

**IUCN-The World Conservation Union
Office for Russia and CIS**

**"Emerging IUCN Arctic Programme: Comprehensive Regional Approach"
Presentation to the Senior Arctic Officials
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IUCN – The World Conservation Union is the world's oldest and largest conservation organization with 955 member organizations in 140 countries. Its membership includes state members, government agencies, international and national NGOs. This unique structure, which embraces both the government and non-government communities, brings a valued perspective and approach to a range of environmental and sustainable development issues. IUCN operates six thematic Commissions and has a Secretariat with 42 regional and country offices worldwide.

All eight states - members of the Arctic Council are the State members of IUCN, as well as several organisations of indigenous peoples and many Arctic Council observers. In addition, there are scores of individuals with the Arctic affiliations who are members of the IUCN six Commissions.

In 2001 and beginning of 2002 the draft of IUCN Arctic Strategy and Action Plan has been elaborated based on the Resolution the World Conservation Congress (WCC 2.22. *IUCN's Work in the Arctic*), adopted by IUCN members at the 2nd World Conservation Congress (Amman, Jordan, October 2000). Currently the draft has been submitted to IUCN Council that will consider it at its meeting on 30-31 May.

The long-term aim of the Strategy is to develop an effective, financially viable, IUCN's Arctic Initiative that influences, encourages and assists Arctic countries, indigenous organisations and the private sector to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature in the Arctic and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

IUCN's Arctic Strategy is designed to:

- Build on the existing capacities to conserve and sustainably use renewable natural resources;
- Promote collaborative arrangements amongst IUCN's Programmes, members and partners in the region;
- Develop and implement field projects in the Russian Arctic to: a) demonstrate best practices that will inform national and regional policy processes, b) enhance capacities to sustainably use renewable natural resources, c) contribute to global initiatives for which an Arctic contribution is desired. **The Russian Federation is a priority for IUCN's work in the Arctic.** Russia is IUCN member since 1992. In accordance with the Governmental Decree of the Russian Federation from 11 February 2002 No 166-p, Russia confirmed its membership in IUCN.

The Representative Office for Russia and CIS established in 1999 as part of the IUCN Programme for Europe. The Office implements nature conservation projects in Russia and other CIS countries.

The Arctic Programme of IUCN-CIS contributes to realisation of the IUCN Arctic Strategy through developing and implementing long-term comprehensive regional sub-programmes in the Russian Arctic. Nowadays two sub-regional programmes have been developed and submitted for approval to the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources, the Russian Ministry of Education, the Department of Tourism of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry of Culture:

1. **“Natural Heritage of the Barents Region: Management in the Interests of Future Generations”**. The Programme has been prepared in accordance with the Resolution of the

International Contact Forum on Habitat Conservation Issues in the Barents Region (Petrozavodsk, Russia, November 2001). The Russian part of Barents region includes Murmansk and Arkhangelsk oblasts, Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug, Republic of Karelia and Republic of Komi.

The sub-programme goal is - to work out and implement the methods for protection and management of natural and cultural heritage in the Russian part of Barents Region as a unified transboundary natural and cultural-historical complex.

Sub-programme objectives are:

- Creation of the database of the nature protection projects, implemented in the Barents region within the last 10 years. To carry out the analysis and estimation of the results of the projects' realization;
- Implementation at the regional level of the principles and strategy developed within previous years;
- Creation of the regional network of the objects of natural and cultural heritage of the region;
- Investigation and analysis of the possibilities for renaissance of the traditional nature use;
- To develop and introduce a unified concept and an optimal scheme to manage the natural and cultural heritage in the Barents Region;
- Introduction of innovative financial mechanism for sustainable existence and development of the natural and cultural heritage in the Barents Region and establishing an International Trust Fund to finance nature conservation projects in the region.

To consolidate efforts of all main stakeholders, IUCN-CIS is going to organise a Round Table for key partners and donors (30-31 May, Moscow, Russia).

2. **“Biodiversity Conservation and Traditional Use for Sustainable Development of Chukotsky Autonomous Okrug”** sub-regional programme has been developed as a result of consultations with the Chukotka Administration and the Russian State Duma. Up till now the Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN-CIS and the Administration of Chukotsky Autonomous Okrug (CAO) has been signed.

The sub-programme goal is to prevent threats to biodiversity and traditional livelihood of indigenous people of Chukotka in conditions of natural resources exploitation, intensified in CAO.

Sub-programme objectives are:

- Monitoring of existing status of Key Natural Objects;
- Launching the Russian – United States bilateral Arctic Biological Year to monitor Beringian biota;
- GAP-analysis and creation of information system on biodiversity and biological resources of CAO;
- Elaborating an Action Plan for CAO Protected Areas Network development and management;
- Establishing an International Bering Park;
- Development of wildlife cooperative-management in CAO;
- Inventory and assessment of rare and endangered natural objects status. Preparation and publication of the Red List of CAO;
- Development of sustainable small business, based on wild products and rising people awareness on traditional knowledge;
- Developing ecological education system based on traditional knowledge and promoting cross-cultural cooperation;

- Informational Support of Nature Conservation in CAO.