

Education for Sustainable Development: Russian-Swedish Project

RUSSIAN SUSTAINABILITY NewsLETTER



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This issue includes...

Patriarch Kyrill about sustainable development
Who is who in Russia: MNR
Regulations on the MNR
Meeting of the Joint Russian-Norwegian commission

Meeting on infrastructure in the Protected Areas
News on the Russian Arctic NP
Legislation on environmental assessment reforming
Shtokman in word and deed

Patriarch Kyrill about sustainable development

February 3, a meeting of the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church participants and President of the Russian Federation, *DA Medvedev* held in the Grand Kremlin Palace, Moscow. His Holiness *Patriarch Kyrill* addressed to the participants of the meeting with a message (*slovo*). It is symptomatic that in the treatment of head of the Russian Orthodox Church has repeatedly used the concept of sustainable development. Below is a snippet of symptomatic presentation.

“Our eyes are turned to the future. We all want to build a country and the countries that would include in an era of sustainable development. Sustainable development implies not only improve the material side of life, infrastructure, science and education. Sustainable development requires a steady state of the human spirit, and this, of course, the sphere of morality. And if you hold a person’s life so that his state of mind was not confusion, it is important that the foundation of social life was laid down Justice”.



President of the Russian Federation DA Medvedev and His Holiness Patriarch Kyrill in the Grand Kremlin Palace, Moscow, February 3, 2011

Who is who in Russia: MNR

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNR) of the Russian Federation (until 12.05.2008 - Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation) is a federal executive authority performing functions of public policy and legal regulation in the field of environmental management, environmental protection and ecological safety.

MNR on the basis of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, acts of the President of the Russian Federation and the Russian Federation Government implements an independent legal regulation, as well as develops and submits to the Government draft federal constitutional laws, federal laws and acts of the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation on the following issues:

- Geological survey, rational use and protection of natural resources;
- Use, protection, protection of forest resources and forest reproduction;
- Use and protection of water resources;
- Operation of reservoirs and multi-purpose water systems, safety and other hydraulic structures (except for the shipping of hydraulic structures) and ensuring their safety;



Main Building of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation

- Protection, use and reproduction of animals and their habitats;
- Protected areas;
- Environmental protection and ecological safety;
- Air protection;
- Waste management (except radioactive waste);
- Improving the economic mechanism of environmental management and environmental protection.

Subordinate authorities:

- Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (*Rosgidromet*)
- Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources (*Rosprirodnadzor*)
- Federal Agency for Water Resources (*Rosvodresursy*)
- Federal Agency for Subsoil Use (*Rosnedra*).



Mr *Yuri Trutnev* is the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment since March 9, 2004 (till 12.05.2008 – Minister of Natural Resources).

Was born on March 1, 1956 in Perm, in a family of oilmen. After graduating from high school in 1973 enrolled in the Perm Polytechnical Institute, graduating in 1978, qualifying as a mining engineer. Since 1994 a Chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy and Taxes Regional Legislative Assembly and a deputy of the Perm City Duma. From December 1996 - The Head of the city of Perm. In December 2000, won election of the governor of the Perm region.

Currently Minister Yuri Trutnev has 4 deputy ministers.



Deputy Minister *Semjon Levi* oversees:

- Department of public policy and regulation in the field of water resources
- Department of Public Policy and Regulation in the valuation of negative impacts and environmental monitoring
- The Federal Agency for Water Resources
- The Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring.



Deputy Minister *Sergei Donskoy* oversees:

- Department of Economics and Finance
- Department of Public Policy and Regulation in the field of geology and mineral resources
- Federal Agency for Subsoil Use.



Deputy Minister *Sergei Donskoi* is also a State Secretary of the MNR. He oversees Department of Law.



Deputy Minister *Vladimir Melnikov*.

He oversees Department of State policy and regulation of hunting and game resources conservation.

Regulations on the MNR

MNR is acting on a base of the REGULATIONS ON THE MNR approved by Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation # 370, dated July 22, 2004. The most important point of the above regulation are submitted below in the Extract.

