

**Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)
Working Group on Environment
Finnish Chairmanship 2012-2013**

**Work Programme
Subgroup for Hot Spot Exclusion**

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0. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFA:	Assigned Federal Authority ¹ = 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 ¹ , = 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
BEAC:	The Barents Euro Arctic Council
BEAC WGE:	The Barents Euro Arctic Council Working Group on Environment,
BHSF:	Barents Hot Spot Facility
CPESC:	Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption
HEG:	Regional Hotspot Exclusion Group
Minpriroda:	Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation
NEFCO:	Nordic Environment Finance Corporation
NPA Arctic	National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
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 17 th , 2010.
TF:	The Ad hoc Task Force on Elaboration of Procedures and Criteria for Exclusion of Barents Environmental "Hot Spots"

¹ Term referring to the exclusion procedure proposed by the Ad hoc Task Force on Elaboration of Procedures and Criteria for Exclusion of Barents Environmental "Hot Spots" in their Final Report to the Ministers on February 17th, 2010.

1. 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 "Hot Spots" List from 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 2012-2013 guides the efforts of the SHE in facilitating the exclusion of environmental "Hot Spots" from the List in accordance with the groups' mandate and the Criteria and Procedures described in the Final Report to the Ministers of Environment, adopted in Tromsø on 17th of February, 2010. The Work Programme follows the recommendations of the Declaration of the Ministers of Environment on the 9th of November 2011 in Umeå, to continue the efforts in excluding the Hot spots from the List.

2. BACKGROUND

The Barents Environmental "Hot Spots" List was prepared on behalf of the 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 is an integral part of the NEFCO/AMAP Report "Updating of Environmental "Hot Spots" List in the Russian Part of the Barents Region", published by the AMAP Secretariat in Oslo in 2003. The studies compiled data on essential environmental problems in the Russian part of the Barents region.

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 Spots" list, some progress was made at some of the "Hot Spots". Since there was no formally defined procedure for exclusion of the "Hot Spots" or criteria for when a hotspot could be regarded no longer a hotspot, there was a need to define such criteria and procedures.

In 2005 the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) called for dedicated actions to be initiated by the year 2013 at the latest towards the final exclusion of all defined "hot spots" on the List. At the eighth meeting of the BEAC Ministers of Environment of the BEAC in Moscow in November 2007, the Ministers endorsed the establishment of an Ad-hoc Task Force (TF) on Elaboration of Procedures and Criteria on Excluding "Hot Spots" from the List.

The TF which operated from 2008 till February 2010, was comprised by appointed representatives from Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden and was chaired by NEFCO. At the Ministerial Meeting in Tromsø on the 17th of February 2010, Final Report from the TF with suggestion for Criteria and Procedures for exclusion of the Barents environmental "hot spots" was adopted and the Ministers recommended the TF to continue its work as a Subgroup to the BEAC WGE to facilitate the process of excluding the "hot spots" from the list in line with the proposed Criteria and Procedures² until the next ministerial meeting.

During the Swedish chairmanship, 2010-2011, much effort has been put to develop the criteria and the Hot Spot Exclusion Procedure. Regional Hot spot Exclusion Groups (HGEs) were established in all of the five Barents region subjects of RF. 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 in Tromsø in February 2010. SHE also started drafting a General Exclusion Plan (GEP) to be agreed between the SHE and the HEGs, taking as its point of departure the regions' priorities for addressing the individual hot spots. Exclusion of three hot spots from the List was proposed in the 10th

² Final Report to the Ministers, Ad-hoc Task Force on Elaboration of the Barents Environmental "Hot Spots", Tromsø 17th February 2010.

Meeting of the Ministers of the Environment, 9th November 2011. The exclusion was assented to and 39 hot spots remained on the List.

3. MANDATE AND DECLARATION

MANDATE

The Subgroup on "Hot Spots" Exclusion, SHE, was established following the 2010 Ministerial Declaration³ according to which it was given the mandate from the Barents Environment Ministers, for the period towards the next ministerial meeting, to Facilitate the process of exclusion of the Barents Environmental "Hot Spots" in accordance with the Criteria & Procedures described in the Task Force Report.

