PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) [1]

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND:GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Conserving Biodiversity in the Changing Arctic		
Country(ies):	Russian Federation	GEF Project ID:[2]	4665
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	786
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology (MNRE), WCMC, GRIDA	Submission Date:	2011-09-02
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	48
Name of parent program (if applicable): • For SFM/REDD+ ☐	Russian Arctic Programme	Agency Fee ($):	516,055

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK[3]:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-financing ($)
(select) BD-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas	Output 1.1. contribute to the increased management effectiveveness of exiting protected areas (covering 7,2 million ha), establisment of new protected areas (covering up to 3,1 million ha) and improved management of other unprotected ecosystems (covering approx. 180 million ha)	GEFTF	1,524,851	3,096,923
(select) BD-2	Outcome 2.2: Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks	Output 2.2. National and sub-national land-use plans (number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation	GEFTF	3,095,910	6,287,692
CCM-5 (select)	Outcome 5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peatland	Output 5.2: Forests and non-forest lands under good management practices	GEFTF	840,138	3,706,394
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
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(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)	Others		(select)		
		Sub-Total		5,460,899	13,091,009
		Project Management Cost[4]	(select)	**273,045**	1,109,091
		Total Project Cost		5,733,944	14,200,100

[1] It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.
[2] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.
[3] Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework when filling up the table in item A.
[4] GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Enhance biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration under changing climate conditions and other environmental pressures across the Russian Arctic through sustainable wildlife resource management and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation priorities in decision making processes at federal, regional, local and indigenous communities levels, supported by increase of efficiency of protected areas system, a modern integrated knowledge-base and wildlife monitoring programme, and the implementation of National Species Conservation Strategies within and outside protected areas.

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Cofinancing ($)
Component 1. Improving the design and management effectiveness of the Protected Areas Network in selected model regions of the Russian Arctic (within Taymir, Chukotka and Kamchatka), responding to changing climate conditions BD1: 1,474,851$ CCM5: 50,000$	TA	1.1 Enhanced PA management effectiveness including capacity to respond to observed and predicted climatic changes and associated shifts in land use in selected critical model areas in the Russian Arctic	1.1.1 Support the management and formal designation of the "Beringia" international park as a keystone and model PA to showcase optimal strategies for sustainable wildlife resources management, integrating traditional approaches by indigenous communities as well as supporting the implementation of relevant national strategies for species conservation and related assesssemnst (ref. component 2.1.1)	GEFTF	1,524,851	3,096,923
		1.2 Improved design and representativeness of the PA system in selected model areas, to compensate for, and mitigate the increasing pressure on biodiversity and wildlife resources in the Arctic under a changing climate, and consistently with relevant national species conservation strategies and related assessments (ref. component 2.1.1)	1.2.1 A comprehensive proposal is developed for the revision of the design of the regional PA network (e.g. structure, type, size, shape and distribution) in selected model regions (Koryakskiy Okrug of Kamchatka and Chukotka), underpinned by an analysis of existing information and incorporating best practices from Alaska			
		1.3 Local communities and indigenous peoples are fully engaged in the conservation and management of Arctic Biodiversity both outside and within PA network, to ensure their needs and traditional knowledge is integrated	1.3.1 Development of standard methods of collecting, analysing and presenting local knowledge to decision makers and PA managers in the target model areas 1.3.2 Measurably increased recognition and inclusion of			

		with scientific knowledge in developing indicators, conservation strategies and implementations practices at all levels of decision making	local knowledge as a source of information and basis for decision making on BD conservation within and outside PAs, for governmental agencies as well as PA managers in the target model areas, with presentation also to other areas			
Component 2. Improving Biodiversity conservation and sustainable uses of wildlife in the Russian Arctic, (focusing on the same model areas of Component 1) BD2: 2,995,910$ CCM5: 100,000$	TA	2.1. Increased capacity to evaluate and adjust conservation measures and sustainable utilisation practices for wildlife resources in the Arctic region, with a primary focus on ensuring compatibility between the needs of indigenous and local communities and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	2.1.1 Development and initial implementation of National Species Conservation Strategies for flagship species of major concern nationally and globally (e.g. Polar Bear, Walrus, Spoon-billed Sandpiper; Red-breasted Goose, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Kittlitz Murrelet and Gyrfalcon), with possible case studies in target model areas. This outputs will include several elements that will be implemented in a coordinated and focused manner for the conservation of key endangered species of global concern. These elements include: (a) Assessment of sustainable harvest levels for selected arctic wildlife species in the target model areas, e.g. using "wild commodity indices" and developing strategies to monitor and periodically adjust the current uncontrolled harvest pattern to sustainable levels (model groups may include: migratory waterbirds, reindeer, and walrus). This will include an analysis and incorporation of best practices of US and Canadian Fish and Wildlife Services as well as Nordic countries experience; (b) Assessment of the influence of key factors that are negatively impacting selected endemic and endangered migratory	GEFTF	3,095,910	6,287,692

			species in the target model areas, and whose habitat lies within and outside the Arctic region, and identification of most urgent conservation measures to address them at local as well as at national level; (c) Develop and start implementing, in the target model areas, monitoring programmes for selected species, focusing on migratory birds and marine mammals and in coordination with CBMP-CAFF, integrating the monitoring networks of Protected Areas, Polar Stations and biological stations into an enhanced GIS database with CC modeling capability. This will include a systematic review and publication of BD monitoring methodologies (summarizing latest Russian and western experience) to be used as a manual for monitoring different BD components in the Arctic, at the national level; (d) Strengthened capacity of (i) the Arctic Biodiversity Conservation Centre within ARRINC of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, with the mandate to track and analyse the observed and measured changes in the Russian Arctic and setting them in the circum-arctic context and (ii) Support the further development of the existing "circumpolar web-based data base on the breeding conditions of birds, predators population dynamics and weather variables" by Moscow State University, supported by CAFF			

			2.1.2 development of innovative models of interaction between state authorities and local governments, industrial companies and public organizations of indigenous people in the field of environmental protection, as well as financial mechanisms for joint environmental co-management, in the target model areas, including i.e.: - Outreach, training and education programmes for indigenous people and other stakeholders focusing on (a) best practices for local people in sustainable use of wildlife resources focused on optimization of practices of hunting of waterbirds, walrus and polar bear and reindeer, (b) general education programs focused on values of biodiversity, ecosystem services and need of cooperation of shared populations of migratory animals. Cooperation with Nordic countries and review of the US/Canadian experience is envisaged. - the experience from target model areas will contribute to the improvement of biodiversity conservation legislation (including Hunting Laws), both at the federal and regional level to balance the rights of indigenous people, wildlife conservation priorities and Russia's commitments under relevant international conventions.			
		2.2 Enhanced national capacity to provide timely and valuable inputs to reports on the status and the progress of biodiversity conservation status in the Russian Arctic under international	2.2.1 Identification of trends in changes of climate seasonally and regionally, developing illustrative case studies in the target model areas, providing recommendations for improvement of conservation measures for			

		initiatives, such as CAFF, EAAFP, AEWA, Ramsar and CBD indices.	selected threatened species and other species that can be sustainably harvested by local people including indigenous communities 2.2.2 A suite of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services indicators are identified for the target model areas, allowing the tracking of changes in a rapidly changing environment, and regular assessment of the sustainability of controlled wildlife resource use practices and wildlife management, and providing the basis for possible adoption at the national scale and in the context of the entire population for a given species			
Component 3. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and CC mitigation priorities in policy and decision making processes, at all levels of society, (focusing on-the-ground activties in the same model areas of Components 1 and 2) CCM5: 690,138$ BD1: 50,000$ BD2: 100,000$	TA	3.1 Biodiversity conservation and conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks as important ecosystem services deriving from the areas within and around existing PAs, are duly accounted for, and included in local and national planning/decision making and government budgeting processes, in consultation with all key stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, government and private sector 3.2 The specific conservation and enhancement of peatlands and permafrost as globally important carbon stocks within and around Arctic PAs is assigned its proper economic value and included as a priority in local	3.1.1 The climate change mitigation functions played by the extensive carbon stocks found in peatlands, forest and permafrost found within the system of Protected Areas and the wider Arctic ecosystems is assessed, mapped, documented and clearly demonstrated. These represent a major and globally significant "storage" of potent green-house gases and also provide other critical ecosystem services. 3.2.1 The values of carbon stocks held in Arctic peatland, permafrost and forests in target model areas (as assessed and quantified in 3.1.1) are used as a pilot case for subsequent incorporation of such values into planning and accounting processes at the regional level, thus	GEFTF	840,138	3,706,394

		government planning processes in selected model regions of the Russian Arctic	providing a pilot case for inclusion also in the national budgeting processes, and underpinning the development of long-term conservation policy for the conservation and enhancement of extensive carbon stock in the target areas and in the entire Russian Arctic region 3.2.2 The area of well-managed or protected peatland and permafrost is measurably increased in the target model areas through the preservation and enhancement of tundra's vegetation cover as the main protection for the underlying layers of peatland and permafrost. This will be achieved by incorporating appropriate habitat conservation measures in PA and land-use plans for the target model areas, so as to reduce and mitigate the damage caused by increasing human activity in these areas.			
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
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	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
			Sub-Total		5,460,899	13,091,009
			Project Management Cost[5]	GEFTF	273,045	1,109,091
			Total Project Costs		5,733,944	14,200,100

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, ($)

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount ($)

[5] Same as footnote #3.

