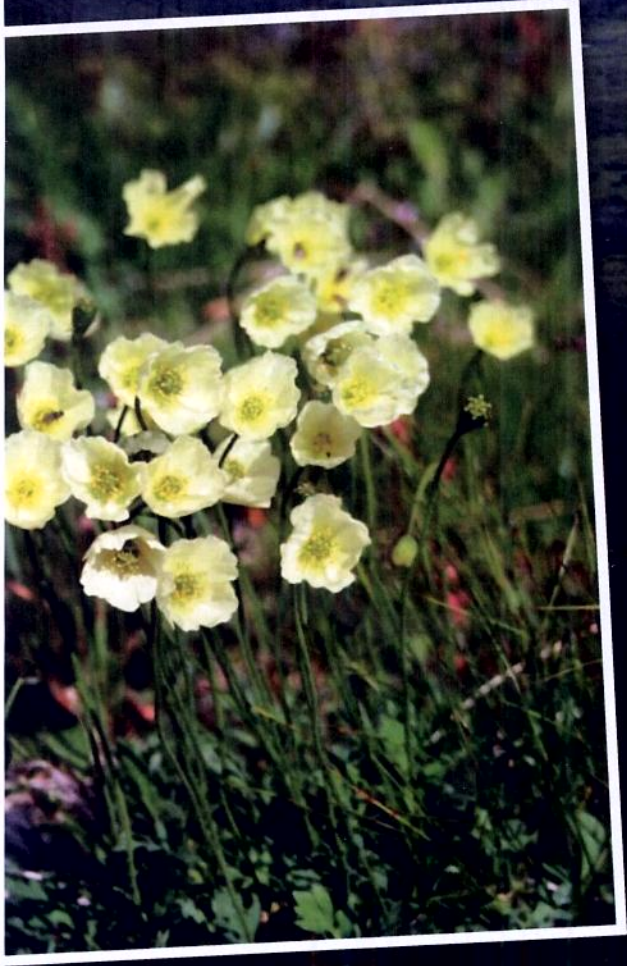
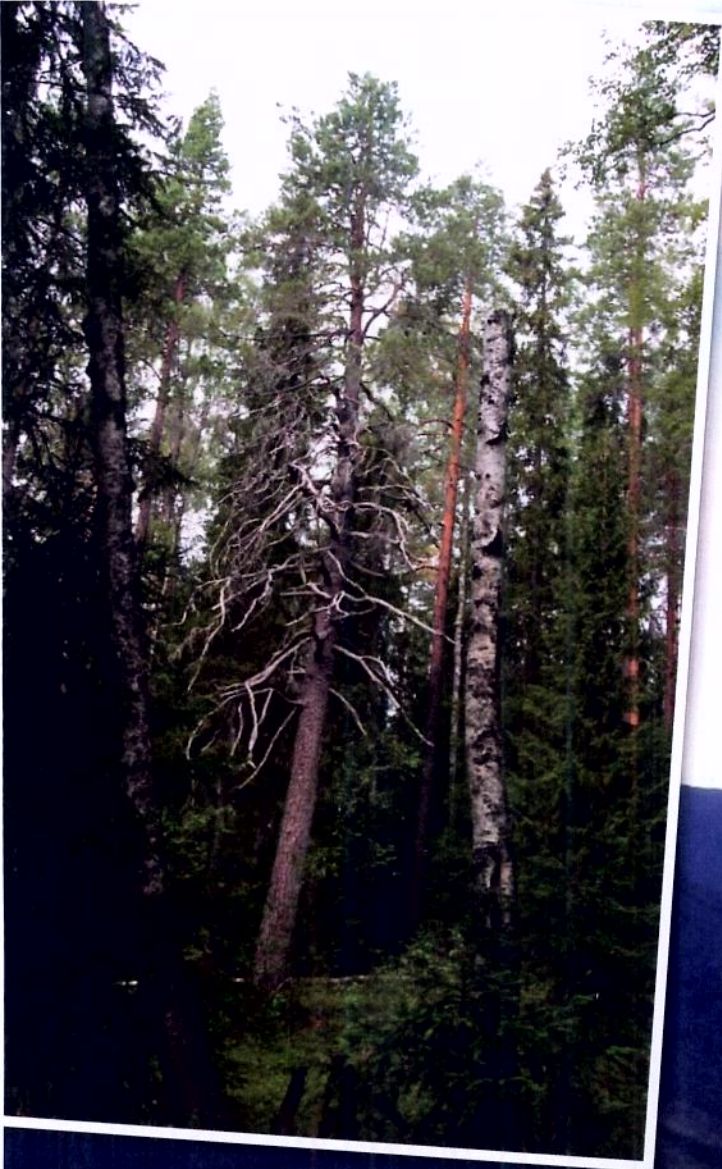



