

Monitoring of the Action Plan on Climate Change for the Barents Cooperation (the period of 2017-2020)

March 2019, International Barents Secretariat

I. Overarching Activity

#	Title	Objective/Activity	Status report/ Update	Responsible	Timeframe
1	Further development of regional climate strategies	<p>A) Prepare projects on exchange of experience in development and implementation of regional climate change strategies;</p> <p>B) Develop regional climate strategy for the Russian part of the Barents Region</p>	<p>A) The main objective of the activity has been to enhance and strengthen the ongoing cooperation between Nordic countries and north-west Russia to increase the possibility for reaching the Paris Agreement's maximum increase in global mean temperature.</p> <p>Since 2016, work has focused on establishing a sustainable network of presumptive project partners as well as on activities to share knowledge and inspiration for the regional strategic work.</p> <p>This has so far concluded into the first stages of an action plan to reduce emissions in the Arkhangelsk region as well as an inventory of the emissions, including black carbon, in the Swedish part of the Barents region.</p> <p>Further activities need initiative and approval from the WGE members as well as active engagement from the regional level in all Barents countries.</p> <p>B) No information has been provided</p>	Working Group on Environment (WGE)	2016-2019

2	Coherent system for all working groups to report on climate activities	Develop a knowledge base and involve all the working groups broadly in the work on climate issues on the platform of www.barentscooperation.org	<p>IBS has been collecting knowledge and distributing updated information about climate change and recommended actions through its website (webpage devoted to the WGE and its sub-groups) and by distributing this information by e-mail to WGE and its sub-groups and RWGE members. Outreach materials were published in connection with the Environmental Ministerial Meeting held in November 2017. All documents may be found on the website: https://www.barentscooperation.org/</p> <p>In addition, IBS was involved in planning an Interreg funded Climate NPA project with a goal to analyze existing and develop new climate change adaptation strategies on a municipal level throughout the Northern Periphery region; IBS participated in a project seminar held in Rovaniemi 22 November 2018. More information: http://climate.interreg-npa.eu/</p>	All BEAC working groups / IBS	Yearly
3	Barents 2050	Response to the Paris Agreement: How to chart a new course to a low carbon future for the Barents Region	<p>The Barents 2050 Report highlighted the Paris Agreement's aims in climate change mitigation in numerous ways. This report identified ways how various sectors in the Barents Region can contribute to the climate change mitigation. The Barents 2050 Report was presented to the Ministers at the ministerial meeting in Vadsö in November 2017. Later, the report and its implementation have been discussed at the WGE meeting in Piteå in May 2018. The WGE Chair presented the results of the report to the CSO at their meeting in the end of May 2018. The consultant VTT participated in the Barents Working Group on Economic Cooperation (WGEC) meeting the 26 June 2018 and had a presentation of the report.</p>	Working Group on Environment (WGE)	2016-2017

II. Mitigation

#	Title	Objective/Activity	Status report/ Update	Responsible	Timeframe
1	Emissions of black carbon and other short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) and greenhouse gases (GHG)	<p>A) Continued work to complete inventories of emissions and analysis of possible reductions of short-lived climate pollutants in the territories of the Barents Region;</p> <p>B) Project “Cooperation in the Area of Climate Change Mitigation in the Barents Region” (NCM);</p> <p>C) Continued and strengthened efforts to reduce emissions of GHG and SLCP at the Barents environmental Hot Spots, through energy efficiency and cleaner production activities;</p> <p>D) Include information about the climate change mitigation contribution in the review of each Hot Spot applying for exclusion</p>	<p>A) The project “Facilitate Knowledge Sharing And Capacity Building Through Network Activities And Learning-By-Doing” under the Nordic-Russian Programme for Environment and Climate Cooperation was led by the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten and the Environmental Investment Center (EIC) in Arkhangelsk. Here a presentation of the project.</p> <p>The GHG inventory as well as the inventory of black carbon emissions for the Arkhangelsk region has been developed and the opportunities to reduce those have been identified in close cooperation with all the parties involved. EIC has elaborated “2030 carbon strategies” for two companies in the region, Arkhangelsk pulp-and-paper mill and Sawmill 25, and is now working of the same for ILIM Group. These strategies include action plans to reduce emissions GHG emissions in line with the Paris agreement.</p> <p>One of the project’s recommendations is to start a Barents Climate Partnership or Alliance as an international platform for more close cooperation in the region on climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>B) More information on the project “Cooperation in the Area of Climate Change Mitigation in the Barents Region” (NCM) can be found here.</p> <p>C) The Supporting Activity for promotion of actions at other hotspots prioritized for Full Track Exclusions No9 enables hotspot owners to take and/or to reach out information on their emission reduction measures. Project proposals for the activity can be directed to the SHE group and may be a subject of funding via NEFCO.</p>	Working Group on Environment (WGE)	2016-2019

