

A snapshot of the socio-ecological situation in the Bolshiye Koty area

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BUSINESS GAME

- ▶ Local Population;
- ▶ Business Actors;
- ▶ Authorities;
- ▶ Nature Protection NGO.

CORE QUESTIONS

1. What are the basic values of Specially Protected Natural Territories (material and non-material)?
2. What problems are seen in the area?
3. Possible variants of the solutions.

BUSINESS GAME: brainstorming



LOCAL POPULATION

Values: Natural Beauty, clean water/air, eco-tourism, access for future generations, conservation of basic food, infrastructure improvement.

Problems: Ban on hunting/logging, restrictions for land use, garbage/sewage management, local mentality, conflicts with tourism.

Solutions: New environmental projects, cooperation of bussiness and population.

BUSSINESS ACTORS

Values: Water selling, eco-tourism development, forest resources, mining, amusement infrastructure.

Problems: Isolation, lack of infrastructure, nature protection laws/restrictions, high taxes.

Solutions: Water pipeline to China, bribing/corruption, changing/overcoming laws, community/external labour force, lake warming, marketing.

AUTHORITIES

Values: Resources, landscapes, water, valuable plants, cultural and traditional values.

Problems: Need in taxes for investments in infrastructure/livelihoods, pollution, health care, loss of resources, unskilled/uneducated population.

Solutions: Regulations from the government, infrastructure development, more attractions, treatment plants, more controllers.

NATURE PROTECTION NGO

Values: Habitats, biodiversity, infrastructure, museums/educational tools (material), recreational value, education/knowledge, regulating services (non-material).

Problems: Tourism, pollution, eutrophication, erosion, overgrazing, poaching.

Solutions: Education on environmental awareness, counselling of administration, lobbying, protesting, designation of protected areas.

Business Game outcomes

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Interviews with stakeholders (Local population
and Business representatives)

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Comparison of the results



Opportunities for management

PROBLEMS ADDRESSED

- ▶ Infrastructure;
- ▶ Tourism;
- ▶ Pollution;
- ▶ Illegal activities;
- ▶ Value of nature and biodiversity;
- ▶ Corruption.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE LOCAL POPULATION

INFRASTRUCTURE

Do you think there is a need of good transportation (road construction)?

Do you think it is important to get connected to the rest of the world?

Would you like to have proper medical service, pharmacy, etc.?

TOURISM

Is tourism a threat or an opportunity?

Is tourism economically beneficial for Bolshie Koty?

POLLUTION

Do you think waste (garbage/sewage) is a problem in Bolshie Koty?

Would you like to have an organized garbage activity? Do you think government should take care of it?

Would you like to contribute to the management of garbage/sewage together with the government?

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Do you fish?

Do you know that Bolshie Koty is situated in the Nature Protection Area?

Are you aware of the restrictions and regulations established in the area?

Do you agree with these restrictions?

VALUE OF NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

Do you think that biodiversity is important?

Do you know that the area is UNESCO World Heritage site?

To what extent your life depends on the natural resources?

Would you like to contribute voluntarily to protect these resources?

CORRUPTION

Do you think that the administrative work in the area is transparent?

Do you think the natural resources of this area are well-protected?

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE BUSINESSMEN

INFRASTRUCTURE

Do you think there is a need of good transportation (road construction)?

Do you think it is important to get connected to the rest of the world?

What kind of additional infrastructure do you think is necessary in the area?

TOURISM

Are you planning to extend your business?

What ideas do you have to improve tourism?

What is your vision for the future state of tourism?

POLLUTION

Do you think waste (garbage/sewage) management is important in terms of business?

How do you manage wastes of your activity?

Would you like to contribute voluntarily to the waste management?

What percentage of the income would you be willing to contribute for the management?

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Do you know that Bolshie Koty is situated in the Nature Protection Area?

Are you aware of the restrictions and regulations established in the area?

Do you think these restrictions are a problem for your activity?

VALUE OF NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

Are you aware of the uniqueness of the area?

Is your business dependent on this uniqueness?

What percentage would you be willing to pay for the protection of the nature/biodiversity?

CORRUPTION

Do you feel constraint by the legal framework in terms of running your business?

Are more inspectors necessary for protection of the nature?



