and the gathering and processing of medicinal plants – by which, if the Project is approved by the Irkutsk Oblast Administration, the TTP could quickly recover costs.

Cartographic material has been prepared at an exemplary level and includes maps of 1:50,000 – 1:500,000 scales. All maps have been executed for the first time, have an exclusive character and are of great practical significance for sustainable land use on a scientific basis.

The work was undertaken by highly qualified specialists – resource economists, ethnologists, wildlife specialists and biologists.

Bearing in mind the above we believe that the ‘Project for the organisation and sustainable use of the Tuturo-Kirenga TTP in Kachug district of Irkutsk Oblast’ has been executed at a high scientific and methodological level and is recommended for practical application. We would recommend that the present Project be used as a basis for management decisions for the development of the Kachug district Evenk communities.

The proposal of the Project’s author on the expediency of setting up a Training Centre, on the basis of the Tuturo-Kirenga TTP as a model territory, for the training of the minority indigenous people of the North, Siberia and the Far East is particularly attractive for the faculty. The faculty has all the necessary teaching and methods capacity at its disposal in order to participate in the realisation of such a centre.”

The Project has been submitted to the Irkutsk Oblast Administration for appraisal of the question of setting up the Tuturo-Kirenga TTP with regional status.

We are hoping that the TTP will be approved and then we will propose the setting up of a training centre for the minority indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation on its basis as a model territory and on the basis of the Butakovsk school (at present only being used to half capacity) and the teaching and methods capacity of the above Wildlife faculty. In that way it would be possible to solve the problem of training staff from amongst minority indigenous communities and start the process of reviving the cultural traditions of integrated land use amongst the indigenous peoples that were violated by the unwise policy of educating their children in boarding schools away from their parents. To this day it is very difficult for young indigenous people to return to the taiga and their ancestral husbandry but, having received the knowledge of qualified handling of such an enterprise, the young people will be better able to orientate themselves in modern life while not forsaking the culture of their forefathers, at the same time feel that they are the rightful masters of their ancestral lands.

When the Irkutsk Oblast Administration determines the level of its participation in the setting up of the TTP and Training Centre, we will make applications to foundations to continue this work. In this way we hope that the present work will be the starting point for the training of representatives of the indigenous peoples in the skilful handling of sustainable husbandry in market economy conditions, enabling them to participate in modern life as equals.