

**Work Programme  
Subgroup for Hot Spot Exclusion (SHE)**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. List of Abbreviations ..... 3

2. Introduction..... 4

3. Background ..... 4

4. Mandate ..... 6

5. Methods and Prerequisites for the Subgroup’s work ..... 8

6. Members and Observers..... 9

Annex 1: SHE Activities 2016-2017

## 1. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFA:	Assigned Federal Authority <sup>1</sup> = the Federal Russian Authority which the Ministry of Nature Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation assigns to initiate the procedure (Steps 1,2 and 3) of exclusion of a particular hotspot
AA:	Addressed Authority = the federal or subject level authority found addressed for the exclusion of a particular hotspot to conduct the Steps 4,5 and 6 of the exclusion procedure as defined in the TF Final Report.
ACAP:	Arctic Contaminants Action Programme
AMAP:	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
BAT:	Best Available Techniques
BEAC:	The Barents Euro Arctic Council
BEAC WGE:	The Working Group on Environment, one of the organs under BEAC
BEP:	Best Environmental Practices
BHSF:	Barents Hot Spot Facility
CPESC:	Cleaner Production (CP) and Environmentally Sound Consumption
HEG:	Regional Hotspot Exclusion Group
MNRE RF:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation
NDEP:	Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership
NEFCO:	Nordic Environment Finance Corporation
PSI:	Project Support Instrument
RF:	Russian Federation
Rosprirodnadzor:	Federal Agency for the Control of the Use of Natural Resources RF
SHE:	The Subgroup on "Hot Spots" Exclusion, appointed at the BEAC WGE meeting in Kiruna on April 21, 2010 in follow of the recommendations of the Declaration of the Ministers of Environment at the BEAC WGE Meeting in Tromsø on February 17th, 2010.
TEC:	Technical Expert Committee
TF:	The Ad hoc Task Force on Elaboration of Procedures and Criteria for Exclusion of Barents Environmental "Hot Spots"

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

The Subgroup on Hot Spots Exclusion (SHE) of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's Working Group on Environment (BEAC WGE) was established in 2010 and serves as the central driving force and co-ordinator in the work to launch adequate action projects aimed at the exclusion of the 42 Barents Euro Arctic environmental Hot Spots, listed in 2003 (the List). The operative work for exclusion of the environmental Hot Spots from the List requires thorough effort from Hot Spots owners, regional authorities and other stakeholders.

The Work Programme 2016-2017 guides the efforts of the SHE in facilitating the exclusion of environmental Hot Spots from the List in accordance with the group's mandate and the Criteria and Procedures described in the 2010 WGE Report to the Ministers of Environment. The Work Programme follows the recommendations of the BEAC WGE and the Declaration of the Ministers of Environment from the Sortavala meeting, 24-25 November 2015 where the Ministers encouraged the Working Group on Environment to continue its efforts on exclusion of "hot spots".

## **3. BACKGROUND**

The Barents Environmental Hot Spot List was prepared on behalf of BEAC by a joint AMAP/Russian Expert Group in 2003 as an update of a study on Barents Environmental Hot Spots originally compiled on behalf of the Nordic countries in 1995. The List consists of 42 Hot Spots representing what was at the time considered the most urgent areas of concern related to pollution sources in the Russian Barents region, along with proposals for 52 investment projects aimed on mitigation of the negative environmental impact.

After the establishment of the Barents Environmental Hot Spot List, progress was made at some of the Hot Spots. Since there was no formally defined procedure for exclusion of the Hot Spots from the List or criteria for when a Hot Spot could no longer be regarded as a Hot Spot, there was a need to define such criteria and procedures.

During the Swedish chairmanship, 2010-2011, much effort was put to start implementing the Hot Spot Exclusion Procedure. Regional Hot Spot Exclusion Groups (HEGs) were established in all of the five Barents region subjects of the Russian Federation. Mandates for the HEGs were elaborated and group work started successfully. The Hot Spots, primarily selected for exclusion were reviewed in accordance with the Exclusion Procedure adopted by the Environment Ministers in Tromsø in February 2010.

During the Finnish chairmanship, 2012-2013, an assessment of the Barents Hot Spot List was carried out to describe the state of all 42 environmental Hot Spots, originally included in the List. The conclusion of the 2013 assessment was that since 2003, certain measures aimed at solving environmental problems or associated issues have been launched in 42 out of 42 "hot spots" on the List. The measures were and are of different levels in terms of character, stage of implementation and scale.

