



WFED Expands US–Russian Research Cooperation

WFED's bioweapons proliferation prevention work in Russia entered an exciting new phase in 2002. Having successfully established the Center for Ecological Research and BioResources Development (CERBD) in Pushchino in late 2000, WFED is working with the US Department of Energy (DOE) to expand US corporate participation in the program to recruit some of Russia's top bio-scientists for projects that will lead to valuable new pharmaceutical, agricultural, and other beneficial non-military products.

Discussions with several firms are ongoing that will partner Russian research expertise with US product-development know-how. One new project focuses on

diagnosis and treatment of arthritis and other neurological disorders.

In June, Vera Dmitrieva (CERBD Executive Director) and Dr. Alexander Boronin (Director of the Institute of Biochemistry and Physiology of Microorganisms) met in Washington with WFED and DOE to discuss future project goals and strategies. Additional meetings were held throughout the year with Trudy Overlin and Robert Rogers of DOE's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

WFED is working to cultivate new opportunities for cooperative beneficial research between leading US firms and formerly closed Russian institutes—an historic chance to turn the “swords” of former Soviet bioweapons research into the “plowshares” of beneficial non-military products that WFED is promoting *



St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow; Robert Rogers, INEEL; Vera Dmitrieva, CERBD, with Preston Scott, WFED; Dr. Alexander Boronin; Scientists at the State Research Center for Applied Microbiology, Obolensk, Russia.

WFED Around the Globe in 2002

The Hague

In April, WFED's work in cooperation with Yellowstone was highlighted in a special 10-minute newsreel sponsored by the UN Environment Programme and produced by the Television Trust for Environment (TVE) in London for the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP6) meeting in the Hague. The newsreel was distributed internationally by TVE.

Johannesburg, South Africa

WFED's work in cooperation with the US National Park Service was highlighted as part of the US Government's official exhibit at the UN World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September. WFED's Preston Scott was invited to teach a two-day seminar on access and benefit-sharing

Secretary of State Colin Powell and EPA Secretary Christine Todd Whitman at the Summit Institute in Johannesburg.



ing negotiations at the Summit Institute for Sustainable Development sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, the US Department of State, EPA, UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and others in Johannesburg in conjunction with WSSD. Participants in the workshop ranged from the Philippines, Japan, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Somalia, and Sweden.

Iceland

In October 2002, WFED was asked by the US State Department to brief a scientific delegation from Iceland on biodiversity access and benefit-sharing issues as they relate to the conservation and sustainable use of thermal hot spring environments. The group, consisting of Tryggvi Thordarson, Jakob Kristjansson, and Helgi Torfason, discussed issues related to public education, research, and improved environmental protection of Iceland's abundant geothermal areas.

The Pacific Rim

US biodiversity conservation, access and benefit-sharing issues will be highlighted in a

new book entitled *Status of Access and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources for Pacific Rim Countries* being published by the University of California at Davis in Spring 2003.

The book will review the status of biodiversity access and benefit-sharing activities in eight Pacific Rim countries—Australia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Philippines, Malaysia, Mexico, and the United States. The Pacific Rim was selected because it spans only 6.7% of the world's land surface but possesses nearly 48% of the world's biodiversity.

WFED was asked to contribute the chapter on the US experience detailing the history of scientific research and access in the US National Park Service (NPS), the laws and regulations that govern access to biological and genetic resources within NPS, and NPS' experience with benefit-sharing agreements.

Edited by Dr. Santiago Carrizosa of UC Davis, the book will be the leading study to analyze how eight very different countries in the Pacific Rim have begun to approach biodiversity conservation, access, and benefit-sharing issues.

Montreal

Biodiversity access and benefit-sharing issues now top the agenda of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD). The US Department of State sponsored a special event during the December 2002 UNCBD benefit-sharing workshop in Montreal to enhance public awareness about the history of Yellowstone's pioneering biodiversity conservation benefit-sharing initiative in the United States. WFED's Preston Scott was invited to join Yellowstone's John Varley to make the presentation in Montreal for participating delegates from around the world. *



Environmental Education with WFED

Students Conserve Yellowstone Trout

In May 2002, WFED's Mansir Petrie led an environmental education project at Yellowstone National Park that partnered student volunteers with park professionals to explore new ways to protect Yellowstone's endangered cutthroat trout. The students—Ian Coleman, Taylor Lankford, Patrick Ledbetter, and Kal Pupos—were from St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, Virginia.

