

UNEP/GEF Project - Russian Federation: Support to the National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

5th Supervisory Council Meeting in a form of conference call between SC members chaired by Minekonomrazvitiya of Russia

March 11, 2008, 16:00-17.30, Moscow Time.

SC5-RPT

The Fifth Project Supervisory Council meeting

REPORT

Prepared by Project Office

Required actions for comments

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REPORT

Introduction

The 5th enlarged meeting of the Supervisory Council for the UNEP/GEF Project “Russian Federation - Support to the National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment” took place on March 11, 2008 in a form of a conference call.

The conference call has been organised by the Project Office from Moscow and connected with the Project Supervisory Council members and other interested parties from UNEP (Moscow, Russia), Minekonomrazvitiya of Russia (Moscow, Russia), NEFCO (Helsinki, Finland), EPA (Washington, USA) and GPA Coordination Office (Hague, Netherlands). Conference call started at 16.00 (Moscow time).

A list of the Project Supervisory Council Meeting participants is given in Annex I.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda (SC 5/1)

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Boris Morgunov (Executing Agency). Mr. Morgunov welcomed participants and proposed to combine item 2 and item 3 of Agenda, because of their apparent similarity. The meeting adopted the Agenda with above minor amendment.

The agenda of the meeting is enclosed as Annex II to the Report.

2. Agenda item 2 and 3. Half-Yearly Progress Report of the Project Activities for the period from 01 July to 31 December 2007 and information on the Project Office activities till March 2008.

The Half-Yearly Progress Report of the Project Activities for the period from 01 July to 31 December 2007 has been prepared by the Project Office and it was circulated through the Project Supervisory Council (SC) and Project Steering Committee (STC) members together with other documents prepared by the Project Office to the 5th Project Supervisory Council meeting.

Project Manager (PM) made brief overview of activities performed to date for all Project components.

The main achievements of the Project implementation to date were finalizing the SAP document by the Task Team and submitting it to Executing and Implementing Agencies for consideration; elaboration of PINS working document and new strategy for 3 main Arctic parts: western, central and eastern Arctic; preparation of updated list of hot spots and selection of 30 prospective hot spots/impact regions; issuing the tender documentation for preparation of regional pre-investment studies and beginning of practical implementation of demonstration and pilot projects. One of the main Project

achievements is establishing of good working relationship with Arctic regional administrations and non-governmental institutes. To attain it several round tables in most Arctic regions were organized.

Two demo (BASES and COMAN) and two pilot (CLEANUP and KOLA BAY) projects have been registered in the Commission for Humanitarian and Technical Assistance under the Government of the Russian Federation and The Certificate of Accepting of the Project as a Grant (technical assistance) has been obtained (tax-free status). First stages of both BASES and CLEANUP projects had been finalised and preparation work to second stages was started. Coordinating meeting in frame of COMAN demo project was hold in Moscow.

Several new demo and pilot projects are fully designed. Their implementation will be started as soon as weather conditions in Arctic will allow it.

With the purpose of the draft SAP document consideration a second Interagency working group (IWG) meeting has been held in Moscow. Draft SAP will be revised according IWG members comments and submitted to Executing and Implementing Agencies again for official comments from the federal and regional authorities.

PM emphasised that out of 6 benchmarks mentioned in the Project Document and indicating a completion of Phase 1 three of them have been successfully achieved and one benchmark is next to be achieved.

Achieved:

Benchmark 1: Successful establishment of Project implementation structure, including Project Office, Project Steering Committee, and Project Supervisory Council;

Benchmark 3.: Working document revised at the first meeting of each of sub-group for each pre-Investment Study. In addition, updated lists for all known to date hot spots and impacted regions and for priority hot sports both were prepared; and a number of potential pre-investment studies were also outlined. A tender for selection of three cooperating organizations has been announced and bid-winners will be selected soon;

Benchmark 5: Fully designed demonstration activities; More to it, several extra demo and pilot projects were also designed and some of them are ready to be put through.

Next to be achieved:

Benchmark 2: Strategic Action Programme is fully developed and endorsed by relevant stakeholders. Actually, the SAP document has been finalised by Task Team already and submitted to the IWG members for discussion. It will be ready for official consideration by relevant federal and regional authorities as soon as the PO received all comments in written form from local authorities, NO and other interested parties to be included in the final revision.

It was noted during the following talk that in some aspects the project implementation is moving even ahead of the plan approved by the second Project Steering Committee meeting on April 2007. It particularly relates to PINS and demo/pilot projects components. As far as SAP concerned, its implementation plan as it was outlined at the IWG meeting is behind schedule. The reason for the delay is that PO has not received yet written comments on SAP document from all Arctic regions and companies involved.

The SC meeting approved in general the Project Office activities and obliged the PO to improve the situation with SAP. Further development of working relations with Arctic regional authorities, nongovernmental organisations and operating in Arctic businesses was also recommended.

3. Integrated Work Plan and Budget for 2008 and until the end of the Project (Project Manager)

The PM familiarised the SC meeting members with IWP and Budget prepared by the PO for the year of 2008 and until the end of the Project.

The meeting participants took the information into consideration and noted that presented IWP and budget for 2008 looking very optimistic but it does not seem realistic to finalise all planned in IWP activities and spending all allocated for the Phase I funds until the end of the year. Project Supervisory Council members noted that Phase I of the Project requires prolongation until the end of year 2009 but making such kind of decision is only the Project Steering Committee privilege.

The Supervisory Council obliged the PO in a week period (by Wednesday, 19/03/2008):

- 1) to prepare realistic IWP and the budget till the end of 2008 bearing in mind the possible Phase I prolongation;**
- 2) in backing of the new IWP and budget to elaborate justification of Phase 1 prolongation till the end of 2009;**
- 3) to circulate above documents among STC and SC members by means of email.**

The Supervisory Council asks the STC and SC members familiarise themselves with the documents in ten days period and amend them if needed. The PO will rework the documents taking into account all comments and amends. Then revised IWP and budget for 2008 together with justification of Phase 1 prolongation will be submitted by e-mail to STC members for approval. The decision on possible Phase I prolongation can be made at the next Steering Committee meeting. By prior arrangement, the meeting agreed to set a date for 3d STC meeting on September 25-26 this year provided all STC members would accept the proposed date.

4. Agenda item 5. Any Other Business.

No other items were discussed.

Closure

In his closing statement, the meeting Chairman Mr. B. Morgunov expressed his thanks to all participants of the Project Supervisory Council meeting for their active and fruitful input.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 17:30 on 11th of March 2006.

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5th Meeting of Project Supervisory Council

11 March, 2008 – 16.00-17.30 (Moscow time)

Conference call between SC members chaired by Minekonomrazvitiya of Russia

SC 5/1

Provisional Agenda

Prepared: by Project Office

Status: approved by Project Supervisory Council

Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 16.00-17.30

Meeting of the Project Supervisory Council

(in the form of conference call, chaired by UNEP)

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| 16.00 | 1. Adoption of Agenda |
| 16.05 | 2. Progress Report of the Project Office activities for the period up to March 2008 |
| 16.20 | 3. Half-Yearly report for July-December 2007 (Project Manager) |
| 16.40 | 4. Integrated Work Plan and Budget for 2008 and until the end of the Project (Project Manager) |
| 17.00 | 5. Any other business |