

**Establishing a representative transboundary network of Protected Areas
for Barents Euro-Arctic Region – BPAN**

**RESOLUTION
of the Expert Group meeting on 27-28th March 2012,
in Murmansk**

1. This meeting of the Expert working group was represented by:

Lindholm Tapio Finnish Environment Institute SYKE Chair	Finland
Kuhmonen Anna Finnish Environment Institute SYKE Chair	Finland, BPAN coordination
Laukkonen Ekaterina Finnish Environment Institute SYKE Secretary	Finland, BPAN coordination
Aksenov Dmitry Transparent world	Russia
Baeva Tatiana WWF Barents Sea Office; communication expert	WWF BPAN communication
Dobrynin Denis WWF Arkhangelsk Office	WWF BPAN coordination
Gainanova Ramziya Committee for Industrial Development, Nature Use and Environment	Murmansk region
Juvonen Sanna-Kaisa Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services	Finland
Khrustaleva Yulia Centre of Nature Management and Environmental Monitoring	Arkhangelsk region
Lumiario Riku Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, communication expert	Finland
Maksimov Denis Directorate of Regional protected Areas	Republic of Karelia
Mikkola Jyri Nature League	Finland
Opdahl Tore Directorate for Nature Management	Norway
Petrov Viktor Kola Biodiversity Conservation Center	Murmansk region
Petrova Olga Kola Biodiversity Conservation Center	Murmansk region
Pystina Tatiana Institute of Biology Komi Science Centre Ural Division	Republic of Komi
Shibeko Vladimir Centre of nature use and protection of environment	Nenets Autonomous Okrug

Shulina Mariya Committee for industrial development, nature use and environment	Murmansk region
Sutkaitis Oleg WWF Russia Barents Office	WWF BPAN coordination

2. Shulina Mariya opened the meeting and welcomed the BPAN experts to Murmansk Region.

3. Presentation of BPAN project

Kuhmonen Anna presented the BPAN goals and targets and work plan for 2012.

The aim of the BPAN project is to promote and support the establishment of a representative network of protected areas for conservation of biodiversity and boreal-arctic nature, especially forests and wetlands. The work plan was sent to all the experts beforehand.

The BPAN activities are divided into four components:

- 1) GIS analysis of the protected area network
 - expected results are
 - BPAN GIS database, produced thematic maps of the PA network, analysis results and statistics, Internet based interactive map, and finally recommendations for developing the BPAN
- 2) PoWPA regional evaluation
 - regional evaluation reports, analysis of the results, exchange of the information about the protected area network among the experts, possibility for capacity building
- 3) Pilot projects
 - pilot project on the high conservation value sites in the regions of NW Russia, implemented in all the 5 regions of NW Russia
- 4) Communication
 - highlighting the values of boreal-arctic nature, communicating the results and recommendations of BPAN projects according to the agreed communication strategy
 - target groups: decision makers, authorities and general public

4. GIS analysis of the protected area network

Goal of BPAN GIS component is to conduct an independent analysis on Barents region as a whole. GIS data available in BPAN is mainly received from partners, or produced in the project GAP analysis. Transparent World has also produced some data for Northwest Russia. There are some insufficiencies in data availability, e.g. the official marine borders of the Barents Region have not yet been defined.

Targets for year 2012 are:

- finalizing the classification of PAs according to the classification on real protection level
- comparing the IUCN classification made in each country and harmonization of it
- updating the GIS database (established in 2011)
- analyzing the spatial data, producing statistics (using the classifications as a basis)

-producing the thematic maps
-establish shared dataset library and updating the interactive map
(<http://gis.transparentworld.ru/en/bpan/>)

Scientific review of the GIS results will be conducted in early 2013, led by Bengt-Gunnar Jonsson, Mid Sweden University.

Transparent World is finalizing the tasks of 2011 by the end of April (updating the PA classification and the analysis).

BPAN GIS work plan will be finalized in the end of April and sent to all the experts.

4.1 BPAN Protected area classification (protection level according to the PA regulations)

Aksenov Dmitry presented the BPAN protected area classification on real protection level and experts discussed it through. The last checking for finalization of the classification will be done right after the meeting, especially covering the Swedish PAs. After that Transparent World will update the analysis of the PAs taking into consideration the changes.

Goal of classification is to classify protected areas similarly in whole BPAN region. Uniform classification is substantial for BPAN due to legislation differences between countries on protected areas. Thus, a tool enabling the comparison of protected areas is needed. Currently protected area database is based on legislative information, not on the practical situation.

