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TESTING METHODOLOGIES TO MONITOR THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND ESTABLISH LARGE FOREST DYNAMICS PLOTS AT TWO EURASIAN BOREAL FOREST SITES (BORFOR)

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Sustainable management of the Eurasian boreal forest to enhance the provision of ecosystem services is an important goal, recognized by local governments and international concerns (WWF TEEB MEA). Although policies are well developed, the best methods to ensure successful implementation and anticipate policy impacts on forests and local communities are uncertain.

Sustainable forest management (SFM) requires knowledge of forest productivity and dynamics, biodiversity, and species specific functional traits. These attributes must be investigated within the context of the many ecosystem services required locally. In this short initial visit we consulted local stakeholders and scientists at two INTERACT sites (Mukhrino Field Station and Spasskaya Pad), and developed plans for future collaboration and initiated plans for a boreal forest network to link international researchers and stakeholders. We discussed the challenge of delivering biodiversity conservation, provisioning, regulating and cultural ecosystem services and the need to establish appropriate SFM practises. We gave out a small number of questionnaires to collect preliminary information and to assess the questionnaires suitability for an assessment of the ecosystem services required by local people.

To enhance our knowledge of boreal forest ecology we planned the establishment of large forest plots that would use methods developed by Center for Tropical Forest Science and Smithsonian Institution Global Earth Observatories (CTFS-SIGEO <http://www.sigeo.si.edu/>). We briefly tested CTFS methodologies, sought information on forest data already available, and visited forest sites in the region to assess plot locations and resources required to establish a forest plot.