

Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)
Working Group on Environment
Swedish Chairmanship 2018-2019

Final version

Work Programme

Subgroup on Hot Spot Exclusion

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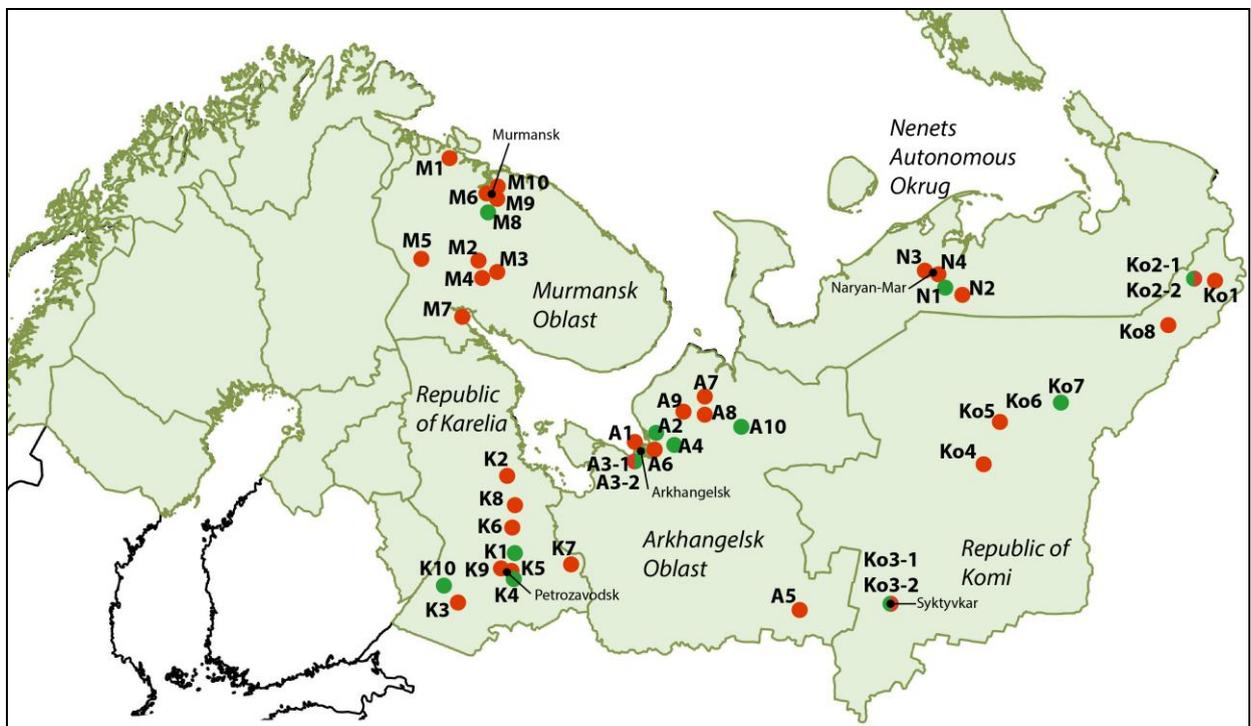


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1. INTRODUCTION

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 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 2018-2019 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 Declaration of the Ministers of Environment from the Vadsø meeting, 29-30th of November 2017 where the Ministers encouraged the Working Group on Environment to continue its efforts on exclusion of "hot spots". At present, 30 whole and three partial hot spots remain on the list (30 + 3x ½).

2. 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.

During the Norwegian chairmanship in 2016-2017, the concept of Supporting Activities was launched, enabling expert support for e.g. training to hot spots owners, branch representative and authorities as well as assessment and assistance in action planning for paving the road for a

structured and action oriented work with the hot spots exclusion. Hot spot specific exclusion criteria was developed for one pilot hot spot. Furthermore, the first steps for connecting the hot spots work with the implementation of new BAT-based permit granting system in the Russian Federation were taken. The Supporting Activities were funded by the Barents countries and NEFCO.

