

## Announcement of New Program Officer at The Christensen Fund

The Christensen Fund is delighted to announce that Dr. Gleb Raygorodetsky has joined the Fund as of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 as Program Officer for the Global Biocultural Initiative, to take the lead on the indigenous landscapes, knowledge building, and adapting to global change grant making. A second Program Officer hire will be announced in the next couple of months to take the lead on the complementary grantmaking portfolio around global institutions and global policies within the Global Biocultural Initiative.

### Gleb Raygorodetsky

Born and raised in a small coastal village in Kamchatka, Russia, Dr. Raygorodetsky is a conservation biologist with expertise in resource co-management and traditional knowledge systems. His work has ranged geographically from the Brazilian Amazon to the Canadian Beaufort Sea to the Russian Altai Mountains, and thematically from studying fledging synchronicity of sea birds to documenting traditional knowledge of indigenous people. He has conducted research on such varied species as kittiwakes and pumas, guillemots and grizzly bears, sea otters and reindeer. He has lived and worked with the Evèn reindeer herders of Kamchatka (Russia), the Aleut fur seal hunters of the Pribiloff Islands (Alaska), the Caboclos pirarucu fishermen of the Brazilian Amazon, and the Gwich'in caribou hunters of Canada's Northwest Territories. Most recently, Gleb explored the resilience of social-ecological systems undergoing rapid change, focusing on wildlife use in the Russian northeast after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Gleb comes to TCF from the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) where, for the last five years, he managed a portfolio of conservation projects in Kamchatka, Russia. His photographs have won international awards and appeared in numerous reports and web-based publications, the Wildlife Conservation Magazine, Cultural Survival Quarterly, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Dr. Raygorodetsky holds a B.S. in Biology from the Far Eastern State University (Vladivostok, Russia), an M.S. in Biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and a Ph.D. from an interdisciplinary program at Columbia University with the thesis entitled *Strict Protection or Managed Harvest? Furbearers, Institutions and Socioeconomic change in Kamchatka, Russia (1977-2001)*. With his late father, a writer, Gleb has published a book in Russian *Information for survival. A book for the indigenous peoples of Russian Arctic, Siberia, and Far East* (1995). His academic articles include (as co-author) "Regulating access to genetic resource under the convention on biological diversity: An analysis of selected case studies" *Biodiversity and Conservation* 12: 1511-

1524 (2003). With Gwich'in elders he wrote a book laying out their indigenous ecological knowledge: *Gwich'in Words about the Land: Nanh' Kak Geenjit Gwich'in Ginjik*. Gwich'in Renewable Board. Inuvik, NWT, Canada. 211 pp (1997). He has also published (and often illustrated) more popular articles, most recently on the plight of Kamchatka bears which appeared in the February 2006 issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*.