

## **Look East Wild Earth**

### **Annual Report 2007**

Look East Wild Earth  
2 Pound Place, Aberystwyth  
SY23 1LX, UK  
[www.lookeast.org.uk](http://www.lookeast.org.uk)

Registered Company Number 6300335  
Registered Charity Number 1123541

#### **Trustees 2007-8**

Ms Stephanie Ward

Ms Aisha Hannibal

Dr Emma Wilson

Dr Jonathon Sutton

Dr Emily Lygo

Ms Katherine Harris

Ms Feja Lesniewska

Accounts and Annual Report approved by Trustees at LEWE Annual General Meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008

## **Introduction**

Look East Wild Earth (LEWE) is a small UK-based charity co-ordinated mainly by volunteers. We support links between environmental initiatives in the UK and environmental organisations in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. Our formal objectives are:

1. To educate the public in the preservation and conservation of the natural environment and its sustainable development
2. The promotion for the benefit of the public of conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment, in particular but not exclusively, by the provision of, or assisting in the provision of sustainable development programmes involving young people and local communities in the United Kingdom, Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

We fulfill these objectives by:

Promoting awareness among the UK public of global environmental issues, especially those issues relevant to Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, through talks, events, and provision of information.

Supporting environmental organisations in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, through provision of advice, contacts, support and funds.

Coordinating international exchanges, study visits and seminars, with a special focus on youth activities.

Promoting volunteering as a way to support environmental organizations and develop awareness of global issues of sustainable development.

LEWE is an associate member of the 'Youth and Environment Europe' network.

From 2004-2007 the organisation run as an unincorporated association under the name Look East. In July 2007 'Look East Wild Earth,' was incorporated and in April 2008 the finances of 'Look East' were formally amalgamated into LEWE. This annual report covers the activities of both 'Look East' and 'Look East Wild Earth' from March 2007 until March 2008.

## **Incorporation and registration with the Charity Commission**

In 2007 the organisation decided to become a registered charitable company, and for this purpose a new legal entity was created and the name changed to 'Look East Wild Earth.' During 2007 the organisation operated two bank accounts, one in the name of 'Look East' and one in the name of 'Look East Wild Earth.' In March 2008 these accounts were amalgamated and the account and structure of the unincorporated association 'Look East' were closed. LEWE became a registered company on 3<sup>d</sup> July 2007 (Number 6300335) and a registered charity on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008 (Number 1123541).

## **Website**

In January 2007 a new version of the website was launched, thanks to voluntary support from Christian Hunt who designed and set up the new site: [www.lookeast.org.uk](http://www.lookeast.org.uk)

### **'Siberian Wilds' Events and Talks**

The 'Siberian Wilds' programme of talks and events continued in 2007, lead by Stephanie Ward. This programme provides information, lectures and photos on the Siberian environment and related projects, to a UK audience, with the aim of raising awareness of Siberian environmental issues among the public in the UK. Talks were held at the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (London, March 2007), and in Dundee and Edinburgh. The Siberian Wilds project was represented at the Big Green Gathering by Aisha Hannibal (August 2007). A stall was held at the Camden Green Fayre (London, June 2007). In November 2007 a Siberian film night showing Baikal Environmental Wave's documentary film 'The Warning', about the oil and gas industry in Siberia, at Passing Clouds Works in London attracted an audience of around 70 people.

### **Study Visit to Georgia**

In September 2007 LEWE co-ordinated a study visit to Georgia, in partnership with Georgian NGO 'Greenway' and the 'Youth and Environment Europe' network. The study visit, funded by the EU 'Youth in Action' programme, focused on *Eastern and Western Experience-Sharing of Youth Environmental Citizenship*. Nine participants from the UK, Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia, Russia, Czech Republic and Sweden took part in the trip, which visited several environmental NGOs in Tbilisi including WWF and the 'Caucasus Environmental NGO Network'; the Borjomi-Karakuli National Park to learn about education and eco-tourism initiatives; and an organic vineyard and bio-farming initiative in the Kalkheti region of eastern Georgia. Discussions promoted the European Voluntary Service (EVS) programme, and discussed future projects. A meeting was held with members of the Georgian youth organisation 'Academy of Peace and Development' who currently host EVS volunteers. As a result of the visit, NGO Greenway gained the knowledge and contacts needed to host their first EVS volunteer from November 2007.

### **Baikal Environmental Wave Energy Awareness Programme**

In August 2007, NGO Baikal Environmental Wave (Irkutsk, Russia) applied to the 'Society for Environmental Improvement Trust' with the support of LEWE. A grant of £600 was awarded. The grant covered running a programme of energy awareness education with school children and students in Irkutsk. The programme included developing a plan to better insulate school and college buildings; excursions to district heating plants, and to Olkhon Island on Lake Baikal to inspect solar panel installations; as well as producing new materials and brochures providing information on energy saving issues.

### **British-Russian Eco-Cultural Network Newsletter**

LEWE continued to support the British Russian Eco-Cultural Network (BREN) in the production of a newsletter. The summer 2007 issue focused on Russia's border regions and countries, while the spring 2008 edition focused on energy issues.

### **Support to volunteers, students and youth exchange**

In 2007 LEWE supported Stephanie Ward, a LEWE member, with a bursary of £50 to take part in the 'Tomsk Taiga' expedition to western Siberia, to undertake research on the use of non-timber forest products in forested communities.

LEWE members gave advice and assistance with communication to Ukrainian NGO 'Youth Environmental League of Pridnyprovia' (MELP), which enabled them to send a European Voluntary Service volunteer for 6 months (Sept 07-Feb 08) to the 'Centre for Alternative Technology' in Machynlleth, Wales, where the volunteer worked alongside the renewable engineering team.

**SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS, APRIL 2007 - MARCH 2008**  
**'LOOK EAST' AND 'LOOK EAST WILD EARTH' AMALGAMATED**

**INCOME**

**Unrestricted Donations & Fundraising**

Donations	£165.00
Bank Account Interest (LE)	£1.35
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>£166.35</b>

**Restricted Project-specific Grants & Donations**

Georgia Study Visit - Youth in Action Programme	£5,868.13
Georgia Study Visit, YEE contribution	£726.13
SEI Trust grant for Baikal Wave Energy Education Project	£600.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>£7,194.26</b>

**INCOME TOTAL** **£7,360.61**

**EXPENDITURE**

**Core Costs**

Companies House registration	£20.00
Website hosting	£35.07
Events & Meetings	£70.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>£125.07</b>

**Project-related expenditure**

Grant to Baikal Wave - energy awareness grant £600, plus administration costs	£658.50
Georgia Study Visit, Travel reimbursements	£2,310.54
Georgia Study Visit, payment to overseas partner for local hosting & admin costs	£4,195.66
Bursary, S Ward - Tomsk Taiga Expedition	£50.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>£7,214.70</b>

**EXPENDITURE TOTAL** **£7,339.77**

**EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE** **£20.84**

**FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD APRIL 07** **£797.42**

**FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD MARCH 08** **£818.26**