General

1. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (MNR of Russia) is a federal executive body performing the functions related to state policy formulation and normative and legal regulation in the sphere of the study, renewal, and conservation of natural resources, including management of the State subsoil stock and forestry; the use and conservation of the inventory of water resources; the use, conservation, and protection of the stock of wooded forests and reproduction; operation and safety of multipurpose reservoirs and water-resources systems, protecting and other hydraulic structures (except navigation hydraulic facilities); the use of wildlife resources and their habitat (except wildlife resources assigned to hunting resources); specially protected natural areas, as well as in the sphere of environmental conservation (except the sphere of ecological supervision).
2. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation exercises coordination and control of the activity of the Federal Nature Management Supervision Service, the Federal Subsoil Use Agency, the Federal Forestry Agency, and the Federal Water Resources Agency being under its authority.
3. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation is guided in its activity by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, acts of the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation, international agreements of the Russian Federation, as well as by the current Regulations.
4. The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation carries out its activity in concert with other federal executive bodies, executive bodies of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and institutions of local governing, as well as with public associations and other organizations.

Meeting of the Joint Russian-Norwegian commission

February 1, the MNR of Russia took the 12th meeting of the Joint Russian-Norwegian commission on cooperation in environmental protection. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister Sergei Donskoy, and State Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of Norway, Mr Heidi Sørensen.

"The activities of the commission allows us to solve current environmental problems and keep under

review the state of the environment that promotes mutual trust between our countries" - said at the opening Mr Donskoy.

At the meeting, participants discussed the implementation of projects under the Work Programme on Environmental Protection for 2009-2010. and outlined the main activities in 2011-2012. The parties reviewed the activities of working groups in the marine environment, biodiversity studies of radioactive contamination, increased cross-border cooperation, issues of implementation of the "Cleaner Production".

The purpose of cooperative projects in the marine environment, in particular, in the Barents Sea is a conservation of marine nature areas in accordance with high quality standards of the environment. In this regard, the need to establish strict environmental requirements for the development of resources in the Barents Sea, the development of ecosystem monitoring, identifying methods to assess the volume of pollutants. In addition, the parties agreed to continue work on assessing the risk of adverse effects on the environment in the Barents Sea during the development.

In order to preserve biological diversity there are plans to further develop a network of protected areas in the Barents region, carrying out actions to protect the boreal forests continued work on the formation of the Green Belt Fennoscandian, including monitoring the status of the northern forests in the River Paz valley. Planned to create a transnational Ramsar site based on the natural reserves from the Norwegian and Russian sides of the Paz River, as well as holding an international conference in autumn 2011 in the city of Murmansk on wetlands of the Barents Sea region. Scheduled to continue the project to map - namely, the creation of a monitoring system of nature, not exposed to human, to identify activities that reduce the fragmentation of habitats.

The parties discussed the program "Cleaner Production", planned to organize several workshops to share experiences on waste management.

In order to enhance cross-border cooperation are scheduled implementation and further development of the overall monitoring program in the Pasvik Zapovednik. Under the project, the main activities are the study of climate change impacts, control of pollution in the border region and develop proposals for its reduction, air quality monitoring, security, local natural resources, assessment of the ecological situation in the region.

Cooperation will expand the knowledge about climate change in the Barents region, in particular their impact on the economy and society. Adaptation of indigenous peoples to the predicted changes will assess.

Also was marked a successful activity in the field conservation of natural and cultural heritage in the Barents Sea region, including the Arctic islands. Commission members noted the need to pay special attention to the impact of climate change on populations of marine mammals and birds. In addition, for 2011 is scheduled to hold a conference on sustainable tourism and ecotourism in the Arctic.

Meeting on infrastructure in the Protected Areas

February 16, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Mr Yuri Trutnev held a meeting on the establishment of infrastructure in the Protected Areas (PAs) for the development of tourism in Russia. It was attended by the Directors of State Nature Reserves.

The meeting considered the proposals of Directors on the establishment of infrastructure for development of tourism in a number of Russian reserves in 2011-2013. A decision on additional funding for tourism development in protected areas was adopted by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on

results his mission in August 2010 in the reserves Kronotsky, Ust-Lensky and Yuzhno-Kamchatsky Federal Reserve. Vladimir Putin instructed to identify priority natural areas and implement there "pilot projects" that will enable citizens to get acquainted with protected areas without causing damage to biodiversity. The development of tourism in the reserves of the MNR in 2011-2013 from the federal budget will allocated additional 2 mlrd 400 mln rubles.