The Ministers acknowledged the need to prioritize and initially focus on certain "Hot Spots" in order to ensure tangible results, and therefore also encouraged further efforts to:

Explore possibilities to develop and implement projects together with the Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption (CPESC Subgroup) as well as with the NEFCO Barents Hot Spot Facility (BHSF),

Strengthen and build on the work of existing regional working groups on "hot spots" in the republics of Komi, Karelia and in Murmansk Oblast and Nenets Autonomous District,

Explore possibilities for synergies with the work carried out in the Arctic Council, including its Project Support Instrument, and other sources of financing,

Rise awareness about the Barents Environmental "hot spots",

Safeguard the development of an information system about the Barents Environmental "hot spots" list as part of the Barents Euro Arctic Councils web site by the end of 2010.

Review the criteria and procedure for hot spot exclusion before the 2011 Ministerial meeting.

DECLARATION

According to the Umeå Declaration from 9th November 2011, *the Environment Ministers*

8. *reaffirmed* that the Barents environmental "hot spots" listed in 2003 are regarded as the most urgent areas of concern related to pollution in the Barents region and noted with appreciation the co-operative efforts to reach the target agreed to launch environmental measures in all of the "hot spots" by 2013,

9. *assented* to the exclusion of the following Barents environmental "hot spots" from the list: Mercury containing waste (Murmansk M8), Stocks of obsolete pesticides (Karelia K10), Stocks of obsolete pesticides (Arkhangelsk A10); and *anticipated* further exclusions by the next ministerial meeting,

10. *noted with appreciation* the co-operative efforts and achievements made for implementation of the Hotspots Exclusion Procedure approved at the ministerial meeting in Tromsø 2010, in particular that regional hot spot exclusion groups have now been established in the Russian part of the Barents Region: The Republic of Komi, The Republic of Karelia, Murmansk Oblast, Nenets Autonomous District, Arkhangelsk Oblast, and *underlined* the importance of continued efforts of Russian authorities on both federal and regional level in the process of excluding the "hot spots" from the Barents Hot Spot list,

11. *noted with appreciation* the progress made under the criteria and procedures of the hot spot exclusion and *pointed out* the particularly important role of cleaner production in the process of exclusion of "hot spots",

³ Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Ninth meeting of the Ministers of the Environment, 17th February 2010, Tromsø, Norway.

12. *encouraged* the continued work of the subgroup on Hotspots Exclusion to facilitate the process of "hot spots" exclusion based on the approved criteria and procedure. The group will be co-chaired by the Russian Federation and the Chairmanship of the BEAC Working Group on Environment in close cooperation with the Regional Hot Spot Exclusion Groups,

13. *invited* the WGE to consider revising and up-dating the AMAP/NEFCO Hot Spot Report to be presented at the next Ministerial Meeting, describing the state of all 42 original environmental hotspots,

14. *welcomed* the contribution of the NEFCO Barents Hot Spot Facility in the work on "hot spot" exclusion, and *encouraged* further exploration of possibilities for synergies within the framework of BEAC WGE and the Arctic Council, including its Project Support Instrument, and other sources of financing,

15. *acknowledged* the need for raising the awareness about the Barents environmental work on "hot spots" and welcomed the progress made in the development of the Barents Environmental Hot Spots Information System as part of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's web site by the end of 2011.

4. OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Long term objective is the final exclusion of all the 42 "hot spots" from the List in accordance with the agreed criteria and procedures⁴. The Ministerial declaration from 2011, confirms that the short term objective is to reach the target to launch environmental measures in all of the hot spots of the List by 2013.