Peculiarities of the local situation

- ▶ Number and age of the local population (~50 inhabitants 60 years old on average);
- ▶ Business – quite elementary (kiosks, small hotels, house & sauna rents, etc.);
- ▶ “Businessmen” are a part of local community as well.

Problems	Issues	Local community	Businessmen
Infrastructure development	Road construction	NO (will cause too many visitors, pollution, etc.)	YES (e.g. problems with food supply)
	Internet etc.	DOES NOT MATTER	YES
	Facilities	YES (medical service, pharmacy)	YES (excursions, cafes, boat rent, mountain climbing, etc)
Pollution	Waste disposal problems	YES	YES
	Waste management necessary	YES	YES
	Willingness to contribute to garbage elimination	YES (voluntary work)	YES (donations)
Tourism	Tourism contributes to well-being	YES (economical development of the region)	YES (one of the main sources of income, but during short time)
	Tourism is a threat	YES (causes pollution)	NO (one of the main sources of income)

Problems	Issues	Local community	Businessmen
Illegal activities	Fishing	YES (license necessary)	YES (license necessary)
	Awareness of the status of the area (NPA)	YES	YES
	Awareness of the existing restrictions	YES	YES
	Negative effects on the well-being/activity	YES (need for living)	YES
Value of nature/ biodiversity	Baikal is a unique place	YES	YES
	Biodiversity is important	YES	YES
	Well-being/business activity depends on it	YES (livelihood)	YES (attracts tourists)
	Willingness to contribute to nature protection	YES	YES
Corruption	Administrative work is transparent	NO	-
	Natural resources are well-protected	YES/NO	-
	Business activity constraint by law	-	YES
	More inspectors are needed	-	NO

Results: social aspects

Elderly people – major part of the population → need in the basic facilities (water, electricity, food supply).

Problems:

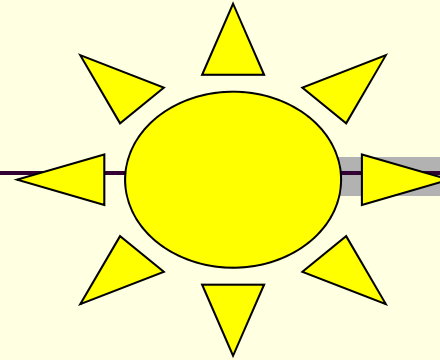
- ▶ Absence of infrastructure within the area.
- ▶ Limited access to natural resources (apart from water).
- ▶ No wood for winter → old electricity station is not able to provide sufficient light and heating for the population during winter.
- ▶ Fishing is forbidden → no protein food for the people.
- ▶ Absence of proper medical service.

Possible solutions:

- ▶ Development of the infrastructure in Bolshiye Koty.
- ▶ Municipal authorities have to supply the local community with the necessary goods: wood for winter time (cold periods of spring and autumn as well), food as due to transportation expenses the variety is limited and the prices are much higher than in big cities, updating of the electricity system.
- ▶ Fishing in Baikal has to be allowed for the local people.
- ▶ Establishment of the medical services with qualified medical staff.

Results: ecological aspects

- ▶ According to the results of the research groups work, in principle the area is in good ecological condition.
- ▶ Predicted development of tourism business has to be accompanied by provision of proper facilities and infrastructure.
- ▶ Waste disposal has to be managed with the help of municipalities.



NEVERTHELESS:

Both groups of stakeholders see **conservation of Lake Baikal** as a **first priority** and participate voluntarily in nature conservation and area cleaning activities.

KEY MESSAGE

Scientists have to combine their efforts with the NGOs and population of Baikal region that is willing to take an active part in the Lake Baikal conservation projects.

Therefore this joint group of stakeholders should cooperate with the government structures on the long-term basis.

Education programmes have to be established at all levels of education system of Russia: from schools and universities to voluntary courses on Baikal ecology and management issues. Mass media should participate actively in popularization of such programmes.

In general, a positive vector of understanding of nature values and attitude to natural resources can be observed in Russia already now.

The society has to develop ecological concerns as well as cultural and economic aspects of its well-being. For this reason international collaboration and exchange of knowledge and experience are one of the crucial factors of development in the direction of sustainability.

Thank you for your attention!