In the three-year program of reconstruction and infrastructure modernization is planned : arrangement of 280 information and museum visitor center (the creation of new and upgrading existing facilities), design and arrangement of 398 sightseeing ecological paths and routes, including demonstrations of wild animals in natural surroundings; arrangement of 250 sites to accommodate the visitors, equipment 36 sites of outdoor recreation; content routes; updating of reserves' transport facilities. Also the program envisages the collection of household waste, including separation of the type of waste.

When working on projects Minister instructed to take into account the natural characteristics of areas and use local color, customs and practices of indigenous peoples. In addition, Mr Trutnev considers it is necessary to use modern energy efficiency technologies to maximize energy efficiency ratio, as well as "green standards" in the design and construction.

"Our PAs are unique and they need to develop correct manner, they need in efficient use of allocated funds" - said Yuri Trutnev.



Willem Barents Biological Station in the Great Arctic Nature Reserve in Taimyr is a rare but very good example of infrastructure in PA.



Young Snowy Owl in the Great Arctic Nature Reserve. Local infrastructure at the reserve provides good facilities for birdwatchers.

News on the Russian Arctic NP

February 14, MNR announces a contest for the post of Director of the National Park "Russian Arctic". Open competition conducted by the Ministry is arranged to improve the transparency of the formation of personnel reserve in nature reserves and national parks.

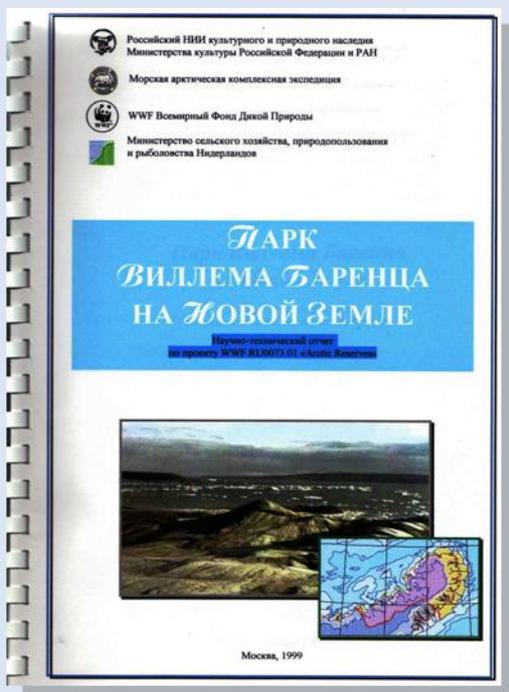
National Park "Russian Arctic" is the first Russian national park in the Arctic. It was established by the Federal Government on June 15, 2010 № 821-p. Announcing this, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said: "Not a single industrial project in the Russian Arctic will not be realized without the most stringent

environmental requirements. This is a principled position. We shall be guided and development of the Yamal Peninsula and the Shtokman field in the Barents Sea, and the development north of the Krasnoyarsk Territory and Yakutia. A hundred other industrial and infrastructure facilities created by the government and business". Putin has even promised to spend his next vacation in a newborn national park, thereby giving the start of the development of the Arctic ecotourism.

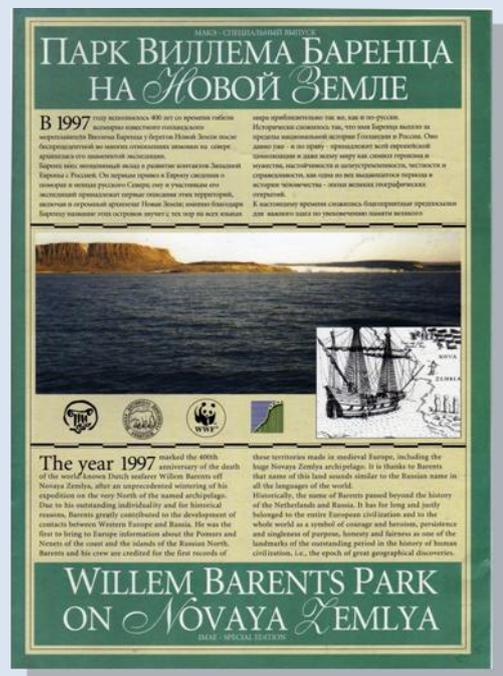
MNR's draft Order on the Approval of the national park "Russian Arctic is currently being coordinated in the branch offices of the Ministry.