National Government	Government and Government-affiliated institutions: Government of the Russian Federation; Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology; Regional Administrations; Local District Administrations; All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Conservation; Pacific Institute for Fisheries, Anadyr and Moscow State University. Other National and Regional Research Institutes and Universities in the Russian Federation: Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Saint-Petersburg; Institutes of Russian Academy of Sciences including Institute of Geography, Institute for Ecology and Evolution; Pacific Institute of Geography – Kamchatka Branch; Magadan Institute of Biological problems of the North; Institute of Humanities and Problems of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Sakha Republic; North-East Federal University, Yakutsk; St.Petersburg State University; Herzen University, Institute for Indigenous Peoples of the North, Saint-Petersburg.	In-kind	7,000,100
Private Sector	The Private Sector will be mainly represented by companies in the energy, mining, transport, fisheries and infrastructure development industry. A specific list of private sector companies and interest groups to be involved in the project will be identified for each specific target area, as well as at national level, during the PPG phase.	Unknown at this stage	2,200,000

CSO	World Fund for Nature - Russian Federation (WWF-Ru); BirdLife International (BLI); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); World Waterfowl Trust (WWT); Wetlands International; US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS); US National Parks Service; Russian Geographical Society; Russian Society for Conservation and Studies of Birds; Goose, Swan and Duck Study Group of Northern Eurasia; Arctic Ecology and Anthropology Research Center, Moscow; Association of World Reindeer Herders; International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation; Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Norway; Land Ocean Interface of the Coastal Zone, Germany (LOICZ) - International Arctic Science Porgramme (IASC).	Unknown at this stage	2,200,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Arctic Council's Working Group for the Conservation of Flora and Fauna (CAFF); The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA); East-Asia and Australasia Flyways Partnership (EAAFP); Convention of Migratory Species (CMS); CITES Convention on the trade of Endangered Species	In-kind	500,000
GEF Agency	UNEP: through the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) ; Division of Early Warning and Assessments (DEWA) ; Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELC), and the UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE). UNEP Specialised Partner organisations: World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and GRID Arendal (GRID A)	In-kind	800,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	Other governmental and non-governmental conservation and sustainable development organizations providing bilateral aid from the USA, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, UK and Germany and European Union (e.g. INTERACT project).	Unknown at this stage	1,500,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	

Total Cofinancing			14,200,100

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY[1]

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b)[2]	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Russian Federation	4,851,800	436,662	5,288,462
UNEP	GEF TF	Climate Change	Russian Federation	882,145	79,393	961,538
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				5,733,945	516,055	6,250,000

[1] In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

[2] Please indicate fees related to this project.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1 the GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF strategies:

The project is consistent with the Biodiversity focal area Strategic Objectives BD1 and BD 2 as well as CCM-5.

The implementation of Strategic Objective BD-1: "Improved Sustainability of Protected Area Systems" will be supported by improving management effectiveness of existing PAs, development of a plan for an improved and climate-resilient PA Network in selected Arctic regions, and integration of PAs into regional conservation and land-use plans, involving the local and indigenous people and other key stakeholders at all stages. The project will build professional capacity and develop essential planning tools and consultation mechanisms to support the conservation and sustainable use of globally important biodiversity in both protected and non-protected areas. In addition, the project will also contribute to improving the climate resilience of the protected areas system of the Russian Arctic by i.e. developing recommendations for a review of the boundaries of PAs in the face of a changing climate, to ensure the continued protection of important habitats and species.

Strategic Objective BD-2: "Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors", will be supported through the following project elements: (i) implementation of National Species Conservation Strategies for species of major concern at national and global level. The Flagship Species conservation approach will be used to ensure benefits to ecosystem conservation on a wider scale; (ii) supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation priorities in policy and decision making processes at all levels; (iii) engaging with key stakeholders such as local communities, indigenous peoples and extractive industries in evaluating and adjusting the utilisation patterns of wildlife resources to sustainable levels under a changing climate and environmental conditions.

In addition to the above, the project will also contribute to climate change mitigation Strategic Objective CCM-5: "Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use, land-use change, and forestry" and in particular outcome 5.2: "Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including Peatland", by supporting the conservation of extensive areas of arctic Peatland and Permafrost ecosystems that represent a well-documented source of critical ecosystem services, functioning as a major and globally significant "storage" of potent green-house gases such as CO_2 and Methane. An Example of CCM 5 / LULUCF achievements in line with the Tracking Tools is also provided in the table below:

Objective 5: CCM5/LULUCF	**Targets at CEO Endorsement**	
Area of activity directly resulting from the project	***Arctic BD project - Expected accomplishments as envisaged at PIF submission stage***	**Notes**
Conservation and enhancement of carbon in forests, including agroforestry	Possible – if yes, target to be determined at PPG	ha
Conservation and enhancement of carbon in non-forest lands, including peat land	Yes – target in ha to be determined at PPG	ha
Avoided deforestation and forest degradation	Possible – if yes, target to be determined at PPG	ha
Afforestation/reforestation	Possible – if yes, target to be determined at PPG	ha
Good management practices developed and adopted	2: developing prescriptions for sustainable management	0: not an objective/component 1: no action

		2: developing prescriptions for sustainable management 3: development of national standards for certification 4: some of area in project certified 5: over 80% of area in project certified
Carbon stock monitoring system established	2: mapping of forests and other land areas 3: compilation and analysis of carbon stock information 4: implementation of science based inventory/monitoring system 5: monitoring information database publicly available	0: not an objective/component 1: no action 2: mapping of forests and other land areas 3: compilation and analysis of carbon stock information 4: implementation of science based inventory/monitoring system 5: monitoring information database publicly available
Lifetime direct GHG emission avoided	Yes – target to be determined at PPG	tonnes CO2eq
Lifetime indirect GHG emission avoided	Yes – target to be determined at PPG	tonnes CO2eq
Lifetime direct carbon sequestration	Possible – if yes, target to be determined at PPG	tonnes CO2eq
Lifetime indirect carbon sequestration	Possible – if yes, target to be determined at PPG	tonnes CO2eq

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities:

N/A

A.2. national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

The project is consistent with the Russian Federation NBSAP (2001) and fits within the National Action Plan to support CBD (Rio Convention on Biological Diversity - ref. Report on the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas – published by WWF-RF in Oct 2010). These national plans propose that polar deserts, tundra, and forest-tundra regions in the Arctic parts of the Russian Federation adopt integrated approaches to nature management, with the full involvement of indigenous peoples. The NBSAP in particular highlights the importance of adopting an ecosystem management approach, including implementation of regional models of biodiversity conservation and integrated land-use planning.

Besides meeting the CBD obligations, the project will also contribute to meeting international commitments of the Russian Federation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, bilateral agreements on migratory birds with Japan, USA and Korea, Russian Federation/USA bilateral obligations on cooperation in Polar Bear conservation efforts, and other relevant international MEAs. Russia actively participates in the work of Arctic Council's working group Conservation Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) and "Arctic Climate Impact Assessment" and supports the recommendations made in the ACIA Policy document. This project will propose and test a number of approaches and methods, including trend assessment based on CAFF criteria and the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) indicators.

The RF has recently developed a Strategic Action Program for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation (SAP-Arctic) with the support of UNEP/GEF. One of the key guiding principles of the SAP-Arctic is the "ecosystem approach to the solution of environmental problems, which means comprehensive management of the land, water, and biological resources of the Arctic Zone, as will provide for resource conservation and sustainable use on an equitable basis". This provided the basis for the more comprehensive "Arctic

Agenda 2020" that provides the umbrella of "parent" programe for this project. The priority environmental problems of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation identified in the SAP-Arctic and which are of direct relevance to this project proposal include: changes in biodiversity and depletion of biological resources, deterioration in the living environment of the indigenous population of the Arctic Zone and disruptions in the condition of natural resource use by the indigenous small nations, and the adverse effects and threats of global climate change.

The RF's legal framework to support the project goals includes federal laws covering general ecological issues including, "On environmental protection" (1991, renewed in January 2002); "On Specially Protected Nature Areas" (1995); and "On Continental Shelf of the Russian Federation" (1995). The law on "Baseline of the State regulation of social and economic development of Russian North" (1996) provides the basis for integration between environmental and socio-economic sectors. The law stipulates that state control on environmental protection and nature use in northern Russia is directed to meet the requirements of the local population with respect to sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem maintenance, and ecological safety. The Federal Law "On the territories of traditional nature use by indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation", adopted in 2001, provides evidence of the government's concerns about sustainable livelihood for indigenous peoples. More specific regulatory Acts include the "Concept of Sustainable Development of the Russian Federation" adopted by a presidential decree. This legislation provides the general direction of sustainable development and the terminology used in this field.