			<p>There have not come any proposals from the five Russian regions yet – letters on Support Activities were distributed to the five Russian regions in June 2018.</p> <p>D) The information about the climate change mitigation contribution has not yet been included in the review of each Hot Spot.</p>		
2	Preservation of carbon sinks	<p>Protection of old growth forests and wetlands:</p> <p>Barents Protected Area Network (BPAN) II phase: Conservation of high value forests ecosystems to achieve CBD Aichi Biodiversity targets; Protection of intact forest ecosystems; Conservation of wetlands, peatlands and mires through existing strategies, support development of new ones</p>	<p>The second phase of the Barents Protected Area Network (BPAN) quantified and described protected areas and high conservation value forests (HCVFs) in the Barents Region.</p> <p>In the timeframe of 2015-2017: an updated information on the progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been provided.</p> <p>Barents Protected Area Network (BPAN) II phase drew three main expert conclusions: 1) There is a need to establish more conservation areas in the Barents Region, 2) High conservation value forests should be integrated into conservation planning and 3) Strong connectivity between protected areas is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and sustaining ecosystem services. Results can be found here.</p>	Working Group on Environment (WGE)	2016-2019
3	Unification of cross-border transport plans and promotion of ITS-technology applications	<p>Activities aimed at climate change mitigation and promotion of low-carbon economy through unifying transport plans across the border of the four Barents countries and by introducing ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems)-technology</p>	<p>The updated implementation period of the Barents Region and Transport and Logistics project (Kolarctic CBC Programme): 1st of November 2018 - 31st of October 2021.</p> <p>RWGTL members had project meetings to prepare KO1029 BRTL project. Meetings were held by Skype and also in Helsinki in October</p> <p>RWGTL Chairman was invited in to All Russian Strategic Forum held in St. Petersburg in October 2018.</p>	Regional Working Group on Transport and Logistics (RWGTL)	2018-2021

		<p>applications in cross-border transport:</p> <p>Barents Region and Transport and Logistics project (Kolarctic CBC Programme)</p>	<p>The meeting resulted in signing of the Partnership Agreement of KO1029 BRTL with project Lead Partner and Russian Partners.</p>		
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III. Adaptation

#	Title	Objective/Activity	Status report/ Update	Responsible	Timeframe
1	Rivers, wetlands and mires restoration measures	<p>Develop a joint international project on river restoration, and hereby also address climate adaptation measures relevant for river ecosystems</p> <p>Co-operation on water management and restauration along the river Torne, hereunder benchmarking and harmonization of hydrological monitoring and flood forecasting methods relevant for adaptation to climatic change</p>	<p>In 2017 the county board of Norrbotten together with partners applied for a project funding in the Kolarctic and funding has been received. The project name is ReArc which stands for ecological restoration of Artic rivers. All four Barents countries are represented in the project. The implementation of the project started in January 2019 which duration is three years with a total budget of approximately three million EUR.</p> <p>The county board of Norrbotten together with colleagues in Finland have struggled with a financing issue in order to implement a big LIFE funded project in the Torne river basin,. No funding has been received yet. Plans are to apply for a big LIFE project restoring wetlands and the tributaries of Torne river in both countries. The application will be submitted by the end of 2019 and an expected start of the project will be summer 2020. The project name: TRIWA LIFE (Torne River International Watershed) with a budget of 15 million EUR. Timeframe: 5-6 years.</p>	Working Group on Environment (WGE)	2017/2018-
2	Nature protection in a	Promote and support conservation efforts regarding forests and	A) Field data, national forest inventories, remote sensing data as well as aerial images provided information about the distribution and characteristics of high conservation value forests (HCVFs).	Working Group on	2016-2019

