

RESOLUTION

of the Second meeting of The International Contact Forum on Habitat Conservation in the Barents Region

I

During the period from 26th to 29th of November 2001, Norwegian, Finnish, Swedish and Russian specialists met in Petrozavodsk, The Republic of Karelia, Russia to discuss co-operation within "The International Contact Forum on Habitat Conservation in the Barents Region" (hereafter the "Contact Forum").

II

The second meeting of the Contact Forum was held according to the recommendations made by the first meeting of the Contact Forum held in Trondheim in 1999, where the Contact Forum was established.

The second meeting was organised and led by Norway, the Contact Forum chair.

The participants of the meeting (70 representatives from environmental authorities, institutes and NGOs, as well as indigenous peoples) described the status of nature protection in their countries; presented the results and progress of the environmental co-operation projects, focusing on the project list suggested at the first meeting of the Contact Forum; and discussed future plans and initiatives.

III

The general conclusions made by the representatives in the meeting included:

- The participants agreed to the necessity to work out an international large scale ecological project on long term biodiversity conservation in the Barents Region.
- The representatives stated the importance of the Contact Forum as an arena for discussion of habitat conservation issues between the specialists, and making recommendations for decision-makers, nature protection institutions and international organisations.
- The representatives underlined the importance of establishing and running a nature protected areas network in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region on different levels and directions.
- Major challenges of habitat conservation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region are the protection of old-growth forests, coastal and marine areas, and areas representing the mountain, tundra, wetland and mire ecosystems.
- Priority is to be given to established nature protected areas and planned protected areas. The Contact Forum shall take part in identifying the important areas for habitat conservation and establishing the form of protection of these areas.
- The proper management of nature protected areas is an important and essential part of the habitat conservation. The representatives recognise the importance of state and public support of habitat conservation. The meeting participants also stated the importance of improving the management of nature protected areas,

and, especially, improving the economic conditions of the Russian nature reserves and national parks. The capacity building for Russian nature protection institutions shall be an essential element of the co-operation on habitat conservation.

The representatives understand the risk of conflicts between the habitat conservation and activities connected to development of tourist activities, oil and gas fields in the Arctic, as well as transport systems. It is important to minimise environmental damage by proper analyses of the ecosystems in the region, environmental impact assessment of new industrial projects, and maintaining continuous dialogue with the industry and public.

The participants of the meeting recognise the importance of traditional nature use by indigenous and local peoples, and the need to save the indigenous peoples culture. Protection of the ecosystems in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region must be balanced with these interests.

The representatives recognise the importance of sustainable use of natural resources.

IV

The representatives agree to publish the report after the second meeting. Norway (Directorate for Nature Management) is responsible for this.

The representatives added and adopted a new projects list as recommended activities for international co-operation on habitat conservation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

The meeting participants adopted the mandate of the Contact Forum.

The representatives decided that Finland will be new Chair of the Contact Forum and suggested Russia to be a Co-chair for the next two years.

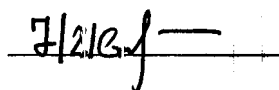
The meeting participants thanked Norway and Russia for organising the Second meeting of the Contact Forum, and in particular, Vodlozersky National Park for hosting it.

The next meeting of the Contact Forum will be held in the year 2003 and Finland will be responsible for organising it.

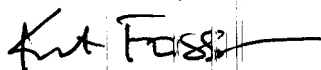
Petrozavodsk, 28th of November 2001

On behalf of the Drafting Committee

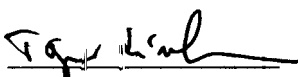
From Russia



From Norway



From Finland



From Sweden