With regards to climate change Mitigation, the Russian Federation has developed policy interventions aimed at supporting climate change mitigation measures. The project is fully consistent with the Fifth National Communication to the UNFCCC (2010) and particularly in line with Chapters: IV.3 on "realized policy and measure of its evaluation"; IV.4 on "corporate policy and with Chapter VI.2. on the "cryosphere of land". Other major policy documents include:

> In 2001-2005, Russian Federation implemented the Federal Targeted Programs "Prevention of Dangerous Climate Change and Negative Consequences". The Federal Targeted Program "Ecology and Natural Resources of Russia" (2002-2010) has resources allocated for assessing climate change impacts on the Arctic environment;
>
> There are several sectoral programs targeting climate change mitigation research in the Arctic, including programs of Roshydromet (monitoring and assessment programs) and the Russian Academy of Sciences (Fundamental Research Program of the Presidium of Russian Academy of Sciences "Environmental and climate change: natural disasters", "Natural processes in polar regions and their development during the next decades");

Russia actively participates in the Arctic Council's "Arctic Climate Impact Assessment" (ACIA) and supports the recommendations made in the ACIA Policy document and efforts to implement the recommendations on mitigation, adaptation, research, monitoring and outreach. The 2006 Ministerial Declaration of the Arctic Council urged the working groups to continue supporting, analyzing and synthesizing Arctic climate research, including the gathering and compilation of indigenous and local knowledge of the effects of climate change, so that the exchange of expertise at the global level through the IPCC can better reflect unique Arctic conditions and that global decision-making can take Arctic needs into account.

The working groups of the Arctic were also instructed to continue to develop and implement cooperative projects, as appropriate, with a view to enhance the capacity of indigenous and other Arctic residents to adapt to environmental, economic and social changes and enable them to benefit from the results of scientific research. Some specific recommendations of the ACIA will be addressed through this project, including:

> For some areas, such as the central and eastern Russian Arctic, few or no current records of indigenous observations are available. To detect and interpret climate change, and to determine appropriate response strategies, more research is clearly needed.

In Eurasia and Greenland, little systematic work on indigenous knowledge has been done, and research in these regions is clearly needed. Indigenous observation networks have been set up in Chukotka, Russia, and some projects have taken place in Alaska, but little systematic work has been done to set up, maintain, and make use of the results from such efforts. Problems to be tackled: determining how indigenous knowledge can best be incorporated into scientific systems of knowledge acquisition and interpretation; and: finding ways to involve indigenous communities in scientific research and to communicate scientific findings to indigenous communities.

It is quite clear that the Russian Government is focusing most of its mitigation efforts on the effects of climate change on infrastructure. On the other hand, the attention of the Government to the climate change problem will also allow the inclusion of additional measures toward the conservation of landscapes, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the traditional way of life of indigenous people.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

The project falls under Component two ("Conservation and Sustainable use of biodiversity, natural resources, and ecosystem services") of the GEF Russian Arctic Programme Framework Document. For a comprehensive background description of Arctic environmental issues and the rationale of overall programmatic approach and project interventions, pls refer to the parent Arctic Programme Framework Document, (ref. PFD sections C and E).

Russia covers nearly half of the total terrestrial Arctic and hosts a significant portion of the total remaining natural habitats for Arctic Fauna and Flora. In addition to hosting endemic Biodiversity of global importance, the Russian Arctic also provides the critical feeding and breeding grounds for a large number of species and populations of migratory birds and mammals that periodically gather there in large numbers (e.g. over 100 million birds gather in the arctic during the summer season). These species are in fact a shared resource with many other countries from all the continents of the world. For example, almost all birds found in the Arctic region are migratory, undertaking long annual migrations that connect the Russian Arctic with virtually any place on Earth apart from the Inner Antarctic Ice shield. Over 280 bird species breed in the Russian Arctic including migratory waterbirds that depend on Arctic tundra habitats, such as waders, geese and swans, eiders, gulls, divers and cliff nesting seabirds. Many species are unique to the Russian Arctic. Seven species are globally threatened, three of them 'critically endangered' and twenty are included to the Russia Red Data Book. For several of them, e.g.: critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Kittlitz Murrelet, endangered Red-breasted Goose and Lesser White-fronted Goose there are still no national conservation strategies and plans and conservation measures are far below the necessary levels. Fourty Arctic bird and mammal species and subspecies have been identified as rare, vulnerable or endangered. Sixty-two mammal species, mainly marine mammals, are partially or totally dependent on Arctic ecosystems and habitats. Terrestrial mammals, particularly ungulates, need large expanses of undisturbed habitat for feeding, breeding, and seasonal migrations. Large areas are also required to compensate for the relatively low nutrient levels in the vegetation at high latitudes. Russia shares many populations of these mammals with other Arctic countries. Many species of both flora and fauna are declining for reasons including habitat change, over-harvesting, illegal harvesting and rapid changes in land use that are linked with the increasing accessibility of the Arctic due to climate change. Arctic tundra habitats and wetlands are also very rich in organic soils (peatland and permafrost) that, in undisturbed conditions, will continue to serve as one of the most important natural carbon storage systems in the planet. Conservation of these vast habitats will therefore not only contribute to the conservation of globally important biodiversity that is shared by Russia and many other countries, but also to climate change mitigation.

Russia has established along its territory a Protected Area System consisting of more than 12,000

Protected Areas in a number of different categories. About 20 federal nature protected areas are situated within the CAFF boundary. Therefore the Russian Arctic has currently a large system of protected areas with satisfactory coverage; however the management effectiveness of this PA network remains weak and requires significant improvement.

Outside Protected Areas, the national system of wildlife management in the Russian Arctic has been degrading gradually since the collapse of the Soviet Union. In particular, the lack of resources for the monitoring of wildlife population trends is not allowing a proper evaluation of the levels of sustainability of existing wildlife use practises. This is compounded by an ongoing massive level of poaching and lack of controls and law enforcement over huge territories. This situation has already caused the severe degradation of a number of harvested wildlife populations of e.g. reindeer and numerous species of game birds. Serious pressure of subsistence hunting was reported for a number of threatened species' populations, including i.e.: Stellers and Spectacled Eiders, Emperor and Lesser-white fronted geese etc. As another example, the Illegal catch at large scale of Gyrfalcons, that are then illegally traded in and outside Russia, continues to take place particularly in the Chukotka and Kamchatka. Polar Bears and Walrus are regularly killed illegally for skin and tasks trade. Various human activities have already affected the Russian Arctic considerably: habitat fragmentation by roads, off-road tracks, surface pipelines, mining activities, and logging; unsustainable reindeer herding and grazing, with up to 20% of the tundra zone severely affected and severe damage observed in the forest tundra zones; die-off of forest and other vegetation types; and local pollution connected with prospecting, extraction, processing, and transportation of oil, gas, and mineral resources. Thawing of the permafrost, which underlies the thin biologically active layer in the Arctic regions, augments disturbances and makes restoration efforts extremely difficult.

The proximate and root causes of these threats are the result of changes in political and administrative systems for last two decades, which have severely undermined the socio-economic infrastructure in rural areas; weak institutional and enforcement mechanisms; and poorly controlled local economic development activities including use of wildlife resources. National and global market demands have intensified the pressure on Arctic natural resources such as oil, gas, minerals and timber. In addition, processes resulting from climate change cause flooding, draining, and cryogenic transformation of land.

Subsistence harvesting of wildlife resources plays an important role in supporting the survival of local communities and is an important component of the traditional way of life for 16 small nations of indigenous peoples of the Russian Arctic. Existing legal regulations and practises aiming to support the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and biodiversity conservation, are often in contradiction among themselves and need to be harmonised. There is an urgent need to develop mechanisms for increased dialogue at all levels of society on the subject of conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resource. This should be complemented by the improvement of legislation and implementation of new regulations, as some of the most urgent and important tasks on the path towards the sustainability of wildlife resource use in the Russian Arctic. This challenging issue was addressed only to a limited extent by the recent large conservation projects in the area. Therefore the proposed project will build upon the existing body of experience and is set to play a pioneering role in addressing this issue, that is equally important for both biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation as well as to sustain the traditional livelihoods of the people living in the Arctic.

Therefore the Project Objective is to enhance biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration under changing climate conditions and other environmental pressures across the Russian Arctic through sustainable wildlife resource management and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation priorities in decision making processes at federal, regional, local and indigenous communities levels. This will be supported by an increase of efficiency of protected areas system, a modern integrated knowledge-base and wildlife monitoring programme, improved conservation and management of globally importantg carbon stocks with and aorund protected areas, and the implementation of National Species Conservation Strategies within and outside protected areas.

This will be achieved through the following project components (please ref. above in section B of this PIF for additional detail on the expected outcomes and outputs under each component):

Component 1. Improving the design and management effectiveness of the Protected Areas Network in selected model regions of the Russian Arctic, responding to changing climate conditions

Component 2. Improving Biodiversity conservation and sustainable uses of wildlife in the Russian Arctic

Component 3. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and Climate Change Mitigation priorities in policy and decision making processes, at all levels of society

The structure and components of the project emerge as an integral part of the comprehensive consultative process that led to the formulation of the Arctic Agenda 2020 and associated GEF-Russian Federation Arctic PFD. As outlined in detail in section B.2 of the PFD, the Government of the Russian Federation approved the Strategic Action Programme for Protection of the Russian Arctic Environment (2009), as the main results of the GEF International Waters project titled "Russian Federation: Support to the National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment.". The SAP-Arctic describes the goals, tasks, principal activities and targets for protecting the Russian Arctic environment for the period up to 2020, including the BD and CC as well as Indigenous Peoples issues covered by this specific project.