	changing climate	<p>wetlands to secure resilient ecosystems and species survival:</p> <p>A) Barents Protected Area Network (BPAN) II Phase;</p> <p>B) Protection of old growth forests;</p> <p>C) Conservation of wetlands, peatlands and mires;</p> <p>D) Greenbelt of Fennoscandia</p>	<p>The data was analyzed and presented in a comprehensive set of maps, using GIS. According to the updated information about the distribution and protection status of HCVPs, many valuable forests remain unprotected.</p> <p>B) Strong connectivity between protected areas is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and sustaining ecosystem services. Connectivity should be increased in particular between the more isolated protected areas in the southern and middle boreal zones. Adaptation to climate change needs more attention. The boreal forests of the Scandinavian Mountains and the Ural Mountains still host well-connected HCVPs that provide possible dispersal corridors for species towards north and to higher altitudes.</p> <p>C) Conservation of wetlands, peatlands and mires was addressed at the SNW-meeting in Skellefteå in November 2018.</p> <p>D) Green Belt of Fennoscandia has a joint strategy aimed at both mitigation and adaptation of climate change. Target 1.3 aims at management of habitats such as mire restoration in order to mitigate climate change; and wetland restoration is considered to be an adaptation measure. Target 1.2 ‘enhancing ecological connectivity’ aims at making sure species adjust and adapt to climate change. Target 2.2 is about aiming to enhance joint research of climate change.</p> <p>The Finnish Environment Institute SYKE produced a preliminary report ‘the Protected area network in the changing climate’ (in Finnish with the summary in Swedish and English), where meaning of the GBF is recognized within the Finnish national studies of connectivity.</p>	Environment (WGE)	
3	Barents Rescue Cooperation	Barents Rescue Exercises for prevention of emergencies and response to them (including training on	The Joint Committee on Rescue cooperation (JC) discussed the Action Plan on Climate Change (during JC meeting in 2016) and decided that the Action Plan will be taken on account during the planning of future Barents events. Sweden is planning next “Barents Week”, which will take place in Kiruna	Barents Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation (BJCRC)	On-going

		common tactics in case of landslides, floods and other climate change impacts)	week 39 (23-27 September 2019). The Barents Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation is planning to organize a seminar on climate changes during this week.		
4	Increased knowledge of policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the forest sector	<p>A) Exchange of experiences between the Barents countries on policies and action plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the forest sector;</p> <p>B) International Forest Forum “Forest contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Barents Region. Climate policies of the BEAC member states in the forest sector”.</p>	<p>A) Barents Forest Sector Network meeting was held in 13-14 June 2018, Umeå, Sweden. The theme of the meeting was sharing experiences, views on, and development of bio economy in the different countries, including climate change mitigation and adaptation. The large emphasis on the Barents region has been underlined at the meeting as well as the development of bio economy among the Barents countries as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The Barents Forest Sector Network meeting was held in 17-18 November 2018, Luleå Sweden which addressed Adaptation to Climate Change and Forest Fire Management.</p> <p>The meetings underlined that there is a good mapping exercise over the situation in the region with regard to climate change adaptation and forest fire management; there is a range of cooperative activities related to climate adaptation, such as EFI (EFI resilience programme); climate adaptation can now be observed in a wide range of forest management practices including a long-term planning, development of forest transporting planning systems.</p> <p>B) Ongoing planning of the International Forest Forum 2019: 15-17 October 2019 in Umeå, Sweden. The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) has initiated a study “National Forest Bioeconomy and Climate Change related policies of the countries of the Barents Region”.</p>	Barents Forest Sector Network (BFSN)	2017-2020
5	Increased circumboreal cooperation to address climate	Within the frames of Circumboreal Cooperation:	A) Cooperative research initiative has been launched. Sweden, via SLU, will take the lead for the first Insight project with a focus on the possibilities of the boreal forest for climate	Barents Forest Sector Network (BFSN)	2017-2020

	change and forest sector competitiveness	<p>A) Launch a cooperative research initiative to address shared boreal issues and/or cooperation in the boreal bio economy;</p> <p>B) Develop a system/network of boreal monitoring sites linked to LTER (Long-Term Ecological Research sites) or other monitoring network to highlight the changes in the boreal in the coming decades;</p> <p>C) Organise a Boreal Summit, with the aim of a ministerial declaration on the importance of boreal forests to global cycles and economies.</p>	<p>mitigation and adaptation. The project will deliver a knowledge compilation for policy makers.</p> <p>B) No update has followed on the development of a system/network of boreal monitoring sites linked to LTER (Long-Term Ecological Research sites) or other monitoring network to highlight the changes in the boreal in the coming decades.</p> <p>C) The Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and the Swedish Forest Agency organized Boreal Summit within the Circumboreal cooperation.</p> <p>Haparanda ministerial declaration on circumboreal cooperation on forests, adopted on June 26th, 2018.</p>		
6	Cooperation on reindeer husbandry	<p>Support of the activities of the International Center for Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino;</p> <p>Further development of reindeer husbandry education (Kautokeino/Inari, Lovozero and Naryan-Mar);</p>	<p>Projects 2016 – 2018; Nomadic Herders projects: Enhancing the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods of nomadic herders supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).</p> <p>ARCTIC COUNCIL Nomadic Herders, education and skills. The preserve the taiga forest in the northern part of Mongolia and in the Republic of Sakha Yakutia of East Siberia so that the indigenous peoples living there as reindeer herders and can have a sustainable economy while preserving biodiversity even if they are effected by ongoing climate.</p> <p>INTERACT HORIZON 2020. International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic. INTERACT</p>	Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (IPWG)	2016-2018

