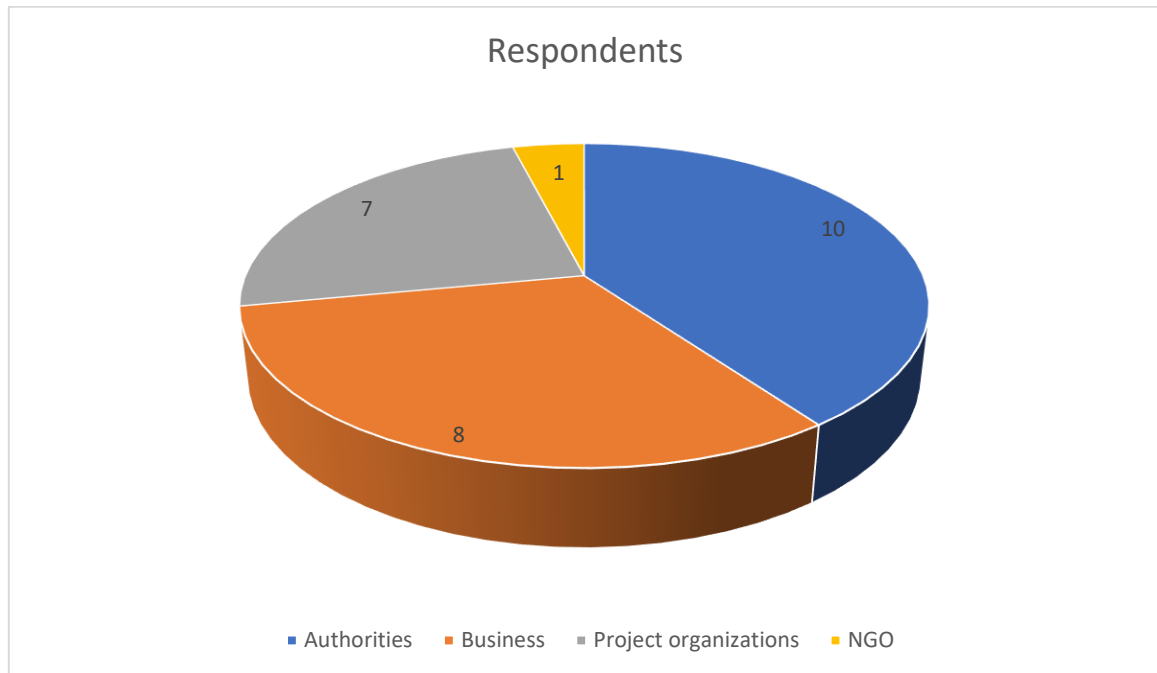


Questionnaire analysis by

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## «Good practices in EIA and public participation in the Arctic»

Number of answers – 26



### General conclusions

EIA in Russia is carried out for projects of planned economic activity that have impacts on the environment as well as socio-economic consequences. The order, timing and content of EIA is regulated by existing legal acts.

EIA materials as part of project documentation are submitted for state ecological expertise, which is organized and carried out by public authorities. Based on the results of state ecological expertise, a conclusion on compliance or non-compliance of EIA materials with the requirements of environmental legislation is issued. For most economic activity project documentation is developed by project organizations as well as research institutes.

Public opinion is taken into account on each stage of EIA, recorded in protocol of public hearings and included in project documentation. Public hearings are organized by customer of project documentation and are held together with local authorities. Public participation is necessary to respect the rights of citizens, comply

with the requirements of the law and is a sign of transparency in the adoption of environmentally significant decisions by public authorities.

**Main participants of EIA**

- Business companies that plan economic activity and initiate EIA.
- Project organizations, scientific research Institutes that conduct EIA and work out project documentation.
- Federal and regional authorities that organize and conduct state ecological expertise of EIA materials.
- NGO that take part in public hearings of EIA materials.

**Analysis of answers to specific questions**

**Part I. Best practices of EIA – General information**

**1. Would you suggest general good practice(s) for the conduct of EIA in the Arctic?**

Most respondents replied that there is currently no good practice of EIA for the Arctic region. This is due to the fact that the Arctic has a great diversity of natural and social environment, all components of which must be taken into account in creating an ideal EIA model.

Good practice of EIA should be based on international principles of environmental protection and public participation in ecological decision-making. It has to take into account opinion of all stakeholders: business companies, public authorities, the public. Finding a compromise between stakeholders and a balance between economic benefits and possible negative impacts are important conditions for development of an ideal EIA scheme for the Arctic region.

**2. How would you improve EIA practices in the Arctic? What is not working well at the moment?**

<b>Working not well at the moment</b>	<b>How to improve EIA practices in the Arctic?</b>
The lack of international standards of EIA for the Arctic.	To develop strategies, international principles, recommendations, legal norms on EIA in the Arctic.

<p>A limited number of projects that require EIA and State ecological expertise.</p>	<p>Improvement of existing national regulatory legislation on EIA, restoration of key role of EIA in decision-making on implementation of economic projects in the Arctic.</p>
<p>The lack of comprehensive EIA on nature and social environment.</p>	<p>EIA in the Arctic should be based on comprehensive scientific research of all components of nature, taking into account the actual state of environment in the area of planned economic activities. Particular attention should be paid to assessing the impact on traditional life of indigenous minorities of the Arctic. Indigenous people have unique knowledge and traditions that are important to consider when deciding on the implementation of planned projects. To do this, it is necessary to carry out the state ethnological examination of the planned economic activity.</p>
<p>Insufficient monitoring of environmental impact of implemented project.</p>	<p>Development of detailed plan of measures to protect the environment and prevent possible negative consequences, the introduction of a system of state control and monitoring of the state of environment in the area of economic activity, the preparation of environmental monitoring programs taking into account socio-economic and socio-cultural aspects.</p>
<p>Insufficient informing of citizens about planned economic activity.</p>	<p>Improvement of legal instruments for informing and involving citizens in the process of discussing the planned economic activity at all stages of EIA, development of specific schemes for informing citizens with a clear division of responsibilities between state authorities and business companies.</p>

### 3. Would you have special insight to public participation issues related to EIAs in the Arctic?

All respondents noted the importance of public participation in the EIA process. According to the Russian legislation, public informing about planned economic activity is mandatory at all stages of EIA. EIA materials are subject to the procedure of public hearings. Public hearings of EIA materials are initiated by developer and conducted together with local authorities of the territories where the project is planned to be realized.