**Promoting a Representative
Protected Area Network
in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region**

BPAN





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- **The overarching aim of the BPAN project is to promote and support a representative protected area network for conservation of biodiversity and boreal-arctic nature, especially forests and wetlands.**
 - **The boreal-arctic nature in the Barents Region is unique and vulnerable and belongs to one of the largest remaining intact forest ecosystems on Earth.**
 - **BPAN project contributes to the internationally agreed Biodiversity targets of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020.**
 - **There is a need to assess the values, threats and opportunities of the protected areas as part of the BPAN network and to upgrade their status.**
 - **Protected area network is an important tool for adaptation and mitigation of climate change.**
 - **Protected areas in the Barents Region should be a part of local economies and contribute to the culture and livelihood of the indigenous peoples and local communities.**
 - **For biodiversity conservation it is of utmost importance that there is connectivity between protected areas.**
 - **The boreal-arctic nature is under increased pressure from land-use, exploitation and climate change.**



BPAN project

2011-2013

The countries of Barents Euro-Arctic Region (Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway) share common challenges in nature conservation to ensure protection of certain key areas critical for maintaining northern ecosystems and species. On this background the Environment Ministers highlighted the need to establish a representative and effectively managed Protected Area Network in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region – BPAN, in their meeting in February 2010 in Tromsø, Norway.

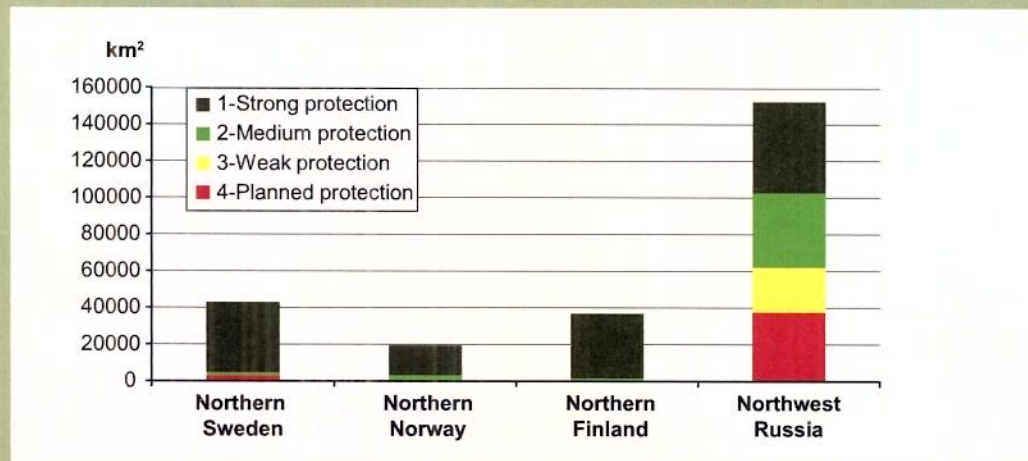
The BPAN project is being implemented in 2011-2013 in all the 13 administrative regions of the Barents Region with the support of Nordic Council of Ministers, the Governments of Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russian Federation, and WWF Russia Barents office. BPAN is a key project of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's Subgroup of Nature Protection. Finnish Environment Institute SYKE coordinates the project.

