

*Trans-Siberian Green Belt Road Study tour*

*20 – 25 August 2019*

*Theme: Intensive sustainable management of Boreal Forest*

*China - plantation forest*

*Russia - natural forest*

Key question of study tour

What opportunities does intensive sustainable management of Boreal Forest bring to China and Russia?

Sub questions

1. How can we increase timber supply and quality, while ensuring the boreal forest serves as a shield for desertification/sand storms? (China)
2. How can green finance maximise benefits to the forest farm, while ensuring environmental services? (China)
3. What intensive forest management approaches should be adopted in Siberia to increase productivity and ensure sustainability? (Russia)
4. How can intensification of forest management in secondary forests be implemented with regard to high conservation values? (Russia)

**China - Monday August 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Participants arrive in Beijing and book into hotel**

Celebrity Beijing Grand Hotel

**China - Tuesday 20 August** (Travel time: 5 hours)

**Theme: Introduction to the study tour**

**Morning:** Travel

**Afternoon:** Context to the China part of the study tour

<i>Hours</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>
07:00 08:00	1 hour	<b>Breakfast in hotel and check out</b> It is suggested to leave large luggage bags at the Celebrity Beijing Grand Hotel, and bring light travel bags with you. The bus will not have enough room for all the luggage.
08:00		<b>Bus departs 8 am sharp.</b> Make sure you have enough cash in RMB before you get on the bus, since the hotel in Mulan does NOT accept international credit cards. You will also NOT be able to withdraw money at a bank with an international bank card. We will be staying there for two nights, which costs 700 RMB (350 per night)
08:00 13:00	5 hours	<b>Bus travel to Mulan Forest Bureau</b> * Bathroom stop will be provided along the journey.
13:00 15:00	2 hours	<b>Check in Qianyue Holiday Hotel, fresh up and simple lunch in hotel</b> <b>IMPORTANT: This hotel does NOT accept international credit cards, so BRING CASH. 2 nights for 700 RMB (350 per night).</b>

<i>Hours</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Questions</i>
15:00 16:30	1 hour 30mins	<b>Brief opening of study tour, and introduction to Mulan Forest Bureau:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Welcome to the NGP study tour.</li> <li>* Objectives of the China and Russia parts of the study tour</li> <li>* What is NGP and the style in which the study tour will be run.</li> <li>* Context of the Mulan Forests</li> <li>* Group introductions.</li> </ul>	Participants will understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Objectives and overview of the China and Russia parts of the study tour.</li> <li>* What is NGP and the style in which the study tour will be run.</li> <li>* The context of the Mulan Forest Bureau and the forests it manages.</li> </ul>	WWF China, NGP, Mulan Forest Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* What are the key questions of the study tour?</li> <li>* How will the week play out NGP Style?</li> <li>* Who is in which working group, and how will they operate?</li> <li>* What does the Mulan Forest Bureau do, and why is it important?</li> <li>* Who are you?</li> </ul>
19:00	1 hour	<b>Dinner in hotel</b>			

**China - Wednesday 21 August** (Travel time: 2 hours 30 min)

**Theme: Growing large diameter Larch trees to supply timber and combat sandstorms/desertification**

(study tour question #1: “How can we increase timber supply and quality, while ensuring the boreal forest serves as a shield for desertification/sand storms?”)

**Morning:** Differences between a ‘clear-cut’ and a ‘target-tree management’ system.

**Afternoon:** How to convert coppice to mixed forest, strip mixed species management and whole forest management

<i>Hours</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Questions</i>
07:00 08:00	1 hour	<b>Breakfast in hotel</b>			
08:00 09:00	1 hour	<b>Travel: to the forest site ‘A’</b>			
09:00 12:00	3 hours	<p><b>Site #1: Objective of large diameter tree cultivation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Silviculture practices will be shared to grow the large-diameter Larch trees, with an understory regeneration of natural species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site #2: Multi-functional plantations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Silviculture practices shared for the multifunctional use of tree seedlings, as well as for timber.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site #3: Comparison between target tree management sites and non-target tree management sites:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Comparison of 4 different styles of forest management to maximise the timber supply and quality of Boreal forest plantations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Participants learn the context of boreal forestry in China and the effort of Mulan Forest Bureau to combat sand storms and convert from a ‘clear-cut’ to a ‘target-tree management strategy.</li> </ul>	WWF China and Mulan Forest Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Why is important to adopt a target tree management strategy in this area?</li> <li>* If not using a target tree strategy, what kind of harvest model is most suitable to adopt?</li> <li>* How can economic and eco benefits be balanced?</li> <li>* Especially in this long term rotation?</li> <li>* Is this a healthy forest?</li> <li>* What are the signs that a healthy forest should contain?</li> <li>* How many target trees are there in one hecter?</li> <li>* At what age, could a tree be decided as a target tree?</li> <li>* Are there any green finance opportunities that this forest farm could be benefited from?</li> <li>* Do you think the forest cultivation we have seen, makes a significant difference to combatting sandstorms and desertification?</li> <li>* How does moving from a clear cut strategy to a target tree strategy help to combat sandstorms</li> </ul>
12:00 13:00	1 hour	<b>Lunch</b> In the Mulan forest farm canteen			

