

## Bikin: 30 years battle for conservation

### Anatolii Lebedev

Chairman of the Board, NGO BROС

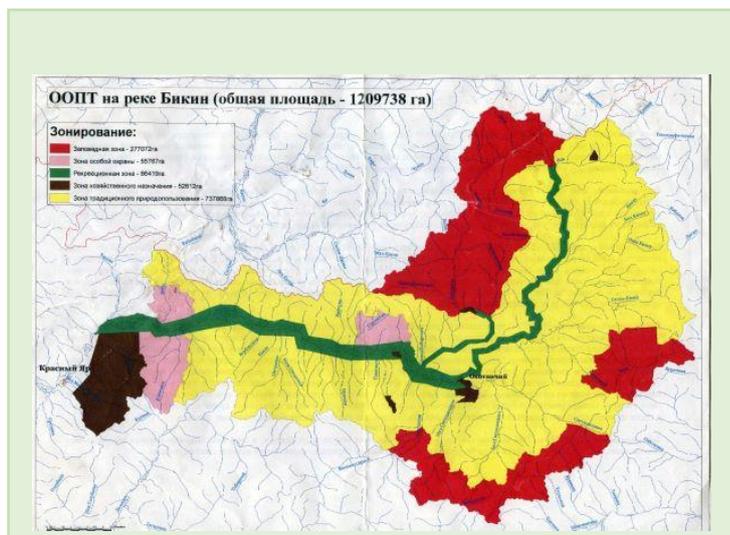
Being engineer by education, I mostly was active as writer and journalist, focusing on human behavior on the intact wilderness of Far East, conservation and sustainable resource use. That became key goal of BROС registered in 1997 with a group of journalists, scientific experts and local activists.

Contact address: 63 Pologaya str., suite 12, Vladivostok 690600, [swan0741@gmail.com](mailto:swan0741@gmail.com), ph/fax +7-423-240-8095

### Geographic and demographic information



|                                  |                                                    |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Country                          | Russia                                             |
| Province                         | Far East                                           |
| District                         | Primorye                                           |
| Size of geographical area        | 11 600 km <sup>2</sup>                             |
| Number of indirect beneficiaries | 1500 persons<br>(Men: persons)<br>(Women: persons) |
| Dominant ethnicity               | Udege                                              |



|                                                 |                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Size of project area                            | 11 600 km <sup>2</sup>                             |
| Number of direct beneficiaries                  | 1000 persons<br>(Men: persons)<br>(Women: persons) |
| Geographic coordinates (longitude and latitude) | 137 East, 46-47 North                              |
| Dominant ethnicity                              | Udege                                              |

### Ecosystem Types

|   |         |           |              |          |                  |
|---|---------|-----------|--------------|----------|------------------|
| X | Forest  | Grassland | Agricultural | X        | In-land water    |
|   | Coastal | Dryland   | X            | Mountain | Urban/peri-urban |

### Important species in the site

| English common name<br>(Local name) | Scientific name           | Description               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Siberian tiger                      | <i>Panthera tigris</i>    | Endangered, Red Data Book |
| Mergus sguamatus                    | <i>Mergus sguamatus</i>   | Endangered, Red Data Book |
| Fish owl                            | <i>Ketupa blakistonni</i> | Endangered, Red Data Book |
| Panax ginseng                       | <i>Panax ginseng</i>      | Endangered, Red Data Book |
| Japanese crane                      | <i>Grus japonensis</i>    | Endangered, Red Data Book |



### General introduction

Bikin river watershed, home for endangered Siberian tiger and small indigenous community of udege, is the last entire plot of intact temperate forest at the whole Northern Eurasia. It contains 150 species of birds, 48 species of animals, plenty species of plants, fish, insects and reptiles. That level of biodiversity was reason for environmentalists to create national park here and get status of World Heritage for it recently in 2018. But, surrounding forests are hardly suffering from destructive logging and poaching, which operators always tend to enter Bikin area for illegal prey and timber. That makes protection of Bikin watershed borders highly essential not only for park rangers and udege hunters, but for whole environmental community of Primorye. Key tool for that is education and promotion of long term dramatic 30-years history of protection this territory – example of joint efforts of civil society, indigenous community, municipal, regional and national officials, global environmental and scientific community, unique for new Russia. This history, textually prepared by NGO BROCC as a core player, has to be published not only for park visitors, but also for governmental officials and some local hunters, during years experienced to fish and hunt without limitations, seriously destroying wildlife.



## Contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Targets' Strategic Goal C

|                  |           | Breakdown Target                                                                                                 | How did you measure the outcome?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Result                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic Goal C | TARGET 11 | At least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas are conserved                                         | On Bikin watershed 100 % of inland rivers are legally protected, but practically upper part of basin is while weakly controlled, which need special educational and public control together with park rangers.                                                           | We plan to finally reduce number of illegal fishing, hunting and logging invasions to the area to minimum, by changing broad public perception of the territory as sacred global heritage. |
|                  |           | At least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are conserved                                                   | Bikin watershed is completely inland area without coastal parts, while whole Primorye region has quite poor level of coastal conservation – all coasts are openly used for fishing and recreation.                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  |           | Areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services conserved                                 | Whole Bikin area is of highest biodiversity at the region and is legally conserved. But it needs special educational and inspecting efforts to make conservation realistic                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  |           | Protected areas are ecologically representative                                                                  | Bikin national park is highly ecologically representative as recognized as World Heritage site.                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  |           | Protected areas are effectively and equitably managed                                                            | Management of national park is basically efficient and is under constant development with a help of environmental NGOs like WWF and BROCC and whole civil society                                                                                                        | Management of park will be more and more efficient when it's history become publically broadly available                                                                                   |
|                  |           | Protected areas are well connected and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape                          | Bikin national park is initially a part of entire environmental system of Amur eco-region.                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  | TARGET 12 | Extinction of known threatened species has been prevented                                                        | Extinction of any species is completely prevented here.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  |           | The conservation status of those species most in decline has been improved and sustained                         | Key goal of creation this park was just sustainable conservation status for tiger and other endangered species habitat                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  | TARGET 13 | The genetic diversity of cultivated plants is maintained                                                         | There is no cultivated plants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  |           | The genetic diversity of farmed and domesticated animals is maintained                                           | This territory is total wildlife area with full restriction of any animal farming and inhabitation                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  |           | The genetic diversity of wild relatives is maintained                                                            | Genetic diversity of all wildlife is fully granted                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  |           | The genetic diversity of socioeconomically as well as culturally valuable species is maintained                  | Genetic diversity of all wildlife species used by indigenous community is controlled strictly by special Council under park and whole environmental community of the region                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  |           | Strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding genetic diversity | Public perception of all hunting and fishing restrictions is a long term educational goal even for indigenous community and mainly for external visitors, accustomed to hunt and fish here without any control during decades. To change people's mind is out core goal. |                                                                                                                                                                                            |

### Relations to other Aichi Biodiversity Target & SDGs

Please indicate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets other than the targets your working group focuses and SDGs that your activities contribute to if any. Use “●” and “■” to indicate the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the targets.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

| Strategic Goal A |   |   |                  | Strategic Goal B |   |                  |   |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|---|---|---|
| ●                | ● | ● | ●                | ●                | ● | ●                |   | ■ |   |
|                  |   |   |                  |                  |   |                  |   |   |   |
| Strategic Goal C |   |   | Strategic Goal D |                  |   | Strategic Goal E |   |   |   |
|                  |   |   | ●                | ●                | ● | ●                | ● | ● | ● |
|                  |   |   |                  |                  |   |                  |   |   |   |

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ |   |   |   |   |   | ● |   | ■ |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | ● | ● | ■ | ● | ● | ● | ● |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

### Any difficulties you found during your assessment

That was not enough clear to whom all these assessment point mainly concern – to national or regional government, managers of selected territory (national park Bikin) or our NGO, conducting sustainable campaigns in favor of the marked targets and goals. The point is that civil society in Russia, both national and regional, try to do it’s best to follow CBD targets and SDGs, versus most corrupt officials of both levels, which has the only target and goal – to enrich budget and their own pocket by the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity. Therefore mainly on the country and regional level all the listed goals and targets are inaccessible, and only success may be achieved in framework of one certain territory, as Bikin watersted and national park.

### Key messages for the CBD in planning for the post-2020 Targets

To get such kind of goals and targets UN and CBD secretariat has to reflect in new document, that any capitalistic model of country governance basically contradict CBD strategy and ideology. To be successful in it and safe civilization as a whole, most countries should refuse from prioritization of capital, and rich countries should find the model to seriously match their treasury and lifestyle with poor countries, providing more balance in the consumption level and level of population growth.