		<p>Promotion of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge.</p>	<p>is an infrastructure project and specifically seeks to build capacity for research and monitoring in the European Arctic and beyond, and is offering access to numerous research stations.</p> <p>RIEVDAN. The primary objective of this project is researching traditional cultural capabilities in Sámi reindeer husbandry and the opportunities embedded in traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge with focus on adaptation to change and reconciliation, providing a base for a new Master's degree Program in Reindeer Husbandry Studies. Secondary objective: Explain the tensions between the two interlinked spheres of knowledge involving quite different approaches to basic aspects of reindeer husbandry and herding, contribute to new knowledge and understanding in order to increase sustainability in reindeer husbandry and herding, and strengthen the reconciliation between the interlinked and partially conflicted spheres of knowledge.</p> <p>EALLU Arctic Indigenous Youth: Traditional Knowledge and Food Culture – Navigation Towards Sustainability through New Approaches for Addressing Arctic Climate Change and Globalisation. The main goal of the project is to maintain and further develop a sustainable and resilient reindeer husbandry in the Arctic in face of climate change and globalisation, working towards a vision of creating a better life for circumpolar reindeer herders and make use of and respect the traditional knowledge of food cultures of Arctic indigenous/ reindeer herding peoples.</p> <p>More information can be found in the Activity Report on selected activities related to climate change, traditional knowledge and education in reindeer husbandry, WGIP (2016 – 2018): https://www.barentsinfo.fi/beac/document_database/wg_documents.aspx?ID=6</p>		
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IV. Research, observation, monitoring and modelling *

#	Title	Objective/Activity	Status report/ Update	Responsible	Timeframe
1	Education and Research*	<p>A) International Master programme “Environmental Risk Management in the Arctic” (NArFU, 120 ECTS, in English), http://www.narf.ru/en/studies/degree_programs/erma/</p>	<p>A) The program Environmental Risks Management in the Arctic (ERMA) is active at NArFU since 2013 jointly with the University of Tromsø.</p> <p>The program is English-taught and is designed to train specialists with deep expertise in understanding and evaluating risks of the Arctic development, able to employ scientific and practical methods of managing environmental risks.</p> <p>As of the 2018-2019 academic year, 15 students are enrolled in the program, incl. 2 international students.</p>	Joint Working Group on Education and Research (JWGER)	On-going
		<p>B) NArFU Expedition “Arctic Floating University” (AFU): acquiring new knowledge about the state and changes in the ecosystem of the coastal areas of Franz Josef Land archipelago (research areas: hydrometeorology, ecology, arctic biology, geography, ethnopolitology, international law)</p>	<p>B) The first Arctic Floating University expedition was launched in July 08-28, 2017. Participants: 58 students and scientists from Russia, Switzerland, France, Germany, Serbia, Bulgaria.</p> <p>Scientists from the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Moscow State University selected more than 100 samples for studying their physical and chemical, microbiological and other analytical characteristics. Field measurements of soil carbon dioxide emissions (“soil respiration”) using closed chambers using a gas analyzer at 15 key sites (70 measurements) were carried out on the natural and anthropogenically disturbed landscapes of the Franz Josef Land Archipelago.</p> <p>The second Arctic Floating University expedition was launched in 10 July – 2 August, 2018. Participants: 58 students and scientists from Russia, Switzerland, France, Nigeria, Italy, Germany, China, Canada.</p> <p>Research work was carried out at seven oceanographic transects in the White, Barents and Kara Seas. Water samples were taken</p>		2017-2018