<i>Hours</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Questions</i>
13:00 14:00	1 hour	<b>Travel to forest site 'B'</b>			
14:00 17:00	3 hours	<p><b>Site #4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Conversion of coppice to mixed species:</b> See how coppice can be converted into middle and high level forest to improve the forest and timber quality.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site #5:</b></p> <p><b>Strip mix:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Discuss why the mix of a larch plantation and natural birch forest trees.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site #6:</b></p> <p><b>Whole forest management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Learn about the 4 stages of managing the forest as a whole with a focus on target tree management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Participants learn the different stages of target-tree management and the cultivation goals of the Mulan Forest Bureau</li> </ul>	WWF China and Mulan Forest Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* How can coppice be converted to middle- high level forests?</li> <li>* Why have a mix of larch/birch?</li> <li>* Which trees can be selected as target trees?</li> <li>* What happened to the other trees that were not selected as target trees?</li> <li>* Will the target tree selection change after time?</li> <li>* What are the differences between difference stages of target tree management?</li> <li>* What is whole forest management, and why is it important?</li> <li>* Why is management of birch coppice so important?</li> <li>* How can tree plantations help to restore land, combat desertification and sequester carbon, while also providing economic opportunities for local people and resources for industries along the BRI route</li> </ul>
17:00 18:00	1 hour	<p><b>Reflection session:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Groups reflect on what was the most important points they want to share back at work (40 min), and provide 5 minute feedback (20 min)</li> </ul>			
18:00 18:30	30 min	<p><b>Travel:</b> return to hotel Dinner at 19:00</p>			

**China - Thursday 22 August** (Travel time: 5 hours)

**Theme: Sustainable forest management and green financing in China**

Study tour question #1: How can we increase timber supply and quality, while ensuring the boreal forest serves as a shield for desertification/sand storms?"

Study tour question #2: "How can green finance maximise benefits to the forest farm, while ensuring environmental services?"

**Morning:** NGP seminar

**Afternoon:** Travel back to Beijing

<i>Hours</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Questions</i>
08:00 09:00	1 hour	<b>Breakfast in hotel and checkout before the seminar starts.</b>		
09:00 12:00	3 hours	<p><b>NGP Seminar on sustainable forest management and green financing in China</b></p> <p><u>Welcome:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Hebei Provincial Forestry Bureau (5 min)</li> <li>* WWF China (5 min)</li> </ul> <p><u>Key note presentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Finance to promote sustainable plantation forest development By Shi Min from NFGA (15 min)</li> </ul> <p><u>Presentation 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Sustainable forest management in China by: Wang Hong (20min + 5 min questions)</li> </ul> <p><u>Presentation 2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* An overview of Mulan Forest Bureau by: Mulan Technichan (15 min + 5 min questions)</li> <li>* Audience clarification (5 min)</li> </ul> <p><u>Presentation 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A green financing exprience from Shunchang Forest Farm by: Shunchang Technician (15 min + 5 min questions )</li> </ul> <p><u>Coffee break</u> (30 min)</p> <p><u>Group discussions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Tables answers the two study tour questions using the presentations as context (45 min).</li> <li>* Each table has 5 minutes to share their answer with the other tables (15 min)</li> </ul>	WWF China &NGP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can we increase timber supply and quality, while ensuring the boreal forest serves as a shield for desertification/sand storms?</li> <li>2. How can green finance maximise benefits to the forest farm, while ensuring environmental services?</li> </ol>
12:00 13:00	1 hour	<b>Lunch in the hotel</b>		
13:00 18:00	5 hours	<b>Travel back to Beijing</b> and check into Celebrity Beijing Grand Hotel		

No dinner has been organised, so participants are free to choose where they want to have dinner nearby.

Russia - Friday 23 August (Travel time: 9 hours)

**Theme: Balancing intensive forest management with HCVF conservation**

Study tour question:

3. "What intensive forest management approaches should be adopted in Siberia to increase productivity and ensure sustainability?"