Key priorities and directions of SAP-Arctic were incorporated in the Basics of the State policy of the Russian Federation in the Arctic until 2020 and beyond, adopted by the Government of Russia, and supported by a range of legal instruments (ref. section B.2 of the PFD for more detail).

The SAP-Arctic was also shared with the Arctic Council. The Council is a high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States and other Arctic interested states. It also, provides indigenous communities full and formal membership status on the Council, especially with regard to, but not exclusively on, issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Member States of the Arctic Council are Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States of America.

Working Groups of the Arctic Council and their supporting scientific and technical Expert Groups hold meetings at regular intervals throughout the year, ahead of the meetings of Senior Arctic Officials, who represent the five Arctic coastal states, and Arctic Council Ministers. (for more information please refer to section B.2 of the PFD or see www.arctic-council.org)

The Arctic Programme Framework Document and the present PIF are fully aligned with the RF's Agenda 2020 and Arctic Council activities. Some of the proposed activities are jointly developed and will be implemented with these Arctic Council activities. The proposed activities within the Arctic Agenda 2020, GEF-Arctic PFD (and reflected in this project) were presented and discussed with positive response at the Arctic Council's ACAP, PAME and SAO (Senior Arctic Officials) meetings at the end of 2010.

The Diagnostic Analysis of the Environmental Status of the Russian Arctic was developed as a technical basis for the development of the SAP-Arctic. This report clearly highlights the significant environmental issues and hot spots and links these with the Convention on Biological Diversity and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The structure of the project is also fully consistent with the Russian Federation NBSAP (2001) and fits within the National Action Plan to support CBD. These national plans propose that polar deserts, tundra, and forest-tundra regions in the Arctic parts of the Russian Federation adopt integrated approaches to nature management, with the full involvement of indigenous peoples. The NBSAP in particular highlights the importance of adopting an ecosystem management approach,

including implementation of regional models of biodiversity conservation and integrated land-use planning.

Therefore project design emerges from the above analysis and resulting clear guidelines. Prior experience in the specific region (ref. i.e. ECORA project and other Arctic initiatives outside the RF) shows that if all environmental issues are not addressed in a holistic and integrated manner and i.e. not presented and discussed at the higher political level as one integrated package, then the environmental conservation and sustainable development arguments (be it Biodiversity or CC Mitigation, IP rights, Chemicals, etc.) may not have sufficient economic and political weight to counterbalance the increasing pressure from unscrupulous industrial and extractive mining developments in the region.

Hence the effort and innovative nature of this project is to present a more holistic picture and reinforce the broad conservation argument on several fronts at the same time, focusing on areas and issues that are of relevance both within and outside existing Protected Areas.

Therefore project activities are deliberately targeted at a wider range of small but effective and catalytic interventions that will build upon a significant baseline put in place by the RF government, and in synergy with all other components of the PFD.

Target Areas: All project activities, under all three components, will focus on the same limited set of target areas, through specific site-level conservation initiatives, covering multiple aspects/approaches. The target model areas will be of a reasonably manageable size, building upon the existing capacity of partners including government and indigenous groups. The conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity will be of primary importance at each of the selected sites. These issues will be addressed in combination with climate change mitigation, as peatland, permafrost and forest habitats will be the main habitats covered in the target model areas. This will ensure that GEF resources are not too thinly spread, ensuring effectiveness and focus of project activities. Project implementation is planned in different parts of Russian Arctic, covering an approximate area of 7,1 million ha of existing Protected Areas, and approximately 180 million ha of other areas outside PAs. The project will also contribute to the estabslishment of the Beringia National Park (3,1 million ha). All the areas for specific on-the-gound interventions will be identified in more detail and confirmed during the PPG stage in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. A careful site identification process will seek to ensure an efficient use of project resources and to achieve maximum conservation impact, at sites with optimal demonstration and replication potentials, while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of all project interventions. The main initial **criteria that will be adopted for the selection of target model areas** within the above regions are preliminarily defined below. These may be improved and further refined at PPG inception and in consultation with key stakeholders. These initial criteria will include, but will not necessarily be limited to, i.e.:

- maximising global biodiversity conservation benefits deriving from the project intervention (e.g. highest number of globally important species whose conservation status can be positively affected; largest areas in hectares of protected and non-protected ecosystem where the effectiveness of conservation management and susitainable wildlife can be positively affected with the GEF intervention; inclusion of identified “critical sites” for migratory species thus positively affecting the entire migration pathway or flyways in case of migratory birds; recognised conservation importance of the target areas and demonstrated consistency with and support to the implementation of national and international conservation priorities and plans, etc.)

- maximising global climate change mitigation benefits (e.g. maximising the area in hectares of ecosystems holding the higest proportion of carbon stocks including i.e. peatland, permafrost and forest; focusing on areas at highest risk if not proprly protected or managed: thus maximising tonnes of CO_2e emissions avoided through enhanced conservation of carbon stocks in the target areas; etc.)

- capturing opportunities for generating measurable socio-economic benefits with a focus

on improving the livelihoods of the most disadvantaged groups of society, including i.e. indigenous groups and women groups in target areas.

- existence of sufficient baseline data and historical data series, so as to allow focus on the achievement of realistic and measurable indicators and targets that will be clearly fitting within the GEF BD and CCM GEF Tracking Tools

- target model area(s) will have to be the most manageable in terms of their size, accessibility and complexity, also on the basis of existing capacity and infrastructure, that can be developed so as to provide an adequate platform for project execution. These criteria will also positively affect the impact and long-term sustainability of project interventions.

- areas with highest demonstration potential in terms of the range of BD abd CCM and indigenous peoples issues that can be effectively addressed through the project, also in view of maximing the potential for subsequent replication in other parts of the Arctic.

- demonstrated and/or potential level of stakeholders' interest and commitment to the achievement of project objectives at local and regional levels

- opportunity for synergy and coordination with other elements of the GEF Arctic Programme, with the relevant baseline government interventions as well as with relevant international initiatives.

- existing or immediate potential opportunities for the establishment of collaborative partnerships between extractive industries, local population, indigenous communities and PAs Management structures

Preliminary identified key model areas of the project include site within the Taymir, Chukotka and Kamchatka regions, containing the highest proportion of areas with highest conservation priority globally and nationally, and currently known to be under increasing threat (mainly by human activities) due to changing climatic conditions in the Arctic region. Specific target areas for on-the-ground project interventions will be defined within those regions, based on the above criteria, during the PPG phase. However the indirect benefits of the project will also extend to wider areas where the implementation of elements of some project components is planned, including i.e. selected areas within the regions of Nenets District, Yakutia (Sakha) and all Kamchatka. The project intervention is also expected to directly and indirectly support the gradual establishment of regional-level PAs in Kolguiev, Lower Yana District of Yakutia and several protected areas at South Chukotka and Northern Kamchatka. A thorough assessment of risks, opportunities and prior experiences will be conducted at PPG implementation stages, using clear criteria (based on the above initial list), and thus ensuring a transparent and well-documented rationale and process for the selection of each target model area. Synergy and coordination with all other elements of the GEF-Russia Arctic Programme (or the GEF Parent Programme to this project), will be actively sought during project design and implementation, to ensure focus and best use of resources within the project and the programme as a whole, also in light of all other ongoing baseline activities in the framework of the Arctic Agenda 2020.

Although the NPA-Arctic project itself was only completed in May 2011, the Government of the Russian Federation has already taken its initiative to start implementing Strategic Action Plan for the Arctic (SAP-Arctic). Rapid and continuing implementation of SAP-Arctic is the most important baseline programme of the Russian Federation, on which this project will build upon. An estimated US$79.3 million is calculated for baseline activities associated with SAP-Arctic implementation at the federal, regional and local levels, although the full SAP-Arctic implementation is based on a wider financial basis.