			<p>to determine the thermohaline characteristics of water in order to study the transformation of the Atlantic water masses in the western sector of the Russian Arctic.</p> <p>For the first time a study on micro plastic was conducted during the Arctic Floating University expedition 2018. In addition, researchers developed methodology for sampling and analyzing micro plastic. According to preliminary results, the Barents Sea is the most polluted and the Kara Sea is the least polluted one.</p>		
		<p>C) IV Barents PhD Summer School “Barents Region is a Territory of Ecology” generate and promote knowledge on environmental protection, climate change and its impact on human health, protected areas management, prevention of natural hazards, etc. for enhancing prospects of well-being and future prosperity of the Barents Region (NArFU, Northern State Medical University, UiT – the Arctic University of Norway, Umea University, Oulu University) http://narfu.ru/en/media/news/297151/</p>	<p>The IV Barents PhD Summer School was held in August 21-25, 2017 in NArFU with 11 PhD students from 5 countries: China, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Russia.</p> <p>The School was devoted to the “Year of Ecology 2017” in the Russian Federation. The following issues have been discussed: environmental protection and climate change, conservation of Arctic natural resources and management of specially protected areas, impact of the climate of the northern latitudes on human health, prevention of natural disasters, energy efficiency and sustainable forest management.</p>		
		<p>D) INTERREG NPA project “ADAPT NORTHERN HERITAGE – Adapting Northern Heritage to Environmental Impacts of Climate Change Through Community Engagement and Informed Conservation”: risk assessments of climate change impacts on historic</p>	<p>D) INTERREG NPA project “Adapt northern heritage” is running from 2017 to 2020. The project is led by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) with funding from the European Union, Iceland and Norway, through their Interreg Programme for the Northern Periphery and Arctic.</p> <p>The project developed the online tool to assess the risks for and vulnerabilities of historic places and provided guidance for the planning of strategic adaption measures that takes into account cultural, economic, environmental and social sustainability. The</p>		<p>2016-2018</p>

		places and associated adaptation strategies;	<p>tool was developed, tested and demonstrated in some of case studies, in Iceland (Archaeological sites at near the Skaftártunga National Parks and within the Snæfellsjökull National Park), Norway (Otternes historic farmstead, Aurland, Sogn & Fjordane County), Sweden (Cultural heritage of the Sami people, Norrbotton County) and Scotland (Threave Castle & Estate), for which adaptation actions plans were produced.</p> <p>NArFU is also involved in a case study - the Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands, a sub-Arctic UNESCO World Heritage site in Russia's Arkhangelsk Oblast.</p>		
		E) NordForsk project "CLINF: Climate change effects on the epidemiology of infectious diseases and the impact on Northern societies" (NArFU, NORUT)	<p>NordForsk project "CLINF: Climate change effects on the epidemiology of infectious diseases and the impact on Northern societies" focuses on the dynamically interlinked challenges with societal, economic, political and cultural effects of changes in infectious disease prevalence.</p> <p>The multidisciplinary research team works in close collaboration with societal stakeholders and uses existing infrastructures such as the network of northern environmental monitoring stations, which we build upon in order to implement an early warning system for emerging infections at the local level. Furthermore, CLINF sets out to enhance the performance of regional Earth process models regarding environmental climate change effects and develops methodologies for adequate assessment of societal risk and adaptive capacity. New map and data products will depict the current and projected geographic spread of emergent CSI (WP6, The CLINF geographic information system). CLINF results will be available to scientists, stakeholders and the public in accordance with OPEN principles and will be disseminated in lay term.</p>		2015-2020
2	Monitoring and Modelling	Bilateral project "Developing of methodologies for monitoring, assessment, forecasting and prevention of risks related to	More than 13 expeditions during two operational seasons to Nenets and Chukotka areas were organized to conduct surveys to indigenous population in order to identify risks associated with the accumulation of highly toxic contaminants in food	Joint Working Group on Education	2016-2018

		transfer of toxic pollutants through biological pathways capable of accumulating in trophic chains and spreading in Arctic ecosystems” (NArFU, Oslo University) http://narfu.ru/biomonitoring/en/	chains and the sampling of indigenous food products. Over 15 scientific articles published. Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Arkhangelsk region, etc. were selected as the prioritized area for investigation due to the unique flora and fauna, natural resources use by indigenous people. The objects of the investigations are: migratory birds, fish and wild animals to the Arctic (biological pathways), marine mammals, which are the major part of Arctic region population nutrition; primary teeth, blood of local population are also included.	and Research (JWGER)	
3	Black carbon	Research module “Inventory of black-carbon emissions in Arkhangelsk Region” as a part of developing a Regional Climate Strategy for the Russian Part of the Barents Region (NArFU)	Ongoing. Power engineering (including producing, storing, exchanging and transfer of energy) is the most rapidly growing emission source. The amount of soot particles emissions depends on the fuel quality, burner unit design, combustion method and settings of the automation system, gas cleaning installation type, technical state and maintenance factor of the heat-producing units.	Joint Working Group on Education and Research (JWGER)	2016-2020