**Morning:** Travel China to Russia

**Afternoon:** Intensive forest management techniques to increase productivity and ensure sustainability

<i>Hours</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Questions</i>
05:30 06:15		<b>Travel to Beijing International Airport:</b> * Leave airport at 05:30 sharp!			
06:15 08:35		<b>Check in at airport</b>			
08:35 11:45	3 hours 10 min	<b>Fly Beijing, China to Ulan Ude, Russia</b>			
11:45 12:45	1 hour	<b>Pass through immigration</b>			
12:45 13:00	15 min	<b>Loading on bus</b>			
13:00 14:30	1 hours 30 min	<b>Travel with lunch on bus:</b> * Transfer airport - Kabansk (115 km) * Russia context for the study tour	* Participants get to the forest sites. * Participants are informed of the agenda for the Russia part of the Study tour and understand the context of what we will be seeing and discussing.	Alexander Kostenko	

<i>Hours</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Questions</i>
14:30 16:00	1 hour 30 mins	<b>Forest sites visit :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Introduction into Baikal Wood Company forest management.</li> <li>* Overview and discussion of new intensive forest management (IFM) regulatory framework, and the model soon to be implemented by the company.</li> <li>* Overview and discussion of forest sites that have been chosen for implementation of IFM.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Participants learn about the general forestry context for Russia.</li> <li>* Participants learn about new intensive forest management model currently being adopted in Russia, and how the company will introduce it in Siberia.</li> <li>* Participants discuss how intensive forest management can be balanced with HCVF conservation.</li> </ul>	Baikal Wood Company CEO and managers  Alexander Kostenko	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* What potential does the new intensive forest management model have from an economic and environmental perspective?</li> <li>* What are the next steps on IFM implementation by Baikal wood company?</li> <li>* How can IFM be balanced with HCVF conservation?</li> <li>* A range of technical questions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- need of closed root seedlings use in Buryatia,</li> <li>- what to do with thin trees (under 10 cm diameter) after first thinnings,</li> <li>- shortage of actual forest inventory data as a barrier to adoption of IFM.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
16:00 17:00	1 hour	<b>Group activity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 3 groups of participants work out different scenarios of IFM for 3 different types of forest stands according to category of forests (each group develops 2 scenarios).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Participants design their own approaches to IFM subject to specified conditions</li> </ul>	Baikal Wood Company managers  Alexander Kostenko	What specific IFM scenarios should be applied in 3 different forest stands at the model site and why?
17:00 17:30	30 mins	<b>Travel to Selenginsky pulp and cardboard mill</b>			
17:30 19:30		<b>Dinner &amp; discussions</b> Presentations by Baikal Wood Company Further discussions			
19:30 22:30	3 hours	<b>Travel to Baikalsk</b>			
22:30		<b>Check in Grand Baikal hotel on ski resort Baikalsk</b>			

**Russia - Saturday 24 August** (Travel time: 1 hour 45 mins)

**Theme: Bring together what we have seen, heard and talked about to answer the Russia study tour questions:**

3. "What intensive forest management approaches should be adopted in Siberia to increase productivity and ensure sustainability?"
4. "How can intensification of forest management in secondary forests be implemented with regard to high conservation values? (Russia)"

**Morning:** World Café on train

**Afternoon:** World Café on train

<i>Hours</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Questions</i>
8:00 9:00	1 hour	<b>Breakfast in Hotel</b>			
9:00 10:00	1 hour	<b>Transfer to Sludyanka rail station</b>			
10:30 18:25	8 hours	<b>World Café in the historical Circum-Baikal Railway train</b> (+4 stops with excursions)	Participants develop detailed answers to Russian tour key questions (3 & 4) and recommendations for major stakeholders.	Alexander Kostenko & David Lindley	<b>Study tour questions #3 and #4:</b>  3. What intensive forest management approaches should be adopted in Siberia to increase productivity and ensure sustainability?  4. How can intensification of forest management in secondary forests be implemented with regard to high conservation values?
13:00 14:00	1 hour	<b>Lunch in the train</b>			
18:25		<b>Arrival at Port Baikal</b>			
20:15 20:30	15 min	<b>Ferry from Port Baikal to Listvyanka</b>			
21:00		<b>Check-in Listvyanka – Hotel Burduguz</b>			
21:30 23:30	2 hours	<b>Dinner in the hotel restaurant</b>			



Russia - Sunday 25 August (Travel time: 2 hours)

Theme: Closing of study tour and cultural visit

Morning: Closing of study tour and cultural visit

Afternoon: Travel to airport

Hours	Time	Activity	Outcome	Lead	Questions
08:00 09:00	1 hour	Breakfast in Hotel			
09:00 10:00	1 hour	Reflections on study tour and official closure ceremony in the hotel conference hall		David Sasha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* What did I learn that I can apply in my work?</li> <li>* What challenges still exist?</li> <li>* What did not work for you and why?</li> </ul>
10:00 10:30	30 min	Travel to Talcy ethno park			
10:30 11:00	30 min	Guided tour of Talcy ethno park			
11:00 12:00	1 hour	Workshop on traditional handicrafts			
12:00 13:00	1 hour	Lunch with local food	Participants learn more about local people of Irkutsk region and their culture		
13:00 13:30	30 min	Loading on bus			
13:30 14:30	1 hour	Travel to Irkutsk airport			
From 17:00		Return flights: Irkutsk – Moscow 19:30 Irkutsk – Beijing next day 0:45 a.m., 1:40 a.m. or 1:50 a.m. (3 flights).			