In the above framework, several ongoing activities by the Government of the RF and several national and international CSOs, will form the baseline for this project. These include, i.e.:

- The ongoing management and operation of the existing network of Protected Areas at the federal and regional level, entailing staff, equipment and facilities under the responsibility

of the Government of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology, Regional Administrations as well as Regional Agencies for Nature Conservation and Game management at the Federal and Regional levels;

- Local District Administrations are also responsible for the management of some local "Nature Monuments", however these mainly exist only on paper and are lacking resources for more efficient protection and to fulfill their main functions as a platform for environmental education and awareness activities;
- The Scientific institutions of Academy of Sciences (Institute for Ecology and Evolution), Institute of Biological problems of the North (Magadan); Kamchatka Branch of Far-Eastern Inst. of Geography RAS; Pacific Inst. for Fisheries (Anadyr); Inst. of Geography RAS), and selected Universities (Moscow State University, Yakutian University and Saint-Petersburg University), are responsible and manage several research and monitoring projects on plants, birds, fish and sea mammals in the Chukotka, Yakutia, Nenets districts and Taimyr for now over 15 years. These studies and teams will provide an important basis for project activities;
- Several national NGOs (often in cooperation with state research and conservation bodies) are running selected research and conservation projects focused on priority threatened species/habitats. Examples include, i.e. the ongoing programme of "BirdsRussia" on the Spoon-billed sandpiper; The ongoing research managed by the "Goose Swan and Duck Study Group" on Red-breasted and Lesser White-fronted Goose; The initiatives of WWF and ARRINC on the conservation of the Polar Bear; the ongoing WWF programme on the conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems in selected regions, and conservation of the Atlantic walrus, etc. Most of the above projects are however heavily underfunded and can only address a minor part of urgent conservation needs;
- Federal-level Protected Areas (or "zapovedniks") run their own regular biodiversity and habitats monitoring programmes ("letopis prirody"). However these are not properly coordinated with relevant parallel programs mentioned above, nor with relevant international activities (i.e. with the CBMP). A total of 10 zapovedniks are located in the whole Russian Arctic, and 5 of them lay in the areas planned for project activities.
- The Game Management Department is responsible for the harvesting and hunting of game species. With the current decentralization process, the quotas for harvesting selected species are no longer defined and issues at the central level, but are now devolved to the regional-level authorities. This is resulting in totally unsustainable harvesting levels being authorized and higher-level and international coordination should be restored as a highest priority, to avoid the irreversible loss of most vulnerable species, and especially of migratory species of birds that congregate in large numbers and are most vulnerable in the project target regions, during the Arctic summers. The Game Management Department of the MNRE has prepared (August 2011) a draft Government Decree with proposals for the improvement regulations on the harvest of migratory birds in the Arctic. However more work is needed to lobby for this Decree to be approved and to propose associated changes in the existing Hunting Law.
- Some of the current traditional activities of indigenous peoples (including i.e. reindeer husbandry, subsistence fishing and hunting, sea mammals harvest including whaling, the latter being especially regulated by international agreements) is supported to some extent by regional governments and federal programs that are run by different Ministries. It is stronger in Yakutia, Yamal and Nenets Districts but weaker in Chukotka and Taimyr (providing additional reasons for the inclusion of these regions in the project as model areas). However these are rarely coordinated with conservation priorities.
- The Arctic Ecology and Anthropology Research Center has completed necessary documents for creation of Federal "Beringia" National Park and the Chukotka Government

has provided necessary decisions for further arrangements on the federal level. However no decision has yet been made for nearly two years. The reasons for that should be clarified and possible support for creation of the park provided.

- The Arctic Ecology and Anthropology Research Center is running inventory of bird harvest estimates for over 30% of arctic villages, for the past 10 years
- The WWF-Russia had developed numerous projects supporting selected Arctic protected areas, see www.wwf.ru/eng
- Several NGOs (including i.e. WWF, GSDSG) have developed cooperation projects with developing industries (including e.g. major oil companies operating in the Barents Sea, Norilsk Nikel, and other private donors etc.), providing an in initial platform and background for development of further cooperation activities with developing companies and incorporation of PAs in this process
- The "Goose, Swan and Duck Study Group of Northern Eurasia" (a Russian NGO) group in undertaking a series of consultations with US FWS and number of European and international relevant organizations (CIC, AEWA, FACE, ONCFS) re using best available knowledge and international experience for improvements in legislation and practices of use of resources of migratory species, particularly birds. Cooperation with Game Management Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, GSDSG and BirdsRussia started in the spring of 2011 and will continue, providing the background for development of activities planned in the framework of this project aiming at making Russian hunting more sustainable and facilitating the signature of both CMS and AEWA by the Russian Federation.
- The Arctic Ecology and Anthropology Research Center in cooperation with Saint-Petersburg State University is running for over 12 years (including participation in GEF/UNEP ECORA project) studies on the traditional knowledge on indigenous peoples in Chukotka and Yakutia and Taimyr, which provide that background for further development of methodology of collecting, analyzing of local knowledge as complimentary source to scientific knowledge in conservation and management to be provided for decision makers of different levels as a result of this project
- "BirdsRussia" and GSDSG are developing education and awareness materials (including - first for Russia- field guide on waterfowl) needed for further development of education programs for indigenous peoples focused on conservation
- The UNEP-WCMC is developing a methodology of "wild commodity indices", which will be used as the basis for the sustainable management of Russian Arctic wildlife resources
- The Moscow State University and Wader Research Group of the CIS is operating a "circumpolar web-based data base on the breeding conditions of birds, predators population dynamics and weather variables", which recognised by the Arctic council's CAFF.

B. 2. incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

Baseline scenario (without GEF support):

Without GEF support, the baseline interventions that are ongoing and envisaged with support from the Russian Federation and linked to significant private sector investment (especially in the mining/extractive industry) will continue to increase and expand unabated into the Arctic Region. The baseline scenario, the global significance of the Russian Arctic and the main emerging threats for the Arctic and global environment associated with climatic changes, are extensively discussed

in Part II, section C of the overarching PFD, which is based on the extensive analytical work undertaken in the framework of the development of the underlying Arctic Agenda 2020. The above will thus not be repeated here.

In essence, and with specific reference to this project: without GEF support, the impact on critical elements of the globally important Arctic ecosystem, including biodiversity, globally significant quantities of carbon stocks as well as the traditional livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, will continue to rapidly expand as a result of increased accessibility of the Arctic region, which is linked to ongoing and anticipated climatic changes. Therefore, without GEF intervention, it is anticipated that the number, extent and management effectiveness of existing protected areas in the Russian Arctic will remain low and suboptimal. The processes of integrating traditional knowledge of indigenous communities into conservation decision making will not be institutionalized. No arctic flagship species conservation strategies, taking into account global climate change, will be developed taking into account best international experience. Wildlife management practices will continue on the current unsustainable path leading to the loss of species and populations of global importance (especially migratory species). Extensive areas of peatland, parmafrost and forest habitats that contain a significant portion of global stocks, will be lost to unplanned and unscrupolous development of roads, other infrastructure and industry, especially mining industry, and wildfires. The following major issues will persist, in absence of the GEF intervention:

- The recent (2010) unification of conservation and game management bodies for the first time at the Federal level, under the umbrella of one single Ministry. However this important reform was not followed by an harmonization of activities at regional/local level in game management and conservation. No national strategy for the sustainable use of wildlife recourses exists as yet.
- There will continue to be no coordinated strategy for addressing the needs of indigenous peoples and priorities for the conservation of threatened species. Legislation and local practices are often in contradiction and there are currently no plans for their improvement neither at the regional nor local levels;
- The level of coordination of federal and regional conservation agencies for the management of Protected Areas and conservation of threatened species will remain suboptimal;
- Climate change considerations including the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks are currently not considered in PAs, land-use and development planning processes. This is resulting in the ongoing and project loss of significant areas of peatland, permafrost and forest in the Arctic Region, and associated emission of greenhouse gases.
- There is no currently comprehensive strategy and actgion plan for the conservation and anhancement of carbon stocks in the Arctic region.
- Species conservation activities as well as the schemes for sustianable reindeer husbandry and sea mammal harvest regulations for indigenous peoples will not be developed;
- No federal conservation strategies and plans for key globally threatened species will be drafted nor implemented
- The existing national conservation strategy for the Polar Bear, is likley to remain a paper exercise, drafted but not properly implemented. Current Polar Bear conservation practices will persist, in contradiction with international agreements sigend by Russia and contrary to the needs of indigenous peoples;
- Monitoring of key indicators of Arctic ecosystems identified by the CAFF working group of the Arctic Council will not be efficiently implemented nor coordinated by different government and international agencies.
- CBMP priorities will not be implemented;

- The assessment of PA Management Effectiveness was undertaken for most of the Russian Arctic PAs identifying significant weaknesses. However no action plan for the improvement for PA conservation effectivess is currently envisaged.
- Recent changes in Federal legislation delegating a wide range of functions to the regional level, will continue to be in conflict with regional legislation and often in contradiction with conservation practices occurring at the local level;
- Most of Russian PA-s are currently managed as as isolated entities with limited connection nor integration with surrounding areas, often resulting in conflicts with nearby communities. No cooperation strategies are planned, often making conservation activities in the reserves much weaker;
- Serious gaps in the federal law will persist, as for example the current delegation of responsibility of the management of wildfowl and migratory species to the regional level, which is in plain contradiction with other Russian Laws and international legislation and practices, and is resulting in the over-exploitation of migratory species through unsustainable hunting and harvesting;
- No effective mechanisms will be in place for international coordination on the sustianable use of migratory bird resources and conservation of threatened species as Russia has nor yet signed the CMS and related agreements;
- The creation of the Federal "Beringia" National Park (3,1 million ha) is under discussion for the past 25 years and recent plans supported by regional government are still not confirmed at the federal level. Further steps towards creation of an international trans-boundary National Park with the USA are not yet under development.
- The current population status, levels and trends of harvest for key game species of birds and mammals are not known, and no plans on the regulation of use of wildlife resources are under development, including shared populations of migratory species. The existing scarce data that is collected by NGOs is not known to government and not summarized and analyzed;

The incremental GEF contribution is designed to address several of the gaps identified above.