BPAN expert group suggests to finalize the classification with 3 classes of PAs + planned protected areas right after the meeting and to prepare analysis basing to it.

Expert Group also discussed making more detailed classifications with 6 PA classes after that. The more detailed classification would be needed especially because of the Russian and Finnish PA diverse system.

4.2 IUCN classification

Juvonen Sanna-Kaisa presented the IUCN classification system on protected areas.

IUCN classification on protected areas are suggested to conduct in each country. National categories are arranged according to IUCN categories. It enables comparison of protected areas between countries. Finland is starting the classification transformation. Norway, Russia and Sweden have completed the work, but update is needed at least in Sweden.

IUCN classification will be used as a basis for GIS analysis, as well, after the BPAN IUCN workshop. Separate IUCN classification workshop will be organized in autumn 2012 for comparing the classified PAs in the Barents region.

Additional information on IUCN classification can be found here:

"Guidelines for applying protected area management categories"

(<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAPS-016.pdf>)

5. Pilot projects in NW Russia

Pilot projects are prepared according to two conditions; first, they protect high conservation value territories and second, they are under significant anthropogenic threat. Projects will be implemented during year 2012.

Pilot projects are supported by the steering committee and the expert group. Descriptions of pilot project territories will be presented in project web site published in May. Each region will also write short article of the pilot project with photos, for the web pages in summer/autumn 2012.

Russian regions presented their pilot projects plans:

Republic of Komi	Zakaznik Tsilemskyi
Murmansk region	Zakaznik Jonn-Njygojaiv
Republic of Karelia	Zakaznik Zaonezhje
Arkhangelsk region	Northern Dvina and Pinega watershed
Nenets Autonomous Okrug	Zakaznik Nizhnepechorskyi

Projects plans were discussed and commented during the meeting, and representatives were asked perform reformulations or supplements. Each pilot project supports the aim of the BPAN project.

The project plans will be finalized in April and after that the agreements for implementing the projects will be made.

6. Regional evaluation

6.1 PoWPA, CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas

In 2011, all the regions made the regional self evaluation by using CBD PoWPA framework. In autumn 2011 the preliminary analysis was done. In the meeting it was presented by Tore Opdahl and Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen, and discussed by the experts in the meeting.

Some update may be needed for the reports. Aleksandr Shestakov, WWF, has been asked to go through the reports. Separate BPAN PoWPA workshop will be organized in autumn 2012 for discussing the final results. It will be important also for exchanging information on nature conservation between the regions. The event could be two days, with one day project workshop and one day seminar with participation of more stakeholders.

Recommendations on the future development of the Barents protected area network will be discussed in the meeting.

7. Communication component of BPAN

Main goal of communication is to highlight the importance of boreal-arctic nature in the Barents region and in the end of project recommendations. Communication and awareness raising is one

tool to contribute to the BPAN targets. Communication strategy has been established to develop both external and internal communication.

External communication is coordinated by SYKE (Anna Kuhmonen, Ekaterina Laukkonen) and WWF in Northwest Russia (Tatiana Baeva). All countries and regions have been asked to designate communication contact person/expert.

Regional communication experts:

Arkhangelsk region	Khrustaleva Yulia
Murmansk region	Gainanova Ramziya
Republic of Komi	Tyupenko Tatiana
Nenets Autonomous Okrug	-
Republic of Karelia	-
Norway	-
Sweden	-
Finland	Riku Lumiaro

Sweden, Norway, Nenets Autonomous Okrug and Republic of Karelia were asked to nominate the communication contact persons.

Projects web page (www.bpan.fi) will be published in the beginning of May 2012. First version will be in English and later in Russian as well. Main audiences of the web page are nature conservation experts, decision makers, authorities and general public.

Internal communication is under development. The proposals for development are welcome. BPAN project site is available for internal communication.

Address of project site: <https://sites.google.com/site/bpanwork/home> (username: bpanuser password: user2011). All the minutes and other documents will be updated there.

Contact information of the BPAN experts is being gathered and updated to file which will be delivered for participants and added to project site.

E-mail list for BPAN experts internal communication including all BPAN experts is under process. (bpan@environment.fi)

Communication workshop/training for further planning and development of communication will be organized in Helsinki in the May for 2-3 days. One person from every region will be invited. Dates will be decided right after the meeting.