Many respondents note that in practice public informing as well as public hearings of EIA materials are held very formal. At the same time, there are regions in which representatives of the local population, including indigenous people, take active part in public hearings of EIA materials, make reasonable comments and suggestions, which are taken into account in final project documentation.

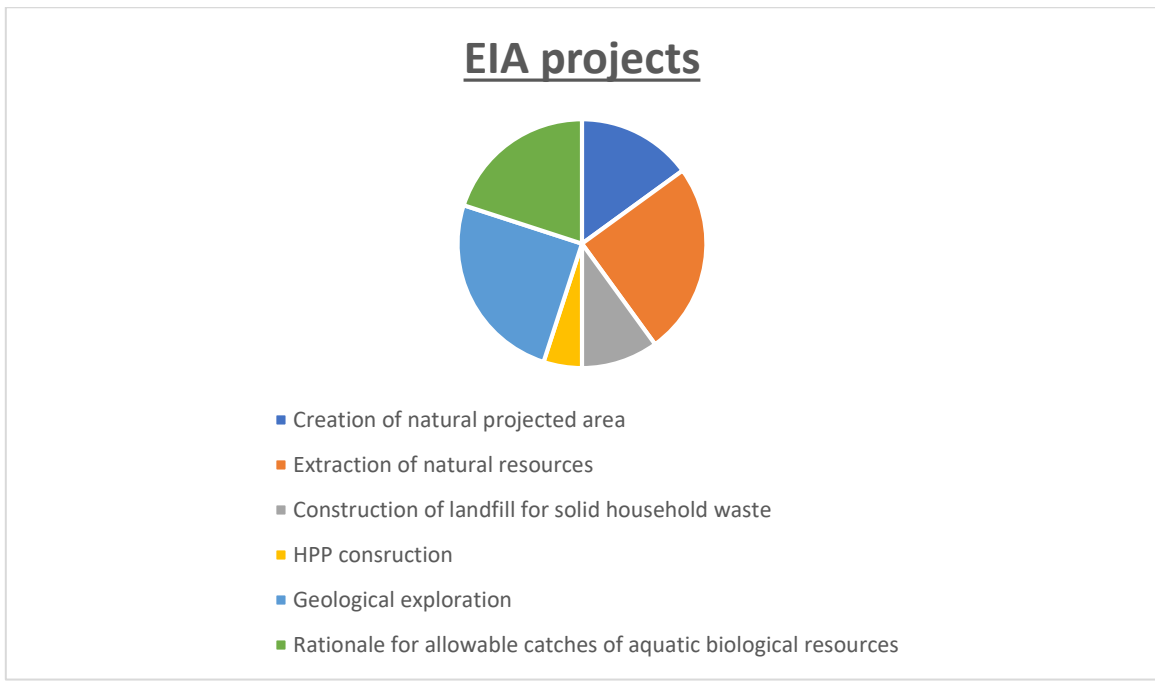
According to the respondents, it is necessary to involve a wider range of local people in public hearings, as well as to take into account the experience of other regions where similar projects are carried out. In order to improve EIA practice, it is necessary to ensure broad coverage and public discussion of proposed economic activity.

### 4. In your opinion, what Arctic specific issues or themes deserve most attention in recommendations for good EIA practice in the Arctic? (open space)

Specific issues or themes deserve most attention in recommendations for good EIA practice in the Arctic	Specific issues or themes that should be taken into account in recommendations for good EIA practice in the Arctic
Preservation and development of indigenous languages.	International principles of EIA in the Arctic.
Preservation and development of traditional culture.	Improvement of national legislation on EIA in the Arctic.
Compensation for environmental damage to indigenous people in their traditional areas of environmental management.	Cumulative impact assessment.
Preservation and prevention of health of indigenous people.	Environmental protection.
The renewability of biological resources.	Experience of the Arctic countries in EIA.

Forecast of emergencies in the process of project implementation.	Monitoring program.
EIA for marine projects.	Socio-economic impact assessment.
Assessment of soil degradation in permafrost.	Public participation in EIA.
Reclamation of disturbed lands.	EIA on natural protected areas.

## Part II. A project specific good practice



The analysis of questionnaires showed that best practices of EIA are presented in the projects of mineral resources development. There are no best EIA practices in other branches of economic activity.

Development of mineral resources	<p>Taking into account international norms and requirements in the field of environmental protection.</p> <p>Integrated environmental assessment for all types of impact on natural</p>
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	<p>components, calculation of environmental damage.</p> <p>Informing the public at all stages of the EIA, holding public hearings, as well as measures to improve the conditions and quality of life of the local population.</p> <p>Ecological monitoring. Compliance of EIA results with the requirements of environmental legislation.</p>
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**Where the projects were located?**

- Murmansk region
- The Republic of Karelia
- The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)
- The Commander Islands
- Kara sea
- Barents sea
- Laptev sea
- Nenets autonomous okrug
- Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug
- Arkhangelsk region

**Is example referring to the entire EIA or particular component(s) of EIA?**