Alternative scenario (with GEF support):

The GEF incremental contribution will complement and build upon the significant baseline investments of the national and local Government of the Russian Federation and private sector, addressing the gaps identified above. By fostering an integrated and holistic approach to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and enhacing the understanding and support for the conservation and enhancemenmt of globally important carbon stocks, the GEF intervention will add value to, and increase the sustainability and effectiveness of a wide range of proposed government interventions in the industrial, infrastruture and natural resources use sectors.

The GEF support will significantly contribute (directly and indirectly) to the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through the conservation and improved management of extensive areas of peatland, permafrost and forest, that would otherwise be lost to unplanned and unscruplous development in all the above sectors. Reference is also made to section B.1 above, and to the PFD (sections C and E) for an outline of the Global Environmental Benefits deriving form the GEF intervention, in terms of Biodiversity Conservation and CC Mitigation.

Thorugh the incremental GEF contribution, biodiversity, ecosystem services and climate change mitigation considerations (i.e. the importance of conserving and enhancing carbon stocks in the Arctic environment) will be better understood, documented, and promoted. These considerations will gradually become an integral part of relevant decision making and land-use planning processes in the RF's Arctic. The GEF contribution will support the demonstration of the global value of biodiversity and carbon stocks as examples of ecosystem services. The GEF project will also contribute to the expansion of the range of livelihood options that the Russian Arctic

ecosystems can provide, though the development of a participatory and inclusive ecosystem-based approach of landscape planning and ecosystem evaluation with the participation of Indigenous Peoples.

With the GEF intervantion, the principles of conservation and sustainable use of globally important biodiversity and the importance of conserving and enhancing carbon stocks, will be better understood and gradually adopted across all communities and stakeholders in the Russian Arctic.

The GEF contribution will be additional and complementary to the sustained commitment and input of financial, professional, legal and administrative resources of the Russian Federation's Government, both at cenral and regional/local level. The GEF contribution will also complement and be additional to the resources allocated by other circum-polar countries under the umbrella of the activies and commissions of Arctic Council, thus ensuring a truly circum-polar, global and trans-national dimension of all proposed interventions.

B.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF). As a background information, read Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF.":

The project targets vast areas of Arctic ecosystems that are populated mainly by local and Indigenous Peoples' groups (see section B.5 of this PIF) . Proposed project interventions are aimed at generating new or maintaining existing socio-economic benefits associated with the preservation of some of the main traditional livelyhoods for the local communities living in the Arctic Region, which are mainly based on the subsistence use of wildlife products that can be provided by a healthy Arctic ecosystem.

The adjustment of conservation measures and sustainable utilisation practices for wildlife resources will meet the needs of indigenous and local communities which are depending upon subsistence hunting of big game (first of all reindeer), migratory waterfowl, and local game birds. Thus, the new approach for co-management and sustainable use of Taymyr wild reindeer population is expected to allow an increase of annual amount of sustainably harvested animals from approximately 40 000 to about 60 000 wild reindeer, generating approximately 1,000,000 USD of additional income to local communities per year. The reduction of poaching and other conservation measures in Artic region will also increase the level of possible legal and sustainable harvesting of game species and bring additional food supply and income to indigenous families. The improvement of national and regional wildlife legislation and regulation tools will better protect the hunting grounds of indigenous communities against newcomers and poachers and will thus contribute to ensuring indigenous hunters' livelihood in the long-term and in vast areas of the Arctic. The incorporation of the best practices of wildlife resources management and biodiversity conservation is expected to generate significant saving and increase effectiveness of conservation activities. Local communities and Indigenous Peoples will be engaged in the biodiversity conservation practices both outside and within PAs and will therefore also benefit directly and indirectly through the creation of a significant number of new jobs (to be assessed at PPG).

Within arctic comunities, women play a critical role in relation to the traditional uses of arctic biological resources, as well as their management within protected areas and in production landscapes. Women's roles in the collection, processing and use of wildlife-related products play a major role in biodiversity conservation an sustainable use in the Arctic Ecosystem, and are likely to be significantly affected any changes in land-use and policy. It also recognised that women may be more likely to respond to biodiversity conservation initiatives addressing their family's basic needs, such as better health and nutrition.

Such traditional livelyhoods are being negatively affected by increasing land-use conversion to i.e. mining/extractive industry and land/sea transport infrastructure (accelerated by climate change and increased access to the arctic costal areas). This results also in an increasing impact and consequent decline in the wildlife resource base that is the basis of the traditional social and economic structure of the indigenous peoples. E.g. many northern rivers have lost their significance in terms of fisheries, due to the destruction of spawning areas, because of pollution linked to extractive industry and of increasing poaching. The hunting grounds of the native peoples have been made accessible to newcomers by the development of transportation facilities and are increasingly being converted into other uses, i.e. for mining and industrial development. There are currently no effective government mechanisms to support the small businesses of the smaller indigenous groups, nor women groups. The legislative basis that governs the territories of traditional nature with limited economic activity is not sufficiently developed. The UNEP/GEF/AMAP Project also clearly identified the significant impacts of pollution on the lifestyle on of the indigenous peoples, due to the high level of contaminants in their traditional diet.

Therefore the project will support an inclusive consultative and stakeholder involvement process at all stages of the project (including women groups), from design to inception, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. This will focus on understanding, communicating and ensuring the representation and involvement of all local indigenous groups and women groups in the policy dialogue and working groups to be established at the target areas as well as at regional and national levels, covering all key aspects of the project.

A Gender Analysis will be conducted at project outset as part of the social assessment in target areas (during PPG and/or project inception), with the aim of clarifying connections between gender roles and relations in the arctic communities, with respect to the biodiversity and CC mitigation issues to addressed by the project, as well as incorporating gender perspectives based on gender division of labor (e.g. gender-differentiated roles, responsibilities, and needs). This approach will result in the collection and use of gender-disaggregated data and indicators, so that gender issues can be incorporated in all stages of the project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation process. Guidance on gender mainstreaming and indigenous peoples issues will also be provided by UNEP at all stages, in line with existing GEF policies and with UNEP Gender Plan of Action (2006), and Indigenous Peoples Policy (2011).

B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

Identified Risk	Likelihood/ Severity	Proposed risk management measures
1. Increasing global demand for energy and mineral resources found in the Arctic region may apparently outweigh the benefits of biodiversity conservation and	H	This stands among the more prominent issues that the project will have to address, and it will be addressed through a multi-pronged approach, including: ✓ Engagement with all stakeholders from project outset, including private sector, government, NGOs and indigenous groups (including women groups), to ensure their perspectives and needs are taken into account and duly represented at all stages of the project, through the set-up of transparent and inclusive consultative mechanisms ✓ Focus on the production of sound and credible evidence-based science on ecosystem-level assessments that include

CC mitigation, at all stakeholder levels		the broad range of Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital values that can be provided by a healthy Arctic ecosystem, that are currently not properly accounted for in national and regional development plans ✓ Development of a strong communication strategy and outreach capacity within the framework of the broader GEF Arctic Programme, so as to be able to reach decision makers at all levels with well-targeted, simple and clear messages that can effectively influence decision making on Arctic's Environmental and Development issues
2. High-level political support and buy-in for a sustainable development approach may change or falter	M-H	This risk is closely related to no. 1 above, as the Government of the Russian Federation, like all national governments, will have to respond to domestic and international crises and priorities when taking decisions that affect the use of natural resources, environment and sustainable development in the Russian Arctic. The Government is currently committed to the sustainable development goals of the project. The existing political and legal structure provides a sound initial platform for improvement, and political support at all legal and administrative levels. However, the current social and economic environment in Russia is very dynamic: with Presidential elections due in March 2012, the risks associated with changing political situation in the target regions are substantial. E.g. the model areas and regions tentatively identified in PIF for case studies may look suitable for now and/or at PPG stage. However the situation may change later on, when the full project will be starting implementation (e.g. regional government structures and appointed Governors may change, preliminary agreements with private sector may not be working anymore, while new opportunities may open-up, etc.). The project will build upon the lessons learned from prior projects in the same region (e.g. ECORA), and will therefore focus on the continuous engagement of decision makers at local, regional and national level, since the very early stages of the project and throughout its duration. This will entail a focus on the development and uptake of targeted decision-making policy support papers and tools that can sustain the continued adoption of policy and legal measures that take into account the broader range of ecosystem services provided by the Arctic, thus supporting a gradual shift from an unbalanced focus on the short-term benefits deriving from the extractive industry, towards a more sustainable, long-term development perspective. Also, the project design will take the above into account and include an adequate level of flexibility, to allow adaptive management in response to changes in critical factors such as, i.e. political climate or private sector engagement in the target areas.
3. The anticipated impacts of	M	The assessment and incorporation of the anticipated impacts of Climate Change on the Arctic environment and its

Climate Change increase accessibility of the Arctic region at a more rapid pace than expected, thus exacerbating current environmental issues		biodiversity are integrated in all components of the project. The GEF Russian Arctic Programme in its entirety will therefore be at the forefront of ongoing efforts to predict and manage the impacts of climate change. The management structure of the project will include all major government and non-government stakeholders, and will provide for close coordination among all initiatives under the Arctic Programme. This set-up provides an optimal basis for the regular review of the programme's workplans and strategic priorities in relations to periodically reviewed CC impact predictions. This set-up is expected to allow for the timely identification and adoption of adaptive management actions throughout the project period as and when required.
4. The needs and priorities of the more disadvantaged groups of society, including Indigenous groups and Women Groups are not adequately taken into account	L	This risk is fully acknowledged also on the basis of the review of the lessons learned in previous UN and GEF projects at the global level. Therefore all aspects of the project's design, implementation strategy and monitoring and evaluation process will closely look at this important aspect and take this risk into account. This will inform the set-up of adequate stakeholder consultation and involvement mechanisms from project outset, with full government support, and under the auspices and supervision of UNEP as the GEF implementing agency.

