

STEERING COMMITTEE

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

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## **Progress Report on Implementation of COMAN-Demo project**

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Prepared by:

Project Office

Status:

Approved

SUMMARY: The report describes the results of the Demonstration project *“Environmental co-management of extracting companies, authorities, and the small-numbered indigenous peoples of the North”*, being a part of the UNEP/GEF project *“Russian Federation: Support to the National Program of Action for the protection of the Arctic Marine Environment,”* led by The Batani International Development Fund for Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East with the participation of the Association of the Small-Numbered Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation and also the foreign partner UNEP/GRID-Arendal in 2007 – 2008.

The report contains description of the basic events, methods and recommendations of the Demonstration project obtained during seminars, roundtables, fieldworks and development of the information and analytical block of the project.

***The views expressed in the report are those of the authors and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the UNEP/GEF and the Russian Federation Government***

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Environment Program funded the project *“Russian Federation: Support to the National Program of Action for the protection of the Arctic Marine Environment”*. This project is a part of the *Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities* (UNEP). National Programmes of Action are the translation of the GPA at the national level.<sup>1</sup>

The project aims at the protection of the global marine environment, in which the Arctic plays a fundamental role. The project’s main goal is creation of the stable state mechanism aimed at decreasing degradation of the Russia Arctic environment due to land-based development activity. It also seeks the further implementation of the Strategic program for action for the sake of all Arctic states and entire international community, according to responsibilities of the Russian Federation under international conventions and agreements, taking into account decisions and programs of the Arctic Council. The Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation is determined the executive organization responsible for implementation of this project.

The Demonstration project *“Environmental co-management of extracting companies, authorities and the small-numbered indigenous peoples of the North”* is the part of the UNEP/GEF project *“Russian Federation: Support to the National Program of Action for the protection of the Arctic Marine Environment”* and is carried out by the Batani International Development Fund for Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East with the participation of RAIPON and a foreign partner, UNEP/GRID-Arendal.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gpa.unep.org/content.html?id=188&ln=6>.

The main purpose of this demonstration project, which is conducted three model regions – Yamal-Nenets and Nenets Autonomous areas and Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) – is the following:

(a) Creating conditions for joint management of environment protection by executive power bodies, local government bodies, extracting companies and the indigenous peoples of the North at places of traditional habitat and economic activity of these peoples.

(b) Development of administrative, economic, financial and social mechanisms of environmental co-management by establishing, for example, coordination councils or other bodies, serving as a forum to identify and solve potential conflicts between the indigenous population, industrial companies, executive power and local government bodies and other interested parties.

This demonstration project is designed to demonstrate how it is possible to create stable co-management practices with the indigenous communities in the context of current economic and social conditions in the Russian Federation.

To do this, the Batani Fund conducted the following activities in the three model regions to provide for results given below:

Phase 1: (initial): January 25, 2008 in Moscow an introductory seminar (coordination session) was held, aimed at achievement of a common understanding of objectives and expected results by the project executive team, the directorate of the UNEP/GEF Project, executive and supporting organizations and also by all interested participants of this demonstration project. This initial activity was necessary for the successful realization of the whole project.

Phase 2: Analyses of environmental co-management practices was conducted and recommendations were developed on how to improve them in the three model regions (this included seminars, results overviews, problems identification and prioritization). Activities included:

- the efficiency analyses of organizational framework and functioning principles of the traditional nature use territories,
- other existing mechanisms and principles of the interrelation between indigenous organizations, state management bodies, local government bodies and industrial companies in seeking solutions to nature use issues
- identification of current and potential conflicts' reasons in environment protection and nature resources use and
- development of recommendations to solve these problems.

Phase 3: Regional consultations were held in an attempt to accommodate interests and coordination of actions of the interested parties participating in environmental co-management. The main result of this phase of the project was the development of the main principles and methods on solving issues of co-management and the adoption by all participants of a common process and

beginning of work to form institutional mechanisms to govern the relations between indigenous peoples, state bodies and private business. As a result of the project's third phase, the model of the Ethno-ecological Council was established. The ethno-ecological councils will serve as the forum to identify and solve potential conflicts between the indigenous population, companies, executive authorities, local government bodies and other interested parties. Development has started on joint action plans for executive bodies, local government bodies, companies and indigenous communities, which will secure efficient co-management at places of traditional habitat and economic activity of indigenous peoples.

Phase 4: In the model regions the round tables were held to summarize results of the Project and following their recommendations, joint action plans were prepared for the executive power bodies, local government bodies, companies and the indigenous communities. These plans will guide co-management by balancing interests of all parties and lead to the preservation of the traditional way of life and habitat of the small-numbered indigenous peoples.

On 5 December 2008 a Round table was held at the Russian Federation State Duma. Participants included representatives of federal executive bodies and other parties interested in the project's results.

### **The main results of the Demonstration project in the three model regions**

- Development of draft rules and methods regulating relations between the small-numbered indigenous peoples of the North, industrial companies, authorities and other interested parties on the basis of recommendations to develop federal and regional legal framework.
- Development of the common concept and structure of environmental co-management in the traditional habitat of the indigenous peoples of the North reflected in recommendations and publications of the project.
- Development of the ethno-ecological council model as a forum/site, where opinion of indigenous peoples is to be heard and potential conflicts can be solved before they become an obstacle to development or issues requiring political decisions. The ethno-ecological councils have been already established in Yamal-Nenets Autonomous area (YANAO) and Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), creation of the same body is planned in Nenets Autonomous area (NAO).
- Recommendations are developed and published on common principles and procedure for establishing and changing or eliminating TTPs and also the authority and functions of federal and regional bodies regarding TTPs.
- Analyses and development of methods evaluating the effect of industrial development on the indigenous peoples and their territories.
- Development and trial run of methods to train indigenous peoples to register and use traditional knowledge for mapping TTPs and conducting ecological monitoring.

- Development of plans and recommendations on taking into account interests of indigenous peoples in programs for industrial development in order to provide balance and stability in the three model regions.
- To demonstrate various approaches to the problem of environmental co-management in the three model regions, the trial run was held of methods helping informed, scientifically and legally grounded interrelation of interested parties under industrial development of the indigenous peoples' traditional settlement territories. Publication is held of recommendations to implement environmental co-management, which can be used in other regions of the Russian Federation.
- Ideas, methods and practical experience of the Demonstration project's consultants were used in work over the draft federal law "Protection of original habitat, traditional way of life and traditional nature use of the Russian Federation's small-numbered indigenous peoples", which found reflection in recommendations of the resulting round table held at the State Duma of the Russian Federation December 5, 2008.

Period of implementing the demonstration project: from 15 November 2007 to 15 November 2008, prolonged till 15 February 2009.