

Education for Sustainable Development: Russian-Swedish Project

RUSSIAN SUSTAINABILITY NewsLETTER



Special Issue. January 2011

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A new environmental-economic policy

For the first time in the President's Address to the Federal Assembly so much attention was paid to the environment. In his speech President Medvedev in late 2010, it was actually stressed on the formation of a new environmental-economic policy. Here is the relevant excerpt from the speech that caused the ratio concerned in the environmental community of the country.

Health of the nation, its future success depend directly on what's natural heritage, we set aside for children. Despite the uniqueness and richness of Russian nature, its state today can hardly be called completely benign. To solve this problem can only create a modern, efficient system of governance in the environmental field. In the near future there is need to do the next.

Firstly. Assess the actual state of all contaminated areas and to consider this level as a starting level to implement programs to minimize negative impacts on the environment and the previously accumulated environmental damage.



President Anatoly Medvedev delivered his Annual Message the Federal Assembly

Some experts also consider it necessary to hold a so-called ecological amnesty on condition that the company will undertake stringent obligations on environmental improvement of production and the territory where it operates. I think this idea is reasonable. Those who implement these programs - not just prepared, and of those who actually execute the program, those who invest money in it - no need to press fines, making it difficult to rectify the situation. On the contrary, here it is necessary to promote and maximize use a mechanism of public-private partnership. I am instructing the Government to prepare proposals on this topic.

Secondly. The Government needs to develop environmental quality standards, taking into account the state of the features of specific areas. This is the basis for the activities of the authorities and to establish requirements for production facilities. And by the way, what is important is a clear target and to society for our citizens, our partners from other states.

Thirdly. A decisive, crucial role in protecting the environment must play our civil society. I have often heard that ecological thinking we did not take root because society is not ready. Perhaps this is partly true. Therefore (and I also spoke of this) a role of environmental education is extremely important. And we must take this into account in the new educational standards. "The activities of all the proper persons must not discredit the government. Their main task - to improve the living conditions of people".

Fourthly. Environmental quality should be an important indicator of quality of life and one of the main indicators of socio-economic development of territories, respectively, should be a criterion for evaluating the effectiveness of local authorities. I direct the heads of the Federation to provide annual reports on the ecology of their region. The population of the territories should have this complete and totally accurate information.

With regard to environmental non-governmental organizations, with those who really cares about preserving the natural environment, it is necessary before construction of production facilities and infrastructure to substantive dialogue and to find mutually acceptable solutions ...

Low environmental financing

The Financial Control Monitor Chamber of the Russian Federation expressed concern at the very low financing environmental activities, which in 2000-2010 was 0.14% -0.2% of total budget expenditures, and notes that the funds expended for this purpose with violations of the law. These findings is a result of the agency audit of environmental protection in Russia.



The Financial Control Monitor Chamber of the Russian Federation

According to the Chamber, the current state of the environment in Russia is characterized by large-scale pollution of air, soil, surface water and groundwater. Approximately one-sixth of the country is environmentally disadvantaged, say auditors. And the dynamics of key environmental indicators of the Russian Federation testifies to the increasing negative impact on the environment.

"Budget financing of environmental sphere does not provide sufficient economic mechanism of observance of the right of citizens to a healthy environment, " - said in a statement. The volume of approved budget by law under the heading "Environment" in 2010 decreased compared to the year 2009 to 519.2 million rubles or 4,2%.

The Chamber recalls that the summer of 2010 was the hottest on record as the average temperature and the duration of the period with temperatures of 30°C and above. Blocking anticyclone last summer caused the weather processes that constitute a large-scale natural disasters. According to preliminary expert estimates, the drought-affected area in central Russia lost about 40% yield, and total economic losses exceeded 450 billion rubles. Had caused significant damage to human health. In July 2010 compared to the same period of 2009 deaths in Moscow grew by 50,7%.

