

## **Brief Summary**

### **CONSULTATIVE MEETING**

#### **on International Programme “Russian Federation – GEF Partnership on Sustainable Environmental Management in the Arctic under a rapidly Changing Climate” (Arctic Agenda 2020) Development**

UN House in Moscow, March 23, 2011

The purpose of the Meeting was to discuss conceptual approach to the Programme and projects included, and to coordinate further steps on the Programme preparation for submitting it to the GEF Council meeting in November 2011. The meeting agenda and list of participants are attached.

##### Background

The basis of the proposed Programme was set by the UNEP/GEF Project “Russian Federation – Support to the National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment” (NPA-Arctic) which started in July 2005 and will be completed in May 2011. GEF Implementing Agency for this project is UNEP and National Executing Agency is Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. The Project Steering Committee at its meeting in February 2010 unanimously supported development of next steps to keep the momentum of the Project achievements. Development of multi-purpose Programme on environmental cooperation in the Russian Arctic in view of the NPA-Arctic Project success was strongly supported by the GEF Chairperson and CEO Ms. M. Barbut in November 2010 as well as by Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council and the European Environment Agency. The Consultative Meeting was initiated by the GEF Chairperson and CEO Ms. M. Barbut and convened by the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.

More than 60 representatives of the GEF Secretariat, GEF Implementing Agencies, federal and regional governmental agencies of the Russian Federation, NGOs, research institutes, individual experts and NPA-Arctic Project team participated in the meeting.

##### Presentations and discussion

The meeting was chaired by Mr. B. Morgunov, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. In his opening remarks, he emphasized that environmental protection is one of the priority of the Russian Federation policy in the Arctic, with interest and support from the Prime Minister of Russia. He outlined the successful implementation of the UNEP/GEF RF NPA-Arctic Project that led to the current discussion on the GEF – Russian Federation

Partnership in the Arctic, and resulted in the development of the Arctic Agenda 2020 programme concept for support in GEF-5. He also described 3 objectives of the meeting: 1) consideration of the Programme design and composition of the projects included, 2) identification of implementing agencies for the Programme and projects, and 3) recommendation on the next steps.

Mr. N. Inamov, representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of Russia (GEF National Focal Point in the Russian Federation), confirmed Ministry's support to the Arctic Agenda 2020 which should be developed in partnership and cooperation with numerous stakeholders in Russia and internationally as a multi-purposes programme. He stressed that the draft outline of the GEF-Russia Partnership on Sustainable Environmental Management in the Arctic in the context of a Rapidly Changing Climate is in line with the Government's priorities. The initiative of "SAP-Arctic Implementation" Project as a core project of the complex programme on environmental protection in the Russian Arctic was welcomed and praised.

GEF Secretariat representatives Mr. G.Fonseca and Mr. I.Zavadsky welcomed the Arctic programme development, but emphasized issues/points of concern for further discussion. This includes 1) GEF fund eligibility (e.g., chemicals), 2) GEF-5 focal area strategies (i.e., Climate Changes, Biological Diversity, International Waters), 3) co-financing, 4) engagement of GEF Agencies for project activity (PA) and project implementation, 5) project replication/duplication, 6) challenging timeline (finalized concept/PFD for November review), 7) PA goals and objectives, as well as monitoring, and 8) strong commitment to the PA by national partners and stakeholders.

Mr. Vasilyev (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation) welcomed the Russian Arctic programming concept and confirmed an approval of the Arctic Council as well as the willingness to provide support for programme development and implementation.

Brief outcomes of the NPA-Arctic Project were presented by Mr. Morgunov with the following summary: all Project's tasks are successfully achieved; the Project Midterm Review was carried out in the end of 2009 by UNEP with a good rating; independent terminal evaluation of the Project will be conducted by UNEP soon; the Project outcomes set up solid grounds for the "Arctic Agenda 2020" Programme development.

