

Community Restoration Network

Project Profile: REVIVE OUR FOREST

Project Location:

Ryazan, Tula, Orlov and Lipetsk regions of central and southern Russia

Project Manager/Coordinator:

Greenpeace Russia

Project Duration:

ongoing since spring 2002

Ecosystem to be Restored:

Wooded steppe ecotone lying between the forested zone and steppe proper.

Area to be Restored:

70 hectares to be reforested annually

Primary Cause of Degradation:

Vast areas of forest have been cleared for fuel, construction materials, paper and agriculture, leading to significant soil erosion and degradation of surface rivers. These changes in soil composition and hydrology present a challenge to natural regeneration of the forests, even when agricultural uses and deforestation activities cease.

Project Goal:

- Develop a teaching program to involve children in the establishment of native tree nurseries and the planting of seedlings on degraded sites
- Reduce soil erosion and restore the native forests of central and southern Russia
- Teach children to value and feel responsible for their native environment
- Co-ordinate with other NGOs in the region

Restoration Treatments Used:

Seedlings are planted in small plots of 1-2 hectares, as is appropriate for the semi-forested landscape of the northern border zone of the Russian steppe. Planting is concentrated in critical parts of the landscape, alongside rivers and ravines and on former agricultural land.

Species being grown and planted include: pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), oak (*Quercus robur*), larch (*Larix sibirica*), elm (*Ulmus laevis*), white alder (*Alnus incana*), maple (*Acer platanoides* and *Acer campestre*), birch (*Betula verrucosa*), wild pear (*Pirus communis*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).



Community Involvement:

Tree nurseries are established in local schools, and children are taught to plant the native trees in areas surrounding the schools. More than 96 schools now participate in the program.

Benefits to Local Ecology:

School nurseries have been established in more than 96 schools in the Ryzan, Tula, Orlov and Lipetsk regions. Thus far, 2,000 school children have planted some 80,000 oak and pine seedlings from the nurseries.



Directions for the Future:

The goal of the project is to expand the number of schools involved and produce 1500 tree seedlings each year at each school, enough for the children to plant 70 hectares of new forest annually.

References/Contacts:

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