"The above analysis of audit of environmental finance sector has revealed a number of problems. Thus, the method of calculating the funding requirements of environmental protection, which is based on the base of previous years, rather than actual needs, does not ensure the effectiveness of the budgetary process in addressing critical environmental issues. The basic parameters of the funding not take into account the actual costs of environmental departments of the complex, resulting in federal funds allocated for the implementation of environmental measures, do not give proper effect, "- said in a statement.

In addition, the funds allocated for conservation measures, are spent with violations of applicable law, the auditors noted. The Chamber believes that the current in the field of environmental protection legislation does not provide effective solutions to environmental problems.

"The forms of economic incentives for environmental management in Russia is now virtually nonexistent. The fee for a negative impact on the environment and the mechanism of its charges do not provide incentives to enterprises to implement environmental technologies", - informs agency.

Boris Gryzlov: the ruling party on environmental problems

Areas of work of the Party in 2011 in the field of environmental security has commented Chairman of the Supreme Council of the ruling *Yedinaya Rossiya* (United Russia) Party, the Chairman of the State Duma **Boris Gryzlov** (12/01/2011):

"Humanity today is facing new threats. And many experts predict the growing influence of such factors: for example, in the field of ecology.

A striking example - climate change. Today there is no doubt: the processes occurring here are able to change our environment and habitat, and create new tensions between States. So, create security challenges. Of course, the influence of humanity on the process of warming - an issue accurately say, debatable. But we must recognize the right: humanity is not always guided by the principles of sustainable development.

Today we have a qualitatively different state of society. It is incomparably easier to find the necessary information for decision making. It is much easier to get "feedback", the response of people on solutions in the field of ecology.

Therefore, a priority of 2011, in my opinion, should be the formation of stimulating new approaches to management, aimed specifically at the sustainable development of the Russian territories. We must

soberly assess existing in this area problems and solutions: without the "rose-colored glasses, but without unnecessary emotions, based on objective information and expert opinion.

Part of the solution of this problem will be our party project "Ecology of Russia". It involves the creation of an independent environmental-economic ranking of territories and actors. This will encourage regional and local authorities to work in this direction. And their successes or failures must be one of the main indicators of the quality of governance in general.

Our common goal - to ensure that we had not already arisen to respond to environmental challenges, and advance to prevent them: wherever this is possible. And in other cases - to minimize negative consequences. "

See more at: www.edinros.ru

Sociological survey of the state of environment in Russia

Russian Public Opinion Research Center (RPORC) and the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNR) held a sociological study aimed to determine how people evaluate the environmental situation in the country. Sample size was 1600 respondents, territorial coverage - 42 subjects of the Russian Federation.

According to the survey, 56% of respondents believe that the environmental situation in their areas of permanent residence dysfunctional, out of which 11% rated it as "very bad and is close to catastrophic". Positive assessment of the environment gave 41%. RPORC notes a positive trend: in May 2010, data from a similar study showed that the ecological situation as a negative estimated 64% of respondents as prosperous - 34%.

Least happy with their environment are residents of Moscow and St. Petersburg (only 23% of respondents gave a positive assessment). At the same time, residents of small towns and villages (with population less than 100 thousand people), assess the situation more positive in this group of respondents 50% believe that the environmental situation in their places of residence safe.

Public opinion survey showed that the worst of the environmental situation assess residents of the Volga (63%), Siberian (59%), Central (58%) federal districts. Best of all - the Urals and Northwest districts. 54% of respondents in these regions to assess the ecological situation as "doing well" and "more prosperous".

The study identified the estimate of the population to changing environmental conditions. Positive changes have seen 9%. The dominant assessment - "the situation has not changed", 47% of respondents in Russia as whole were agree with it. At the same time 39% of respondents indicated environmental degradation. In general, the level of negative evaluations decreased slightly - from 41% - in May 2009 to 39% - in December 2010.

More often than others about the positive changes said residents of the South (14%), Urals (12%), Northwestern (11%) federal districts. Among those who are satisfied with the environmental conditions, residents of cities with a population of 100 to 500 thousand people (17%) dominate. For the population of small towns and villages opposite characteristic amplification pessimistic estimates. Analysis of responses showed that this situation is due to current economic problems for the population and differences in the site assessment. If the inhabitants of megacities evaluate primarily the effect of industry and transport on the environment, the residents of small towns and villages and even evaluate the quality of the environment.