Northern ecosystems are still relatively intact but are also vulnerable. These ecosystems are seen as important natural heritage of global significance that needs protection and truly careful management. Climate change further increases the vulnerability of the ecosystems. It is necessary to devote more attention towards how climate change affects biodiversity and ecosystem services within these areas. A representative and appropriately managed protected area network is needed for conserving natural ecosystems, habitats, and species, and is at the same time an important and effective tool for adaptation to, and mitigation of, the climate change. Many northern indigenous people and local communities need nature to maintain their traditional way of life, which further increases the need of nature conservation.

In 2011 BPAN project has started the evaluation of the protected area network and first preliminary results are available. The regional evaluation of the protected area network, based on the Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity, was carried out in 2011 in eight regions: Northern Finland (Lapland, Northern Ostrobothnia, Kainuu), Northern Norway (Finnmark, Tromsø, Nordland), Northern Sweden (Norrbotten, Västerbotten), and in North-West Russia: Murmansk Oblast, Republic of Karelia, Republic of Komi, Arkhangelsk Oblast and Nenets Autonomous Okrug. The evaluation was participated by 41 specialists, who represented the local and regional authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), indigenous people and scientific institutions.

The evaluation shows that there is progress in management and collection of information on protected areas and gaps of the protected area network, management of the protected areas, and public awareness programs.

Area of protected and planned protected areas in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region categorized according to protection strengths. (Preliminary results)



The planned protected areas of Norway has been classified as a areas with "Strong" or "Medium" protection. As a consequence the figure for Norway is slightly misleading.

More work is needed in the following topics related to protected areas in the Barents region:

- **Connectivity of protected areas**

For biodiversity conservation it is of outmost importance that connectivity between protected areas is preserved. Functionality of ecosystems depends on natural processes in landscapes with unfragmented natural habitats. To maintain functionality of ecosystems and production of ecosystem services it is important that the issues of connectivity are addressed in each region and across national borders. This is also a very important issue in climate change problematic.

- **Land-use and sectoral integration**

There are many threats to nature in the region due to economic activities, such as logging, mining and transportation. The environmental issues should concern all sectors as that is the only way to achieve long-lasting results.

- **Sustainable finance**

Financing is always a challenge. Financing needs for protection and protected areas are significant. Benefits rising from nature should be incorporated into the national economies.

- **Involvement of indigenous people and local communities**

Local communities and indigenous people should be involved in the management of the protected areas. Protected areas in the Barents Region should be a part of local economies and contribute to the culture and livelihood of the indigenous people and local communities.

The aim of the BPAN project is to promote a representative protected area network in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region and to contribute the implementation of Programme of Work on Protected Areas of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Establishing a representative protected area network is one important tool to reach the CBD goal to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020 and the target of 17% of terrestrial and inland water and 10% marine and coastal areas conserved as ecologically representative and well connected system of protected areas.

- **More analysis of the representativity of the protected area network is needed.**