7.1 Discussed in the communication workshop

- success stories about nature conservation e.g. from economical perspective would be interesting, e.g. examples from Finland on incomes for the local economy gained from protected areas, mainly national parks
- posters and brochures are needed for seminars and meetings
- short slogan is needed

-suggested to hire an additional communication contact person to improve the quality of work and communicate with Russian regions, to actively search the news (a lot of information is needed for the web site)

-suggested to organize a tour for journalist, authorities and politicians

7.2 Tasks for regional contacts

-use same logos and same formulas in communication (available at project site, address above)

-information from every region must be delivered for action plan

-share your media contact information with Russian communication coordinator

-any news must be shared

-benefits gained from protected areas

-facts, numbers and graphs

8. Update on the current issues in nature conservation

8.1 CBD 11th meeting of the COP

India Hyderabad 8-19th October 2012

Juvonen Sanna-Kaisa informed about the meeting on Convention on Biological Diversity. Themes of the meeting are biodiversity strategy, ecosystem restoration, marine and coastal biodiversity and biodiversity and climate change. Protected areas will be discussed as a follow up of the Nagoya decisions. BPAN coordination is searching the way to present BPAN project in the COP11. At least poster will be presented, and BPAN project could be also presented as a part of the WWF Russia side event. BPAN will possibly be presented in poster at WWF stand in the meeting.

8.2 Ramsar Convention 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties COP11

Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012

(http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop11/main/ramsar/1-31-58-500_4000_0__)

Juvonen Sanna-Kaisa presented the main themes of the Ramsar Conference.

Theme of the COP11 convention is "Wetlands: home and destination".

Subjects such as tourism, recreation, climate change, health and sustainable development in relation to wetlands will be discussed.

8.3 IUCN Congress in Korea

<http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/>

Juvonen Sanna-Kaisa presented the main themes of the IUCN Congress.

Slogan of the congress is Nature + referring to the benefits we gain from nature.

Themes of the congress are valuing and protection of nature, sharing the benefits, climate, food security, economy etc.

8.4 BEAC Nature Protection Subgroup – work programme for 2012-2013 (projects and activities)

Kuhmonen Anna informed about the Finnish chairmanship of the Barents Council (BEAC) Working Group on Environment (WGE).

The work programme of Nature Protection Subgroup (part of WGE) 2012-2013 includes the key projects and activities, of which BPAN project is the major activity:

- The 7th International Contact Forum Meeting on Habitat Conservation (HCF)
- Promoting a representative and effectively managed Barents Protected Area Network (BPAN)
- Developing the Green Belt of Fennoscandia
- Conservation of the last remaining boreal forests in the BEAR
- Effects of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services in BEAR
- Follow up of the project "GAP analysis in NW Russia"
- Conservation of and ecosystem services on wetlands
- Network of Botanical Gardens in BEAR
- Treriksgränset

8.5 The 7th International Contact Forum Meeting on Habitat Conservation (HCF)

Lindholm Tapio informed that the 7th HCF meeting will be organized in Bodo, Northern Norway in early 2013. The meeting will focus on

- Protection and management of marine and coastal habitats
- Further efforts to protect boreal forest in the Barents region
- Further development of BPAN
- Follow-up on selected recommendations
- Synergies of protection of forests and wetlands with climate change mitigation and adaptation

BPAN will have one half or full day session. Event provides a possibility to discuss BPAN themes with wider audience. Concrete planning of the meeting, led by Norway, starts in autumn.

Knut Fossum (Steering Committee member of Norway), Tapio Lindholm and Anna Kuhmonen are members of the organizing committee.

8.6 Gap analysis follow-up work

Lindholm Tapio informed about the GAP analysis follow up.

SYKE implements the project for publishing the English edition of the gap-analysis book in 2012.

Tapio Lindholm and Anna Kuhmonen are responsible for the project, and Jevgeni Jakovlev is responsible for translation. The English edition will be ready till the end of the year 2012. It can be used e.g. in funding applications for international sources. The publication will be published in Internet and on CDs. Also some books will be printed.

8.7 Russian NGO Forum in Moscow

Aksenov Dmitry informed about the Russian NGO forum.

Goal of the forum was to build contacts between science and practice in the field of nature conservation and formalize cooperation between scientists and NGOs. Main message was to emphasize importance of gathering and systematically developing biological and geographical information. No concrete results of the forum are yet visible in everyday work, but some follow ups are planned, e.g. several common trips.

9. The next meeting of the BPAN expert working group will be held in autumn September-October 2012. Proposals for the meeting place are welcome.

10. The chairs thanked WWF Barents Sea Office and Kola Biodiversity Center for good organization of the meeting and all the participants for active participation.