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

SUBGROUP PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FINNISH CHAIRMANSHIP

SHE Subgroup identifies the following main objective for its work until the next BEAC WGE Ministerial Meeting:

SHE priorities 2012-2013 are:

- promotion and facilitation of the Exclusion procedure in all five federation subjects and that relevant environmental measures in all of the hot spots are launched by 2013.
- decide in consultation with WGE on a possible revision and updating of the AMAP/NEFCO Hot Spot Report describing the state of all 42 original environmental hotspots,
- strengthening the information activities

In accordance the activities of the SHE include:

- 1) Promotion and facilitation of the implementation of the Exclusion procedure in all five federation subjects with special emphasis on:
 - a. Enhanced awareness of the hot spots and improved understanding of the Exclusion procedure
 - b. Continued screening and analysis (Step 2 of the Exclusion procedure) in all hot spots together with the HEGs
 - c. Encouragement of the HEGs to provide proposals on Hot Spots to be excluded
- 2) Continue the drafting of the General Exclusion Plan, to be agreed between the SHE and the HEGs, taking as its point of departure the regions' priorities for addressing the individual hot spots in relation to the Exclusion procedure

⁴ Final Report to the Ministers, Ad-hoc Task Force on Elaboration of the Barents Environmental "Hot Spots", Tromsø 17th February 2010

- 3) In consultation with the WGE, consider, if a revision or a new List is needed, and if so decided by the WGE, initiate a comprehensive analysis of the hot spots describing the state of all 42 original environmental hotspots and taking into account the progress achieved and lessons learnt.
- 4) Follow-up of the cleaner production projects that are relevant to the hot spot work.
- 5) Raise the general awareness about the Barents Environmental "Hot Spots" and work on their exclusion from the list. Moreover, continue the work on development and maintenance of the HSIS.
- 6) Continue the productive co-operation and synergies with other institutions within the Barents and Arctic Council co-operations, incl. the BEAC WGE Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption (CPESC Subgroup), NEFCO:s Barents "Hot Spots" Facility (BHSF), Arctic Contaminants Action Programme (ACAP), Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), the Project Support Instrument (PSI), Arctic Agenda 2020, and other potential organisations for cooperation and co-financing.

5. METHODS AND PREREQUISITES FOR THE SUBGROUP'S WORK

ROLES AND APPROACHES

The key role of SHE is to facilitate the exclusion procedure, to give guidance and support the work of the HEGs and demand progress, however always recognising the fact that primarily Minpriroda and Rosprirodnadzor of RF (AFA) and the Appointed Authority in each region (AA) RF have the main responsibility for the "Hot Spots" and that SHE should identify and enforce appropriate ways of supporting also the officials in this work.

The activities conducted under the auspices of SHE will engage both the subgroup itself but also to an increasing extent the regional "Hot Spots" groups

If the decision on the revision will be made, SHE together with NEFCO will hire a consultant to revise and up-date the AMAP/NEFCO Hot Spot Report to be presented at the next Ministerial Meeting, describing the state of all 42 original environmental hot spots.

METHODS OF WORK

Important principles for conducting the joint work in the SHE are presented below:

- A)** SHE will have physical meetings back to back with the WGE meetings and meetings with HEGs and in addition telephone/video meetings.
- B)** SHE should work by consensus and all decisions made be reflected in the protocol from the meetings.
- C)** SHE will develop and agree on a Work Programme 2012-2013 and Plan of Activities. The Plan of Activities will be annexed to the Work Programme 2012-2013 The Work Programme and Plan of Activities may be changed during operation and major changes should be 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 mandatory to federal and optional to 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 if agreed by participating countries as observers in SHE.
- E)** The chairmanship of SHE will be shared between the chairmanship of BEAC WGE and Russia for every two years chair periods.
- F)** Reports and recommendations from SHE will be submitted to the WGE for approval.

RESOURCES AND FINANCING

The work conducted within the frames of SHE by necessity 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 Spots Owners" and Russian Authorities. SHE will assist in the work to identify additional funding sources and prepare such projects. Projects and activities in the Work program will be addressed as time, resources and opportunity permit.

7. MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

Members

The following persons are permanent members of the Subgroup on "Hot Spots" Exclusion, SHE.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PLAN OF ACTIVITIES 2012-2013

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF REGIONAL HEG GROUPS