During the Russian chairmanship, 2014-2015, in order to enhance information exchange and activities on the hotspots exclusion from the Barents Environmental Hot Spots List, a new format of Extended Hot Spot sessions with the regional representatives, hot spots owners and the international financing institutes was successfully proved. Such meetings were held by the regional ministries on nature resources and environment in the Russian part of the Barents region. So far, the following Hot spots are excluded from the List, all following the so called "Fast Track Exclusion" \*):

At the meeting of the Barents Ministers of Environment in 2011:

- Mercury-containing waste, Murmansk (M-8);
- Stocks of obsolete pesticides, Republic of Karelia (K-10) and
- Stocks of obsolete pesticides, Arkhangelsk(A-10).

At the meeting of the Barents Ministers of Environment in 2013:

- Arkhangelsk Heat and Power Plant, Arkhangelsk (A2);
- Handling of Mercury-Containing Wastes, Nenets Autonomous District (N4) and
- Gas emissions from Kondopoga pulp and paper combined mill, Republic of Karelia(K1).

At the meeting of the Barents Ministers of Environment in 2015:

- Drinking water in Petrozavodsk (Karelia K4);
- Severodvinsk heat and power plant No 2 (Arkhangelsk A3-2), partial exclusion;
- Mondi Pulp and Paper Mill, emissions to air, (Komi Ko3-1), partial exclusion.

\*) “Fast Track Exclusion” allows exclusion of a hot spot from the List by concluding that the currently valid, **ordinary** environmental requirements are met, (i.e. Temporarily Admitted Discharges/Emissions, so called “Limits”, are not eligible for fast track exclusion).

#### 4. MANDATE

The Barents Ministers of Environment acknowledged in its 2015 declaration the results reached in the last two years of implementation of the “hot spots” exclusion procedure. They also acknowledged high regional engagement and the work done in the Russian parts of the Barents Region, as well as the enhanced environmental performance at many of the “hot spots”, and they encouraged continuation of the cooperation between the WGE and Russian regions:

Based on the results from the ongoing work of the SHE, and of the recommendations from the Sortavala declaration, the Barents WGE [has agreed on] the following mandate for the SHE for 2016-2017:

Continue the work on promoting the planning, funding and implementation of environmental action projects on Barents “hot spots”, and promote “hot spot” exclusion by application of the agreed procedure on “hot spot” exclusion,

Propose refinement in the Hot Spot Exclusion procedure if deemed necessary

Explore possibilities to develop and implement projects together with the BEAC WGE Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption (CPESC Subgroup) as well as with the NEFCO and others, including other sources of financing.

Strengthen and build on the work of existing regional “hot spots” exclusion groups (HEG) in the republics of Komi, Karelia and in Arkhangelsk, Murmansk Oblast and Nenets Autonomous District,

Explore possibilities to exchange knowledge and practices of BAT legislation within the sectors relevant to “hot spots”, taking into account the new BAT legislation (FZ-219) in Russian Federation,

Raise awareness about the Barents Environmental “hotspots” and their respective action projects and/or progress in environmental performance

Make active use of the Barents “hotspots” information system on the Barents Euro Arctic Councils web site to share information on progress towards the exclusion of “hotspots”.

## **DECLARATION**

According to the Sortavala Declaration from 24-25 November 2015, *the Environment Ministers:*

*encouraged* the WGE to focus the further work on promoting the planning, funding and implementation of environmental action projects on Barents “hot spots” by further application of the agreed procedure. In so doing, one should exchange knowledge and practices of BAT legislation in different countries within the sectors relevant to “hot spots”;

*welcomed* the contribution of NEFCO and its Barents Hot Spots Facility (BHSF) and the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership in the work aimed at “hot spots” exclusion, and *encouraged* implementation of relevant investment projects and further exploration of possibilities for synergies within the framework of the BEAC WGE and the Arctic Council, including its Project Support Instrument, and other sources of financing.

*urged* the BEAC Working Group on Environment, its Subgroups and the Regional Working Group on Environment to further intensify the work on climate change within the mandates of achieving emission reductions, improved capacity to adapt and to spread knowledge and awareness on climate change.