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

Initial indicative list to be confirmed during PPG implementation:

Category	Stakeholders	Roles and Contributions
National Government and affiliated organizations	Government of the Russian Federation; Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology; Regional Administrations; Local District Administration; All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Conservation. Other National and Regional Research Institutes and Universities in the Russian Federation that will be involved to varying degree include i.e.: Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Saint-Petersburg; Russian Science Academy, Institute of Humanities and Problems of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Sakha Republic; North-East Federal University, Yakutsk; St.Petersburg State University; Herzen University, Institute for Indigenous Peoples of the North, Saint-Petersburg; Buryatia State University.	The national government and a wide range of government-affiliated institutions will play a major role in the project and contribute a significant baseline investment on which the GEF contribution will build upon. These will include, i.e.: Management of Protected Areas including staff, infrastructure, equipment and operations; National, regional and local level Land-use and development planning processes and underlying government staff and infrastructure, including relevant legal expertise; National and local level academic research based on extensive data collection and analysis (both in terms of space and time series) on climatic and environmental parameters, wildlife management and natural resources management; Research and expertise in Indigenous people's issues including language expertise.

Local and Indigenous Community Groups, including Women groups	All relevant local indigenous community groups, including women groups will be identified for each specific target area, during the PPG phase.	Participation in project consultations mechanisms and in project activities including policy dialogues and working groups at all stages including: project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
Private Sector	The Private Sector will be mainly represented by companies in the energy, mining, transport, fisheries and infrastructure development industry. A specific list of private sector companies and interest groups to be involved in the project will be identified for each specific target area, as well as at national level, during the PPG phase.	Participation in project consultations mechanisms and in project activities including policy dialogues and working groups at all stages including: project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
International CSOs, conservation NGOs & other conservation-oriented partners	World Fund for Nature - Russian Federation (WWF-Ru); BirdLife International (BLI); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); World Waterfowl Trust (WWT); US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS); Us National Parks Service; Wetlands International; Association of World Reindeer Herders; Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Norway; International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation ;Land Ocean Interface of the Coastal Zone, Germany (LOICZ) - International Arctic Science Programme (IASC). Other governmental and non-governmental conservation and sustainable development organizations from the USA, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, UK and Germany (largely though the CAFF). Additional international partners may include: the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC); SNOWCHANGE; Alaska Native Science Commission, and possibly the Aleut International Association, in view of their extensive work and expertise on documenting indigenous observations.	Will be involved in various biodiversity conservation elements of the project including i.e.: monitoring and field research, training and capacity building, development of conservation policies and legal instruments, community involvement, outreach and awareness programs; Coastal Arctic Zone risk assessment and evaluation of the coastal ecosystem services at the Russian Arctic, etc. All such contributions will be defined in detail during the PPG phase, and will be supported through in-kind support as well as grants
International Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements	Arctic Council's Working Group for the Conservation of Flora and Fauna (CAFF); The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA); East-Asia and Australasia Flyways Partnership (EAAFP); Convention of Migratory Species (CMS); CITES Convention on the trade of Endangered Species	Provide linkages with relevant international processes; provide guidance and technical expertise to counterpart institutions in the RF, if and as required; support accession process by RF to relevant conventions; assist in showcasing the experience and achievements of the RF in international fora
UN and International Organisations	UNEP: through the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) ; Division of Early Warning and Assessments (DEWA) ; Division of Environmental Law and Conventions	UNEP and its specialised partner agencies will (in addition to the GEF Implementing Agency functions played by the UNEP GEF team) provide a wide range of technical in-kind contributions to the design and

	(DELC), and the UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE). UNEP Specialised Partner organisations: World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and GRID Arendal (GRID A)	implementation of the project, including i.e.: linkages with parallel UNEP, WCMC and GRIDA programmes of national and global nature and focusing on the Arctic and Polar regions; protected areas, conservation planning, environmental policy and climate change-related expertise; biodiversity databases, data analysis, decision-support and GIS systems; conflict resolution and natural resources management with a focus on the rights of indigenous peoples, etc. The contributions of each division and UNEP partner organisations will be defined in detail during the PPG phase.

At the project level, the implementation and execution arrangements will entail the participation of several partners. UNEP is the GEF Implementing agency for the project, while the project Executing Agency is the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (MNRE). The MNRE will be supported by WCMC and GRID Arendal as lead co-executing partners that may assist with the execution of specific components to be clearly defined in the PPG phase. In addition, a range of other key partners will be involved and coordinated by the MNRE, contributing to the implementation of selected tasks. A preliminary outline of partners that will be involved under each planned activities is provided below. This outline is tentative and it does not yet address all components. It will be further elaborated and completed during the PPG phase.

1.1.1 ARRINC, AEARC; Chukotka Administration;

1.1.2 WWF, PAs of federal and regional level, ARRINC;

1.2.1. ARRINC, regional nature conservation authorities of Chukotka, Kamchatka and other regions, AEARC;

1.3. AEARC, Saint-Petersburg University;

2.1.1 BirdsRussia, Kamchatka Branch of Far-Eastern Inst. of Geography RAS and GSDSG for birds, WWF, ARRINC and Pacific Inst. for Fisheries (Anadyr) for mammals;

2.1.2. ARRINC, WCMC, GSDSG, Pacific Inst. for Fisheries (Anadyr); AEARC, SPB University, etc.;

2.1.3. Game Management Department and International Department of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Inst. of Geograpy RAS; IEE RAS, AEARC, Pacific Inst. for Fisheries (Anadyr), BirdsRussia; RAIPON, regional associations of indigenous peoples;

2.2.1. BirdsRussia;

2.2.2. Moscow State University, AEARC;

2.2.3. Moscow State University, ARRINC, Institutes of RAS., regional nature conservation agencies, BirdsRussia etc.

2.2.4. MSU;ARRINC,

2.2.5. WCMC

3.1.1. WWF, GRIDA, regional authorities and nature conservation and administration of PAs in Taimyr, Kacmhatka, Nenets Autonomous district etc;

The main Indigenous Peoples' groups that will be involved in the project include: in the Taimyr area Nenets nomadic reindeer herders on the left banks of Enisey River, and Dolgan and Nganassan wild reindeer hunters in central and eastern part of Taymyr Peninsula; Chukchies reindeer herders in the

central part of Chukotka, as well as Chukcies and Eskimos sea mammals hunters in the northern and eastern parts of Chukotka; different groups of Koriak and Chukchies herders and fishermen in the northern part of Kamchatskiy Kray (so-called Koriakia); Evens, Yukagirs, and Yakuts herders, hunters and fishermen in the northern Yakutia."

B.6. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

The project builds upon substantial experience and lessons learned from the GEF in supporting biodiversity conservation projects in the Arctic Region of the Russian Federation, in particular the UNEP/GEF ECORA and SAP-Arctic Projects.

The ECORA project made considerable strides in revitalizing monitoring of some key Arctic species, in improving the science base for nature conservation and fostering indigenous peoples involvement, developing conservation strategies and action plans, establishing community monitoring programs, and developing environmental education programs for schools, communities, conservation officers, and administrators.

The SAP-Arctic project perovided the scientific basis and helped lay the foundations for the GEF Russian Arctic Programme that is "parent" to, provides the overarchig framework for, the present project. The present project is directly relevant to and is designed to address a number of the priority areas identified in the SAP-Arctic, i.e. by supporting the measurement of indicators and achievement of long-term targets identified by the SAP-Arctic.

In addition to the GEF Arctic "parent" Programme, the project will also seek to establish coordination mechanisms, collaboration and synergies with other relevant ongoing GEF projects, including i.e.:

- ✓ The ongoing "Strengthening the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPA) of Russia" (GEF ID 3518, executed by the RF State Service of Protected Areas). Objective: to facilitate expansion of the national system of marine and coastal protected areas and improve its management effectiveness; and

- ✓ The upcoming "Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into Russia's energy sector policies and operations" (GEF ID 3909, also executed by MNRE). Objective: to address to barriers to effective mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in three major energy sectors in the Russian Federation: oil and gas, coal and hydropower.

