



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Support to the National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

GEF ID#: 1164 GEF Agency Project ID# GFL 2732-03-4694 Project Status: Completed



1. Completion of a Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Russian Arctic Environment (SAP-Arctic), directed to preserve and protect Arctic environment and to eliminate negative environmental impacts from economic and other activities.
2. Pre-investment studies were completed for all three areas (western, central, and eastern) of the Russian Arctic, resulting in a set of proposals for environmental projects which are supported by regional and local authorities. These will help set optimal sets of environmental measures which require significant investments and design remediation actions which can be implemented by the Russian Federation and its funding partners
3. Outputs of the project contributed significantly to the implementation of two international agreements: the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project's global environment objective is to protect the marine global environment in which the Arctic plays a pivotal role. The more specific objective of the Project is to develop and establish a sustainable framework to reduce environmental degradation of the Russian Arctic from land-based activities on a system basis by implementation of the SAP developed at the first stage of the Project in favor of all Arctic States and global community and to comply with obligations of the Russian Federation under international conventions and agreements taking into account decisions and programmes of the Arctic Council.

RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR#1 (Preparation and adoption of a comprehensive Strategic Action Programme for the Russian Arctic)

A Strategic Action Program for the Protection of the Russian Arctic Environment (SAP-Arctic) was completed, with the purpose of preserving and protecting the Arctic environment and addressing damage and threats from land-based activities in the Russian Federation. The SAP was approved by the Maritime Board under the Government of the Russian Federation, who then recommended it for further promotion to the relevant government bodies. The SAP had to satisfy several requirements, which included (1) satisfying Russian requirements for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources in the Arctic (2) stipulate the fulfillment of environmental tasks under the Federal Target Oriented Programme 'World Ocean' (3) fully meet the aspirations of the other Arctic states and the Arctic Council, and (4) ensure the Russian contribution to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

INDICATOR#2 (Completion of a set of Pre-investment studies)

Pre-investment studies (PINS) were completed for all three selected areas (western, central, and eastern) of the Russian Arctic, resulting in a set of proposals for environmental investment projects which are supported by regional and local authorities. About 20 were selected for further development in all three of the selected regions, and will eventually result in the correction or prevention of transboundary impacts of land-based activities. These will help establish the optimal set of environmental measures requiring significant investments to be established and to design remediation actions that can be instituted by the Russian Federation and its funding partners.

INDICATOR #3 (Preparation of environmental documents and legislation)

Within the Environmental Protection Systems Improvement component, several documents have been prepared: a Draft Report to the Government of the Russian Federation on improvement of Environmental Protection System in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation, analytical materials in conjunction with this Report, and two concept versions of Draft Federal Law on special regimes on natural resources use and Environmental protection in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.

A comprehensive review on environmental legislation of Arctic states was completed, comparing these with Russian environmental legislation in relation to the Russian Arctic. In addition, a draft concept of the Report to the Government of the Russian Federation with proposals on elimination of gaps in Russian environmental legislation with regard to Russian Arctic zone has also been prepared.

INDICATOR#4 (Implementation of international agreements)

Outputs of this project contributed to the implementation of two principal international agreements: Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS); and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) as implemented in the Arctic Region through the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) and the Arctic Council Plan of Action to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP).

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

INDICATOR#1 (Rehabilitation of the environment)

Two demo projects (COMAN and BASES FJL) and three pilot projects (CLEANUP, BIOREMEDIATION and TIKSIBAY) were successfully completed. Implementation of these demo and pilot projects improved the environmental situation on a local scale in the FJL archipelago (BASES FJL- demo), Murmansk region (BIOREMEDIATION-pilot and CLEANUP- pilot) and in Tiksi Bay region – downstream of Lena river and near its estuary zone (TIKSIBAY- pilot). Implementation of COMAN demo project showed stable improvement of co-management practice of local authorities with the indigenous communities of the North in the Russian Federation and establishment of conditions to ascertain interest balance of the local indigenous population and extracting companies in solving economic and environmental problems.

Indicator #2 (Completion of demonstration projects and transfer of decommissioned military bases to civilian control)

The project saw the successful completion of three demonstration projects. The first demonstrates new legislative and economic mechanisms which strike a balance of extracting companies and indigenous peoples in resolving economic and environmental problems, as well as create conditions for co-management of environmental protection by executing agencies, local self-government bodies, and the aforementioned companies and indigenous peoples. The second project addressed the utility of marine algae in the remediation of marine water in the Arctic. It demonstrated a method of deployment of marine algae shelters in areas threatened by oil contamination. The species form an absorptive surface which absorbs nearly all the oil contaminant if the concentration of the contaminant is less than 3 mg per litre. In an emergency, these algae can curb a 30-thousand ton raw oil spot. The third demonstration project transferred two decommissioned military bases to the civilian sector. These sites are often contaminated and environmental remediation was needed in their respective areas in order to allow civilian authorities to assume responsibility for them.

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