## **5. METHODS AND PREREQUISITES FOR THE SUBGROUP'S WORK**

### ROLES AND APPROACHES

The key role of SHE is to facilitate the exclusion procedure, to promote and support the work of the HEGs and encourage progress, however always recognizing the fact that primarily MNRE of the Russian Federation and Rosprirodnadzor of RF and the Addressed Authority (AA) in each region of RF have the main responsibility for the "Hot Spots".

The activities conducted under the auspices of SHE will engage both the subgroup itself but also to an increasing extent the regional Hot Spot Exclusion Groups (HEGs).

The exclusion process is carried out exclusively on Russian territory and thus is subject to existing environmental legislation and regulation system of the Russian Federation.

### METHODS OF WORK

The principles for conducting joint work in SHE are presented below:

- A)** SHE will have physical meetings back to back with the WGE meetings and meetings with HEGs and, in addition, physical/telephone/video meetings.
- B)** SHE should make decisions by consensus and all decisions made shall be reflected in the Minutes from the meetings.
- C)** SHE may develop and agree on a List of activities, which may be annexed to the 2- year Work Programme. The List of activities may be changed during operation and (major changes) submitted to WGE for approval. All documents from SHE should, if not otherwise decided, be posted on the BEAC webpage to secure availability and transparency.
- D)** Participation in SHE is open to federal and regional authorities in the Barents Region. Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden should appoint members to the subgroup. Representatives from indigenous peoples organizations and other relevant organizations, including NGOs and institutions may participate as observers in SHE.
- E)** SHE will be co-chaired by Norway, as a chair of WGE BEAC in 2016-2017 and Russia up to 2017. After Norway, SHE will be co-chaired by Sweden and Russia.
- F)** Reports and recommendations from SHE will be submitted to the WGE for approval.

### RESOURCES AND FINANCING

The work conducted within SHE will require appropriate allocation of resources, both from the participants in SHE for conducting the work and for supporting actions (meetings, seminars, support and advisory role to the implementation of the Procedure) required for the facilitation. Resources for preparation and implementation of concrete action projects at the Hot Spots will require efforts from both Hot Spot owners and Russian authorities. SHE can assist in identifying additional funding sources for such projects. In addition, SHE can prepare projects that support the overall work related to exclusion of hot spots. Projects and activities in the Work programme will be addressed as time, resources and opportunity permit.



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## **Annex 1 – List of SHE activities 2016-2017**

*The SHE activities include:*

- 1) Implementation of the Hot Spot Exclusion Procedure  
Lead: RUS  
Contributing: NOR, SWE, FIN, NEFCO, IBS.
- 2) Continuous updating of the General Exclusion progress sheet  
Lead: SWE  
Contributing: IBS.
- 3) Development of template for Hot Spot Specific Exclusion Criteria and adoption of Hot Spot Specific Exclusion Criteria for 3 pilot priority hotspots (A3-1, Ko6 and Ko7) and others to be defined.  
Lead: NOR and RUS  
Contributing: SWE, FIN, NEFCO.
- 4) Facilitate the implementation of the Hot Spot Exclusion Procedure Steps 3-5 at prioritized Hot Spots aspiring for exclusion, through various support activities to be developed. e.g.:
  - Sectorwise seminars
  - Sectorwise workshops
  - Sectorwise study visits to study BAT and BEP at relevant sitesLead: SWE  
Contributing: RUS, NOR, FIN, NEFCO, IBS.
- 5) Streamlining the process of TEC review of Screening and Analyses reports, including possible simplification, through e.g.:
  - Sectorwise knowledge exchange among industrial and authority experts of relevance to the hot spots exclusion.Lead: NOR  
Contributing: RUS, SWE, FIN, NEFCO, IBS.
- 6) Raising awareness among relevant stakeholders and the general public about the Barents Environmental Hot Spots and work on their exclusion from the List, including better illustration of progress.  
Lead: RUS  
Contributing: SWE, NOR, FIN, NEFCO, IBS.
- 7) Continue co-operation with other institutions within the Barents and Arctic Council, incl. the CPESC Subgroup, ACAP, AMAP, NEFCO (BHSF), PSI, NCM, NDEP, NIB, and other potential organisations for co-operation and co-financing to obtain synergies.  
Lead: FIN  
Contributing: RUS, NOR, SWE, NEFCO, IBS.