The coordination with all other related activities in the Arctic Region will be ensured at various levels and in several ways:

1. At the project level: an inclusive Steering Committee and related technical Working Group(s) will be formed and will meet periodically to guide and support project implementation. These will include representatives from all key partner organizations involved in the project. This approach will ensure a continuous two-way feedback between the activities of the project execution team and all project partners involved. These include a wide range of relevant Government Bodies, Government-affiliated Academic Research and Traning Institutions, national and international CSOs, Community Groups (including women Grops) and Private Sector (ref. section B.5 above for a preliminary list). All these partners will contribute to the objectives of the project, and in turn the results of the project will feed into the wide range of other parellel and relevant activities they are involved with, in the Arctic Region.
2. At the national level, within the Russian Federation: the project is an integral part of the GEF Russian Arctic Programme, under Component 2. As such, it will be closely inter-linked with the "Climate Change Sound Water Management and Ice Conditions of Large

Siberian Rivers" project within the same PFD component, as well with all other Programme components. This will be achived through the overarching Governance mechanisms that are being set-up for the Programme by the Government of the Russian Federation with support from UNEP (as the GEF Programme Coordinating Agency), and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders including Government Institutions, other GEF Implementing Agencies, CSOs, Private Sector and Community Groups (ref. GEF Russian Arctic PFD, section J).

3. At the international level, within the Arctic Region: the project will be closely linked with the actvities of Arctic Council (AC), of which the RF is a prominent member, and especially with AC's working groups on Biodiversity and Climate Change. In particular, the project will be closely interlinked with the AC's CAFF Working Group (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Funa) program that is guided by the CAFF Strategic Plan for the Conservation of Arctic Biological Diversity, which includes five objectives that are closely related to the scope of this project, including: 1. Monitoring of Arctic biodiversity; 2. Conservation of Arctic species and their habitats; 3. Establishment of protected areas; 4. Conservation of nature outside protected areas; 5. Integration of conservation objectives and measures for economic sectors of the society. In addition, the projects will complement and contrbite to one of the highest priority for CAFF: the development of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP).
   The close linkages with Arctic Council's CAFF will ensure that (a) the design and implementation of all project activities will benefit from relevant expertise, studies, lessons learned, and tools emerging from related work in other AC member countries, and (b) the results and experinces generated by this GEF project and the entire GEF Russian Arctic Programme will feed into and be widely shared with other AC member countries and organisations.

Coordination with national and international entities interested in activities that enhance carbon in forests or peatlands or land management/conservation that decreases greenhouse gas emissions will be also pursued during project development and implementation.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

The UNEP is the only United Nations organization with a mandate derived from the General Assembly to coordinate the work of the United Nations in the area of environment and whose core business is the environment. The UNEP was selected as the GEF Coordinating Agency for the "parent" GEF Russian Arctic Programme in view of its long-standing involvement and support environmental issues in the Arctic Region and in the Russian Federation. The Arctic Programme and this project fit within UNEP's Programme of Work (www.unep.org) and within the major areas of expertise of UNEP and its partner specialized organisations involved in this project.

This project will be executed by the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology, in partnership with two of UNEP's specialized partners: UNEP-WCMC and GRID Arendal, as well as several other relevant national and international institutions and UNEP-hosted Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements and other partners. This broad UNEP-led partnership will be best positioned to provide the required leadership and support for the project, focusing on emerging environmental issues, innovative and ground-breaking research, indigenous peoples involvement, as well as the providing the international and global perspective on the environmental issues at stake in the Arctic Region as a whole.

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is a collaboration between the UNEP and WCMC (UK), a UK-based charity. UNEP-WCMC is UNEP's specialist

biodiversity assessment arm, and the Centre for UNEP's collaboration with WCMC. WCMC's mission is to "evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making" and the Centre's goal is to "provide authoritative, relevant and timely information for countries, MEAs, organizations and companies to use in the development and implementation of their policies and decisions". To help achieve this WCMC aims to be "an internationally recognized Centre of Excellence and the partner of choice for the expert synthesis, analysis and dissemination of knowledge about global biodiversity and ecosystem services". The international community has acknowledged the role of UNEP-WCMC and has asked it to carry out many critical global functions. In particular, UNEP's Governing Council has recognised the Centre as UNEP's specialist biodiversity and assessment arm providing a range of biodiversity-related services to UNEP, governments, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their constituent party states, and other bodies in the NGO and private sectors.
[Decision GC.22/1/III]

GRID-Arendal (www.grida.no) was established in 1989 by the Governing Council of UNEP and the Norwegian Minister of the Environment. Today, GRID-Arendal is one of the main collaborating institutes of UNEP, representing UNEP in the Arctic Council and its working groups. GRID-Arendal's overarching role is to support informed decision making and awareness raising through environmental information management and assessment; capacity building services; and outreach and communication tools, methodologies and products. Through a dynamic portfolio of projects, GRID-Arendal partners with various organizations to facilitate free access to and exchange of information in support of decision making and to promote a sustainable future. GRID-Arendal has long experience working in Russia and Central Asia on issues related to integrated ecosystem management (e.g., through the GEF funded project ECORA), indigenous peoples issues (e.g., cooperation with RAIPON), etc.

GRID-Arendal was also recently nominated as the co-coordinating centre of a new network in the University of the Arctic: the "Network of Environmental Training and Education for Sustainable Development of the Arctic" (NETESDA), being established under the auspices of the Arctic Council, as a partnership between a number of circumpolar academic institutions, many of them in Russia. One of the stated goals of the NETESDA network is: "the introduction of an effective program (including short-term courses) for the promotion of environmental education and training in schools and educational institutions, including colleges and universities, and adult population, based upon positive cross-cultural and international expertise and experiences in this field, and interdisciplinary approach." GRID-Arendal will therefore also foster opportunities to (a) engage the NETESDA network in the relevant aspects of this project and vice-versa, to (b) disseminate the experience and lessons learned from this project through the NETESDA network as well.

C.1 Indicate the co-financing amount the GEF agency is bringing to the project:

This is also outlined in Section L of the PFD. A range of parallel Arctic-related activities are directly contributing to the objectives of this project and are implemented by UNEP through its core Environment Fund resources and Extra Budgetary Support. These fall within the ongoing UNEP Programme of Work 2010-2011 and upcoming POW for 2012-2013 (approved in Feb 2011), under the Climate Change, Disasters and Conflicts, Ecosystem Management and Environmental Governance sub-programmes. The agency direct in-kind co-financing value for this specific project is estimated at approximately 400,000USD over the project period (note: POW 2014-2016 is pending) and will be provided through various UNEP divisions (DEPI, DEWA, ROE, RONA) for the present project. In addition, UNEP DEPI, in collaboration with other partner organizations such as GRID Arendal and UNEP-WCMC are also contributing other additional extra-budgetary resources (in cash and in-kind) through ongoing and planned parallel donor-funded initiatives that are directly linked and contribute to the present project.

The total value of this additional contribution is estimated at approximately 800,000USD over the project period.

C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

The project fits within and complements the objectives and expected outcomes of the ongoing UNEP Programme of Work 2010-2011 and upcoming POW for 2012-2013 (approved in Feb 2011). The project specifically fits into UNEP's Programme of work:

Sub-programme 1 (Climate Change) through the following UNEP-expected accomplishments:
(a) Adaptation, including an ecosystem-based adaptation approach, is incorporated into country development planning and policymaking based on scientific assessments, policy and legislative advice and lessons learned from pilot projects supported by UNEP and adaptation experiences, including an ecosystem-based approach, showcased at the global level.
(d) Reduction in deforestation and land degradation with countries moving towards sustainable forest management, conservation and full terrestrial carbon accounting based on tackling all drivers of deforestation, and taking fully into account co-benefits and safeguards
(e) Increased access of target audiences to relevant climate change assessments and information for decision-making and long-term planning

Sub-programme 3 (Ecosystem Management) through the following UNEP-expected accomplishments:
(a) The capacity of countries and regions increasingly to integrate an ecosystem management approach into development and planning processes is enhanced;
(b) Countries and regions have the capacity to utilize and apply ecosystem management tools and
(c) The capacity of countries and regions to realign their environmental programmes and financing to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services is strengthened;
and

Sub-programme 4 (Environmental Governance) through the following UNEP-expected accomplishments:

(b) Enhanced capacity of States to implement their environmental obligations and achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives through strengthened institutions and the implementation of laws ; and

(c) National development processes and United Nations common country programming processes increasingly mainstream environmental sustainability into the implementation of their programmes of work (UNDAF)

Under the auspices of the Regional Office for Europe (Geneva) has an established and staffed UNEP Office in Moscow, which is operated under the framework agreement between UNEP and the Russian Federation (in prep. at the time of writing), and operated in close collaboration with UNDP. This existing set-up will provide the in-country presence and the technical, logistical and administrative support required to follow-up and facilitate liaison with national partners and project implementation in the country. In addition, the project fits within and will benefit from the overarching governance, management, operational and administrative framework of the GEF Arctic Programme (ref. also section M of the PFD). This set-up is also expected to yield significant synergies in terms of communication, IT, management, logistics and administration, particularly among the UNEP-implemented projects under the programme.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this OFP endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*
Rinat GIZATULIN	Deputy Minister, GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT	**02/09/2011**

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	**Signature**	**DATE** *(MM/dd/yyyy)*	**Project Contact Person**	**Telephone**	**Email Address**
Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP, Nairobi		5 September 2011	Edoardo Zandri, Task Manager, GEF BD/LD Unit, UNEP/DEPI	+254 20 762 4380	Edoardo.zandri@unep.org