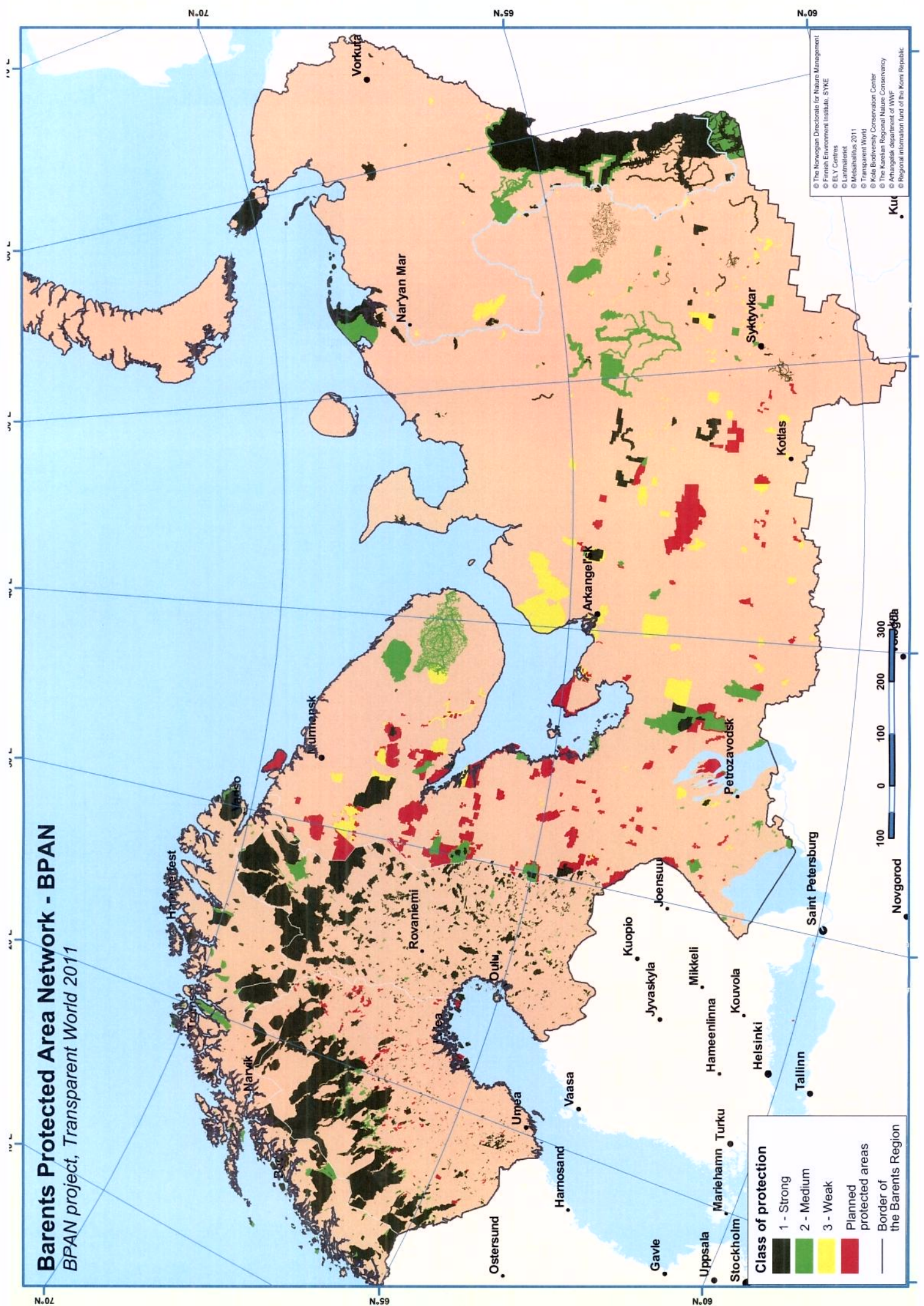
There are indications that more lowland areas and productive forests need to be protected.

BPAN Steering committee and the expert working group have been working since 2010. The members of these groups are representatives of Russian, Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish regional and federal authorities, scientific institutes and NGO's. The BPAN project will analyze the Barents protected area network by 2013 and provide recommendations for its further development. Harmonizing the GIS data of these regions makes possible to create comparable maps of the Barents Region Protected Area Network. The classification of the protected areas, presented in the following pages, is based on the work of the BPAN experts in 2011.

The final results of the BPAN project will be presented in the next meeting of the Environment Ministers, which will be held in 2013 in the northern Finland.

