

## 10th International Contact Forum on Habitat Conservation in the Barents Region

June 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2019, Murmansk, Russia

Registration open!



Dear colleagues and friends of the Barents nature,

We are pleased to invite you to the 10<sup>th</sup> International Contact Forum on Habitat Conservation in the Barents Region (HCF) from **18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of June in Murmansk**. **Fill in the [Registration Form!](#)** Please pay attention that registration is open till 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2019. (*Deadline for bus trip and visa invitation April 26<sup>th</sup>, see below*)

HCF is an arena for cooperation on habitat conservation issues in the Barents Region including adjacent marine areas. The aim is to achieve increased focus on: proper management of existing protected areas, the need for additional protected areas and other measures relevant for habitat conservation. This year special emphasis will be placed on the Sustainable Development Goals 'Climate action' (SDG 13) and 'Life on land' (SDG 15).

HCF gathers representatives from management authorities, scientific institutions (including students) and civil society (NGOs) from all over the Barents region. HCF is organized every second year and in 2019 we celebrate the 20 years anniversary!

**Day 1 (18<sup>th</sup>)** Presentations and discussion on the following themes; problems of creating and assessing the effectiveness of protected areas, conservation of wetlands and coastal habitats, forest preservation in the Barents region and the Green Belt of Fennoscandia – prospects of ecotourism.

**Day 2 (19<sup>th</sup>)** Excursions to the Lapland Nature Reserve and to the Sami village "Sam Sytt" on the Kola peninsula.

A detailed agenda will be posted at the BEAC website [www.beac.st](http://www.beac.st) and sent out at a later date.

Participation in HCF is free of charge. Accommodation is at your own cost, rooms are available at the Meridian Hotel where the conference takes place. To book a room please contact Ms. Anastasiya Ivanova ([ivanova@meridian-hotel.ru](mailto:ivanova@meridian-hotel.ru) 8(8152) 288-800). Please pay attention that number of rooms is limited. If you need help with Russian visa you can indicate it in the registration form.

HCF is one of the key nature conservation activities of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's Working Group on Environment and its Subgroup on Nature and Water. Reports and recommendations from the Forum will be sent to federal and regional authorities in the Barents Region responsible for habitat conservation issues, Indigenous Peoples Organizations, the Barents Council, the Barents Regional Council, relevant and interested international institutions, and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Please, forward this e-mail to anyone who might be interested in participating in the conference.

Welcome!

Mats-Rune Bergström  
Chair of the Subgroup on Nature and Water

If you are traveling from north of Sweden or Finland to and from Murmansk, a free of charge bus will be available starting from Umea on Sunday afternoon June 16<sup>th</sup> via Lulea and Rovaniemi arriving in Murmansk evening 17<sup>th</sup>. Overnight stay in Rovaniemi on 16<sup>th</sup> on your own costs. The bus back from Murmansk will depart in the early morning 20<sup>th</sup> and reach its final destination Umeå in the late evening the same day. Number of seats are limited, students will be prioritized. If you are interested in going by bus, please contact Henrik Blomqvist at [henrik.blomqvist@lansstyrelsen.se](mailto:henrik.blomqvist@lansstyrelsen.se) for more practical information. **Please be advised that the deadline for registration for the bus trip and visa invitation is April 26<sup>th</sup>.**