The outcome of Rosprirodnadzor in 2010

January 21, 2011 Rosprirodnadzor summarized the work in 2010. Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MNR) Mr **Igor Maidanov** informed that the MNR prepared a list of objects that have a negative impact on the environment and subject to state ecological control in 83 Russian regions. Mr Maidanov stressed the importance of cooperation of the Ministry and Rosprirodnadzor in implementing the state policy on environmental management and environmental protection, paying particular attention to new authority subordinate to the Service for restricting industrial impact, waste management and the state environmental expertise.

Reports on the results of its inspection and enforcement activities and plans for 2011 were made by the heads of the central office of Rosprirodnadzor, its regional bodies and subordinate organizations. In discussing the results, particular attention was paid to environmental supervision of construction of Olympic facilities in Sochi the preparations for the International Forum of APEC in 2012, ensuring the activities of protected areas.

Systemic violations of environmental legislation have been identified by Rosprirodnadzor staff during construction of the APEC-2012 properties. Meanwhile, the meeting stressed that the holding of the Forum contributes to solving environmental problems in Vladivostok (Primorsky Territory), with the construction of sewage treatment plants and the release of the bay from sunken ships.

Much attention in the Rosprirodnadzor reports was given to the protected areas. In the Volga District in 2010 was carried out 147 inspections, during which revealed violations of fire regulations and health safety, fined in the amount of 671 thousand rubles. Mr Maidanov reported that in 2011 will test the readiness of protected areas to the fire season.

Environmental policy in the Northwest Federal District

Heads of territorial bodies of Rosprirodnadzor in the Northwest Federal District summed up for 2010.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Federal Service for Supervision in field of Nature Management **Vladimir Kirillov**. Addressing the participants of the meeting, Mr Kirillov, emphasized that the President of the Russian Federation put before the bodies Rosprirodnadzor assigned tasks whose solution depends on the preservation of natural heritage, which will remain for future generations of Russians, and, hence, the nation's health.

The report "On results of the Department of Rosprirodnadzor in the Northwest Federal District in 2010 and priorities for 2011" at the meeting was made by the Head of Department, **Oleg Zhigiley**. He stressed that in the past year, inspectors conducted over 2000 inspections and raids to the rules of nature, during which revealed more than 2600 violations. According to the results of inspection activities of nature more than 1600 businesses and individuals brought to administrative liability, impose administrative fines for violations of the law of Nature and Environment in the amount of about 125 million rubles, brought an action for damages caused by nature more than 400 million rubles.

As part of the regulations delivered by state inspectors Rosprirodnadzor to businesses, organizations and individuals to eliminate detected violations, the works on construction and reconstruction of wastewater treatment plants, upgrading production technology were conducted.

The measures taken have led to a decrease compared with 2009, discharges of pollutants into water resources in excess of 3 million tonnes in the district, waste production - 6 million tonnes of emissions of harmful substances (pollutants) into the atmosphere from stationary sources of pollution - more than 172 thousand tons. Unauthorized use of water facilities was terminated in 170 cases. Around 180 cases of unlicensed use of nature resources were prevented. Remediation work for more than 160 thousand square meters was carried out. More than 20 illegal dumps were eliminated.

The meeting discussed the implementation of new Rosprirodnadzor powers sent from the Rostehnadzor in October 1st, 2010 relating to, first of all, the collection of cash payments for negative impact on the environment. So, for the period from October to December last year to the accounts of territorial bodies of Rosprirodnadzor in North-West delivered more than 630 million rubles.

Despite the fact that the organizational issues of transfer of functions not to be completed in full, the collection rate for the district as a whole grew by 16%, and the Office of the Komi Republic and the Department (St. Petersburg and Leningrad region), respectively, by 55% and 30% .

Fundamentals of Ecological Policy of Russia until 2030

Fundamentals of Ecological Policy of Russia until 2030, developed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNR) will be adopted by the State Duma's spring session in 2011, said the Deputy Minister **Igor Maidanov**.