For 11 days, the students worked alongside National Park Service fishery biologists participating in hands-on conservation projects that included repairing cutthroat trout monitoring stations, setting and taking-in gillnets on Yellowstone Lake, and measuring, weighing, and tagging cutthroats from various streams in the park. The sur-

vival of the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout is threatened by the lake trout, a larger and more robust fish introduced illegally into the park in the early 1990's.

The project provided the students with a rare opportunity to 'live' at Yellowstone and work hand-in-hand with Yellowstone professionals on one of the park's most challenging environmental issues. They also learned from park management the difficult challenge of how to balance competing environmental demands, while benefiting from exposure to Yellowstone's many

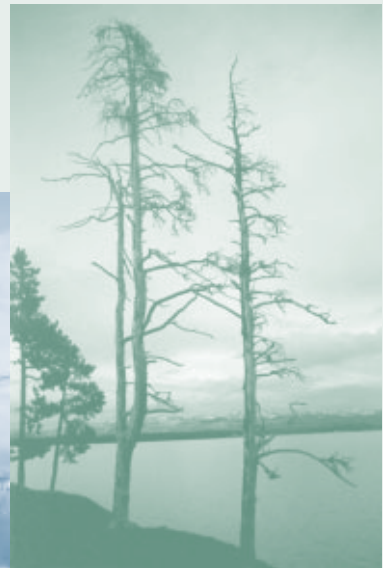
experts in diverse environmental specialties (ranging from fish to wolves to bears to hot-spring microorganisms).

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes students' project with Yellowstone was facilitated by WFED as part of WFED's ongoing collaborative environmental education and stewardship work with the park. *

NPS Photo



L to R: Patrick Ledbetter, Ian Coleman, Kal Pupos, Taylor Lankford, and WFED's Mansir Petrie in Yellowstone National Park.



NPS Analyzes Environmental Impacts of Benefit-Sharing Agreements

WFED Provides Technical Expertise

The US National Park Service (NPS) has begun the first nationwide environmental analysis of the potential impacts of managed bioprospecting benefit-sharing in conservation areas anywhere in the world (see *Steward's Watch*, Vol. 2, No. 1 [Fall 2000]). WFED has been asked by NPS to assist with technical aspects of the study because of WFED's special expertise in the field.

To assist NPS' study, WFED is participating with an interdisciplinary team comprised of expert NPS professionals from every region in the US National Park System.

The study is analyzing the potential environmental impacts of implementing benefit-sharing agreements throughout the US National Park System and is expected to conclude in 2003.

For more information about the study, visit the NPS website at www.nature.nps.gov/benefitssharing. *

Staff News

WFED welcomed Soo Jung Shin as a legal intern beginning in June 2002. Soo, a native of South Korea, is a second-year law student at George Mason University School of Law. *



Special Thanks ...

WFED wishes to thank the Public Welfare Foundation (PWF) for its March 2002 Human Rights and Global Security \$50,000 grant to support WFED's continuing work to reduce the risks of biological weapons proliferation from the former Soviet Union.

WFED also extends very special thanks to Michael C. Williams and Erich E. Veitenheimer, III for their ongoing support of WFED's work around the world. Michael, a former WFED Board member and current partner at Hogan & Hartson, has been instrumental in helping WFED strengthen its work in Russia. Erich (of Counsel with Morgan, Lewis & Bockius), participated in WFED's workshop in Bhutan in May 2001, and has played a key role in 2002 in facilitating introductions to potential US corporate participants for WFED's Russian projects. *

Holiday Gift Suggestions

"Life too small to see in waters too hot to touch... and from these discoveries a new way of looking at Yellowstone was revealed." — from *YELLOWSTONE Revealed* (narrated by Walter Cronkite)

Looking for that unique holiday gift? Why not a copy of *YELLOWSTONE Revealed*—WFED's award-winning video that makes Yellowstone's "invisible" hot-spring ecosystems "visible" for the first time! The film is narrated by legendary journalist Walter Cronkite with music composed by Grammy Award winner Chip Davis and performed by Mannheim Steamroller.

To purchase a copy, please send a check for \$35.00 (includes shipping and handling) with your name and address to World Foundation for Environment and Development, 1816 Jefferson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Thank you !!!



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