

**Call for Prospective Mid-term Review of the UNEP/GEF Project Consultant
“Russian Federation: Support of the National Programme of Action for the
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment” (posted 19 August 2009)**

The UNEP/DGEF is inviting prospective consultants whose expertise in project assessment and evaluation would be needed for the project on “Russian Federation: Support of the National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment”.

1. Background

The Arctic Ocean and its shelf seas represent an area of global significance in terms of their influence on global oceanic and atmospheric circulation. Their unique biological species also constitute an essential element of global biological diversity. A further important feature of the Arctic is its indigenous inhabitants. Indigenous peoples have been living as part of the Arctic ecosystem for millennia and, in most areas, continue to do so. Despite its vast area, small human population, and limited economic development, the Arctic is affected by several aspects of human activities. The main economic development in the region include ocean fisheries, agriculture, petroleum exploration and production, mining and metallurgic industry, and military activities. Physical disturbances due to economic development activities have had negative impacts on the ecosystems and contributed to the deterioration of the Arctic environment. Pollution sources outside the Arctic region increase the threat to the Arctic from long-range transboundary pollutants transported through air and water, accumulating to hazardous levels in the Arctic food chain. As consumers of local resources, indigenous peoples and animal populations of the Arctic are frequently the most exposed recipients of contaminants from local and distant sources.

The Project on ‘Russian Federation: Support of the National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment’ aims to overcome existing environmental problems in the Russian Arctic, as well as to reduce possible risks of their appearance, taking into account the influence of such threats and potential remedies on both regional and global levels. The system boundaries for interventions within the current Project are marine areas of the northern region of the Russian Federation, covering the Arctic basin (which stretches from the Bering Strait across the North Pole to Spitsbergen and Greenland) and its adjacent seas (i.e., the Barents Sea, the Greenland Sea, Baffin Bay, and some parts of the Bering Sea).

The current Project uses an incremental cost approach to support the Government of the Russian Federation in adopting a comprehensive approach towards environmental protection of the Arctic and its indigenous peoples. The goal of the Project is to create a system to facilitate the investments that benefit the international Arctic environment, particularly the Arctic Ocean Basin and its shelf seas. It also aims at contributing to implementation of the two principal international agreements, the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA), 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).

2. Project Objectives, Outputs and Deliverables

The main objectives, activities, and outputs of the Project include:

- (1) to prepare and adopt a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) that creates the enabling conditions and identifies the necessary actions required to improve the environmental situation in the Arctic region of the Russian Federation, taking full account of the existing state and projected scope of contamination in the Russian Arctic, interests of the inhabitants including indigenous peoples, and the necessity to meet international obligations of the Russian Federation;
- (2) to select and complete a set of (10) Pre-investment Studies (PINs), addressing serious environmental threats posed to the Russian Arctic environment from previous and current activities, and resulting in an optimal number of investment proposals for resource mobilization and implementation;
- (3) to develop and implement an Environmental Protection System (EPS) for the Russian Arctic through the process of analyzing and identifying gap-filling measures for improving levels of institutional, technical, administrative and legal efficiency designed to ensure SAP implementation; and,
- (4) to implement a set of pilot and demonstration projects for restoration and prevention of environmental damage caused by pollution in the Russian Arctic region, initially focusing on indigenous environmental co-management (COMAN), marine water clean-up by using brown algae (CLEANUP), and environmental remediation in the areas of decommissioned military bases (BASES).

3. Scope of Work of the Consultant

The mid-term review (MTR) aims to assess operational aspects, such as project management and implementation of activities and also the level of progress towards the achievement of the objectives. The review will assess project performance and the implementation of planned project activities and planned outputs against actual results. The risks to achievement of project outcomes and objectives will also be appraised. It focuses on identifying the corrective actions needed for the project to achieve maximum impact. Review findings will feed back into project management processes through specific recommendations and ‘lessons learned’ to date.

The detailed job description can be downloaded at http://www.npa-arctic.ru/Documents/MTR/tor_MTR.pdf

4. Qualifications and Experience

With the aim of having an objective and independent evaluation, the Mid-term Review Consultant is expected to conduct the project review according to international criteria and professional norms and standards as adopted by the UN Evaluation Group. The consultant should be familiar with the projects that address certain high priority contaminants in the areas of land-based activities which degrade marine waters, global toxic pollutants, and ship related contaminants; and shall have relevant field-based experience in monitoring and evaluation of projects. S/he should have experience working in the Russian Federation; and have excellent cross-cultural

communication skills. Knowledge of UNEP programmes and GEF activities is desirable. Fluency in oral and written English and Russian is a must.

5. Resources and Schedule of the review

This mid-term review will be undertaken by a reviewer contracted by the UNEP DGEF. The contract for the reviewer will begin on Monday, 14 September 2009 to Thursday, 31 December 2009 (28 days) spread over 16 weeks. The reviewer shall submit a draft report to UNEP/DGEF Task Manager on Friday, 16 October 2009. Comments to the final draft report will be sent to the consultant by Monday, 2 November 2009 after which the consultant will submit the final report no later than Friday, 13 November 2009.

All interested applicants are requested to submit a 2-page expression of interest along with updated CV to e-mail address: ampai.harakunarak@unep.org before 5 pm on 28 August 2009