Barents Protected Area Network - BPAN

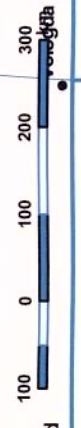
BPAN project, Transparent World 2011



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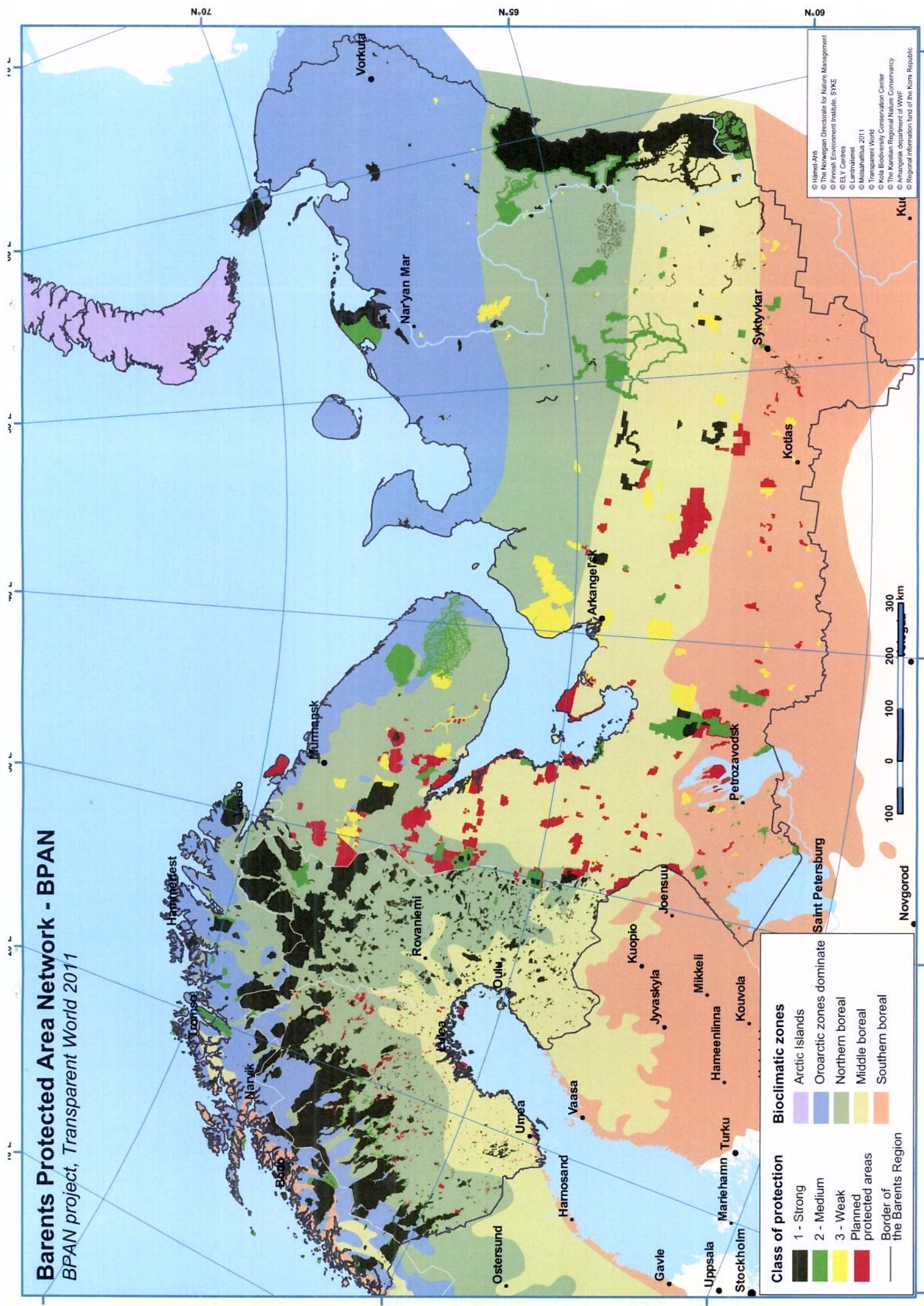
Class of protection

- 1 - Strong
- 2 - Medium
- 3 - Weak
- Planned protected areas
- Border of the Barents Region



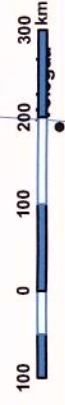
Barents Protected Area Network - BPAN

BPAN project, Transparent World 2011



Class of protection		Bioclimatic zones	
Black	1 - Strong	Light purple	Arctic islands
Green	2 - Medium	Blue	Oroarctic zones dominate
Yellow-green	3 - Weak	Light green	Northern boreal
Yellow	Planned protected areas	Light yellow	Middle boreal
Red	Border of the Barents Region	Orange	Southern boreal

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