The National Park "Russian Arctic" is located within the boundaries of the municipality "Novaya Zemlya" in the Arkhangelsk region, the office of the administration - in Arkhangelsk.

Mandatory requirements for candidates are a higher education (biological, geographical, ecological), experience in the Arctic as a specialty, leadership experience. Take into account the knowledge of the activities of federal government budgetary institutions, notably the operation of national parks and state wildlife refuges of federal level, as well as the Russian Federation legislation on PAs.



The final report with substantiation of a new national park in the north of Novaya Zemlya, performed by the Russian Heritage Institute in 1999 by a grant from the Netherlands. The report was submitted as bilingual – in Russian and English.



One of numerous publications on promotion of the first Russian national park in the Arctic firstly called as Willem Barents Park. The newly established Russian arctic NP was approved just in the boundaries of the proposed Willem Barents Park.

Legislation on environmental assessment reforming

The State Duma Committee on Natural Resources should lead the process of reforming the legislation on environmental assessment, WWF said in a letter to the Chairman of the Duma Committee on Natural Resources, Eugene Tugolukovu. This will attract the public and experts in drafting the bill.

According to WWF, inadequate regulatory framework governing the procedure for environmental

impact assessment (EIA) and Environmental Review, threatens the ecological safety of industrial projects and prevents the development of the Russian economy to an innovative "green" way.

Need to amend the legislation on environmental assessment was twice recognized at the highest political level. Relevant items were included in the order of the Prime Minister on August 1, 2009 and List of orders of the President of the Russian Federation on June 6, 2010, reminds WWF. Despite the fact that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has developed two draft laws in response to these requests, none of them had not been submitted in final form in accordance with approved procedures or to the Government nor the State Duma. To date these orders are not fulfilled.

WWF intends to bring together experts and NGOs to develop a common position and develop proposals to improve the environmental review and impact assessment procedure on the environment. «WWF and community organizations across the country over the past few years, faced with a mass of examples of inadequate legislation in this area - said *Catherine Khmeleva*, coordinator of the WWF environmental law. - During this time acquired extensive expertise, identifying gaps and contradictions in the legislation. "

"The massive scale of social and environmental impacts of projects as the construction of hydroelectric dams on the lowland rivers is happening in our country without an EIA. This is contrary to fundamental international standards, - says *Alexei Knizhnikov*, head of the WWF on environmental policy FEC. - While the environmental assessment in our country is not restored, the citizens are forced by protests to defend their right to a healthy environment". An example of such protests Alexei Knizhnikov leads going right now collecting signatures for an appeal to the President with the requirement to complete the EIA procedure of the Boguchanskaya hydropower station on the River Angara project.

Shtokman in word and deed

In the Murmansk region with the participation of WWF passed the next public hearing on a huge project in the Barents Sea. In the coastal village of Teriberka, which is planned to implement the coastal part of the massive project, brought together representatives of regional and municipal authorities, managers of *Shtokman Development AG*, community organizations and local residents. There were a lot of speakers, many thorny issues. Those present were interested mainly the social side of the project, issues of recycling household waste and sewage treatment, employment, fire safety, called to pass, finally, from words to deeds.

Representatives of the *Shtokman Development AG*, and administration of the Kola District had experienced a few unpleasant moments, listening to accusations of inconsistency and of promises of specific cases.

However, there are obvious positive shifts in the process, experts say. For example, a company representative supported the idea to combine fire departments of the village and starting complex of gas in order to improve safety. Also found a positive response more than once expressed the idea of compensatory protected area. The main task of this PA is to protect species that are most likely to be affected during construction.

Representatives of the *Shtokman Development AG* announced that the company is willing to consider public participation in environmental control and monitoring. WWF has already voiced similar proposals at the beginning of a dialogue with the gas industry workers, and now the company has expressed its willingness to discuss this issue.