* In autumn 2018 NArFU as a partner has started the collaborative work with the partners on two new projects awarded within the call of European Commission Programme: Raising awareness of climate change among young people of Northern Dimension regions:

Project 1. *Building NGO-university-local community partnerships for climate awareness, community adaptation and resilience*

Partners: CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT SOCIAL RESEARCH (St. Petersburg), St. Petersburg State University/Institute of the Earth, Swedish NGOs, NArFU

Project 2: *Raising awareness on climate change among young people of Russian Barents Sea regions*

Objective: The CC awareness and knowledge of young people in three ND regions of the Russian Barents Sea, Arkhangelsk Oblast (AO), Nenets Autonomous Okrug (NAO) and Murmansk Oblast (MO), is raised by strengthening capacity of educational institutions and NGO, catalysing the development of civil society initiatives related to CC mitigation and adaptation.

Partners: WWF Deutschland, NArFU, MASU, WWF Russia

V. Outreach

#	Title	Objective/Activity	Status report/ Update	Responsible	Timeframe
1	Dissemination of information	<p>A) Collection of knowledge and distribution of updated information about climate change and recommended action;</p> <p>B) Opening and updating of the webpage devoted to climate issues on the platform of www.barentscooperation.org.</p>	<p>A) The International Barents Secretariat has been collecting knowledge and distributing updated information about climate change and recommended actions through its website (webpage devoted to the WGE and its sub-groups) and has distributed this information via e-mail correspondence. Outreach materials were published in connection with the Environmental Ministerial Meeting held in November 2017.</p> <p>B) All documents related to climate issues may be found on the website: https://www.barentscooperation.org/</p>	<p>Working Group on Environment (WGE),</p> <p>other BEAC working groups, IBS</p>	2016-2019
2	International Forum “The Arctic – Territory of Dialogue”, Arkhangelsk, http://forumarctica.ru	Session on Environmental Protection and Climate Change “Arctic Ecology: Area of Possibilities and Hidden Resources” (NArFU)	The program of the International Arctic Forum “The Arctic: Territory of Ecology” on March 29, 2017 included the Panel session: Sustainable Development of the Arctic. Over 60 attendants. The following issues were addressed in the panel session: preserving biodiversity in the Arctic, the international environmental obligations of Arctic states; methods for predicting potential environmental damage caused by economic activity and mechanisms for preventing it; measures for ensuring corporate environmental responsibility in the Arctic.	Joint Working Group on Education and Research (JWGER);	29-30 March 2017
3	Raising awareness on climate change among youth	<p>Information campaign on climate change consequences and related environmental problems;</p> <p>Workshop on climate change issues</p>	On BRYC’s annual meeting in February 2019 it was decided that this year’s BRYC Annual Event will be devoted to environment (including topics like nature preservation and climate change). At the moment, there is no further details on these plans. However, BRYC’s new board will work on the preparation of	Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC)	2017-2019

			this event and will distribute more information in the nearest future.		
4	Cooperation with international organisations	<p>Information exchange between BEAC, Arctic Council (AC), Nordic Council of Ministers' (NCM) and other institutions;</p> <p>Participation in relevant international events on climate change issues</p>	<p>The WGE chair presented WGE work to the BEAC CSO at their meeting in May 2019 and the WGE chair will present the WGE work to the Barents Regional Council in April 2019.</p> <p>The WGE chair and the SNW chair participated in Barents Forest Sector Network (BFSN)-meetings to discuss further cooperation on forest related issues. Representatives from the BFSN, the Joint Working Group on Youth (JWGY) and the Joint Working Group on Tourism (JWGT) participated in WGE-meetings.</p> <p>Presentations of relevant work from the Arctic Council is presented to the WGE or subgroups, such as the PAME project on plastic waste and the CAFF project on wetlands. Work from Nordic Council of Ministers is also highlighted when relevant, i.e. projects from Nordic-Russian Programme for Environment and Climate Co-operation (PECC), the NCM-financed project on regional climate strategies as well as work on biodiversity (tbc). At the meeting observer from the OECD participated in the WGE-meeting in Skellefteå to discuss increased cooperation on BAT issues.</p>	<p>Working Group on Environment (WGE),</p> <p>other BEAC working groups, IBS</p>	On-going