"Our proposals were approved on the basics of environmental policy until 2030. This is a strategic document. It is assumed that the spring session next year in the Duma will be adopted, " - said the Maidan at a press conference in RIA Novosti in the fall 2010, commenting on the results extended meeting of the Duma Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

As reported by the State Duma Committee, the meeting noted that within working on the draft document it will be useful to provide incremental areas of state environmental policy, broken down into short-term (2011-2017 years - a mobilization phase) and long-term (2018-2030 years - the stage of implementation). At the same time achieving by 2030 necessary indicators should be linked with the concept of long-term socio-economic development of Russia up to 2020.

"Fundamentals of environmental policies is a declarative document defining the general vector of development, and our task, the task of executive agencies, to ensure the alleged declaration of specific implementation plans, effective and modern legal framework", - said chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Ecology **Eugene Tugolukov**, Commenting on the results of the meeting.

Develop public policies for the protection of nature instructed the Ministry of the Russian president **Dmitry Medvedev** in May this year at a meeting of the presidium of the State Council on the Environment. The structure of the interagency working group to prepare the foundations of environmental policy includes representatives from MNR, committees of the State Duma and Federation Council, the Public Chamber, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow State University and other organizations.

As stated in the draft document prepared by the MNR, the strategic goal of state environmental policy is the preservation of natural systems that maintain their integrity and life-supporting functions for the sustainable development of society, improve quality of life, improve health and demographic, environmental security of the country.

The document represents the four key objectives: To improve the environmental efficiency of the economy, improve the quality of life, preserving and restoring the environment, prevention of climate-related hazards and adaptation to global climate change.

The main sections of the document reflects the strategic objectives and principles of the state environmental policy, its direction and objectives, monitoring, ways and means of implementation. For each problem formulated specific quantitative parameters to be achieved by 2030.

Approved list of environmentally hazardous facilities

January 18, 2011 lists of objects that have a negative impact on the environment and subject to state ecological control in the Russian Federation approved. Orders to the 83 territories of the Russian Federation signed by the Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology (MNR) Mr **Yuri Trutnev**.

In accordance with the approved documents, the federal state environmental control facilities are subject to (more than 80 thousand), have a negative impact on the most important natural areas. Among them - the sites included in the List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and the natural systems of the Russian Federation and the facilities that are under the international treaties and located on the continental shelf or within the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation.

Similar federal environmental control facilities to be associated with the use of atomic energy, defense and state security space activities.

According to the Director of the Department of Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety **Rinat Gizatulin**: "With the approval of lists of these objects clearly delineated powers between the federal center and regions in the implementation of state environmental control, regulation and licensing activities in the field of environmental protection. This will increase the effectiveness of environmental regulation and, ultimately, to promote reduction of negative impacts on all ecosystems".

These documents are posted on the official Internet site of the MNR in the section "State Environmental Control", and published in an annex to the magazine "*Public Resource Management*".

Plan to implement the Climate Doctrine

Ministry of Economic Development of Russia (MED) submitted to the Russian government a comprehensive plan for the implementation of the Climate Doctrine. Deputy director of State Regulation of Tariffs and Infrastructural Reforms and Energy Department, MED Mr **Oleg Pluzhnikov** told journalists 24.01.2011 about it.

"To date, the MED with the participation of concerned agencies to develop and submit a comprehensive plan for the Russian government to implement the Climate Doctrine of the Russian Federation, involving also the implementation of measures to adapt to climate change," - he said.

Climate Doctrine of the Russian Federation was adopted in 2009. The document stipulates the need to allocate resources to monitoring the adverse natural phenomena and the creation of a rapid response to such emergencies.

The document also sets out courses of action that Russia intends to undertake in the field of climate change. This, above all, on improving energy efficiency of the Russian economy and technological upgrading. Nevertheless, the doctrine reflects the view of climate scientists that "the proportion of human influence on climate change remains a difficult and uncertain computable.

Overall supervision of the implementation of the Doctrine is by the national Government and the Security Council of Russia.