Presentation of the "Arctic Agenda 2020" Programme conceptual design was made by Mr. Averchenkov, consultant, and supplemented with information on some of 6 projects proposed under the Programme, namely: Conserving Biodiversity in the Changing Arctic; Capacity development in integrated water management in the basins of major Arctic rivers in the context of climate change; Integrated adaptive management of the West Bering Sea Large Marine Ecosystem in a Changing Climate; and, Black carbon in the Arctic atmosphere and snow cover: concentrations and sources.

During lively and profound discussion statements of interest to participate in the Arctic Agenda 2020 projects preparation and implementation were delivered by GEF Agencies (UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP), Arctic partners (NEFCO, US EPA,

Norwegian Ministry of Environment, Vneshekonombank, WWF, RAIPON, Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute) and by representatives of participating regions and companies.

Mr. G. Fonseca, GEF Secretariat, emphasized that the consultative meeting reached the expected goals and provided clarity on the scope of the programmatic approach and the need for multi-stakeholder participation and involvement. He presented comments on the draft Outline of the Arctic Agenda 2020 and suggested to the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation to prepare a revised draft with the comments addressed, more clear programme coordination structure, and suggested participating GEF Implementing Agencies by mid April.

Ms. M. Niamir – Fuller, UNEP, indicated the UNEP’s readiness to provide the substantive support to revision of the draft Outline of the Arctic Agenda 2020.

Mr. Morgunov thanked UNEP for this offer and suggested to all GEF Agencies and interested partners send to him brief notes expressing interest to participate in specific projects and potential agency’s input in cofinancing within 2 week (by early April).

### Conclusions.

Chair of the Consultative meeting Mr. B.Morgunov summarized the next steps as the following:

- draft Outline of the Arctic Agenda 2020 Programme should be revised by mid-April taking into account comments voiced at the meeting and received from all GEF Agencies and other interested parties by early April;
- consultations with potential GEF Implementing Agencies on the Programme and projects included in the Programme will be hold within 2 weeks;
- timetable for the development of the Programme should be prepared in view of that terminal date of its submission to the GEF Secretariat is September.

## CONSULTATIVE MEETING

### On International Programme “Russian Federation -GEF Partnership on Sustainable Environmental Management in the Arctic” (“Arctic Agenda 2020”) development

UN House in Moscow, 9, Leontievskiy pereulok, March 23, 2011

#### AGENDA

**Purpose of the Meeting:** to discuss conceptual approach to the Programme and projects included, and to coordinate further steps on the Programme preparation for submitting it to the GEF Council meeting in November 2011.

9.30-10.00	Meeting participants registration
10.00- 10.20	1. Meeting opening and welcoming speeches (Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of Russia, GEF Secretariat)
10.20-10.30	2. Approval of the meeting agenda
10:30-11.00	3. Brief introduction of the new adopted policy on GEF Programmatic Approaches in GEF-5
11.00-11.30	4. Brief outcomes of the UNEP/GEF Project “Russian Federation – Support to the National Program of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment” as the basis for Programmatic Approach
11.30-11.40	Coffee brake
11.40-13.00	5. Presentation of the “Arctic Agenda 2020” Programme conceptual design including proposed projects advanced on the basis of discussions at November 2010 meeting and reflecting the GEF Secretariat comments. Additional information on the projects, if requested
13.00-14.15	Lunch
14.15-15.15	6. UNEP and other GEF agencies presentations with their views and contributions to the new GEF Programmatic Approaches for implementation through the “Arctic Agenda 2020” Programme
15.15-15.45	7. Other Programme partners and donors presentations with their views concerning the proposed “Arctic Agenda 2020” Programme including potential co-financing.
15.45-16.15	Coffee brake
16.15-16.30	8. Discussion with Russian partners including federal and regional authorities, industrial companies and non-governmental organizations concerning the proposed “Arctic Agenda 2020” Programme
16.30-17.30	9. Approval of the meeting conclusions including agreements on further steps towards the finalization of the Programme framework document preparation for its submission to the GEF Council meeting in November 2011
17.30-17.40	10. Conference closure

**List of Participants of the Consultative meeting on International Programme “Russian Federation – GEF Partnership on Sustainable Environmental Management in the Arctic” (Arctic Agenda 2020) Development.**

**Moscow March 23, 2011**

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