So far, the following Hot spots are excluded from the List, all but one following the so called “Fast Track Exclusion” procedure*):

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

- Mercury-containing waste, Murmansk (M8);
- Stocks of obsolete pesticides, Republic of Karelia (K10) and
- Stocks of obsolete pesticides, Arkhangelsk(A10).

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.

At the meeting of the Barents Ministers of Environment in 2017:

- Arkhangelsk Pulp and Paper Mill (Arkhangelsk A4);
- Reduction of dust emissions by Vorkuta cement plant (Komi Ko2-1);
- Wood waste from timber, pulp and paper industry in the 9 forest districts of the Komi Republic (Komi Ko-7). Long Track 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 Limit values for Discharges/Emissions are normally not eligible for fast track exclusion).

3. MANDATE

The Mandate of the BEAC WGE Subgroup for Hotspots Exclusion, SHE, emanates from the 8th meeting of the Ministers of Environment in Moscow, November 2007, during which the Ministers called for dedicated actions towards final exclusion of all defined “hot spots” on the Barents environmental hotspots list (the List) to be initiated by the year 2013 at the latest. At the same meeting, the Ministers also endorsed the establishment of an Ad-hoc Task Force (TF) on Elaboration of Procedures and Criteria on Excluding “Hot Spots” from the List, which at the 9th meeting of the Ministers of Environment in Tromsø, February 2010, presented its Final Report with Criteria and Procedures for exclusion of the Barents environmental “hot spots”. During the 10th Ministerial Meeting in Umeå November 2011, the TF was encouraged to continue its work as a Subgroup on Hotspots Exclusion, SHE and at the following BEAC WGE Ministerial Meetings, MiM 11th – 13th, the work was continuously followed up and its mandate up-dated.

The Barents Ministers of Environment in its 2017 declaration noted with appreciation the progress reached in the last two years of implementation of the “hot spots” exclusion procedure, welcomed the results on the management of timber waste in the Komi Republic and acknowledged the definition of Specific Exclusion Criteria as well as the launching of Supporting Activities. They also encouraged continued work on Best Available Techniques together with enterprises, environmental authorities and the Russian BAT-Bureau as well as strengthened cooperation between SHE and the regional authorities and also to consider a revision of the Exclusion Procedure in congruence with the new Russian legislation on permit granting.

Based on the results from the ongoing work of SHE, and of the recommendations from the 2017 Vadsø declaration, the Barents WGE [agreed on] the following mandate for SHE for 2018-2019:

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,

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, both on follow-up on hot spots and exchange of experiences, information and knowledge between Russian authorities on different levels, industry and SHE.

Based on the HEG priorities and with assistance from NEFCO, promote the development and implementation of projects (“Supporting Activities”) for assisting prioritised hot spots through the steps of the Hot Spot exclusion procedure, using, inter alia, NEFCO funding and other sources of financing.

Promote the capacity building on BAT and BEP in the regions, in particular for those sectors among the “hot spots” that are relevant to the new BAT legislation (FZ-219), being introduced in the 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 Council's web site to share information on progress towards the exclusion of “hotspots”.

Consider and propose refinement in the Hot Spot Exclusion procedure taking into account the new Russian legislation on permit granting

4. DECLARATION

According to the Vadsø Declaration from 29-30 November 2017, *the Environment Ministers:*

noted with appreciation the environmental progress in many of the Barents "hot spots" in the last two years and assented to the exclusion of the following Barents environmental "hot spots" – ; Arkhangelsk Pulp and Paper Mill (A4), Reduction of dust emissions by Vorkuta cement plant (Ko2-1) and Wood waste from timber, pulp and paper industry in the 9 forest districts of the Komi Republic (Ko-7);

welcomed the results from the efforts in the Komi Republic on the "hot spot" Ko7 to utilize wood waste from the timber industry for energy purposes, contributing to cleaner air environmental improvements locally and to significant reductions of methane emissions from landfills, and encouraged that the experiences from this work should be used as a good example in other regions;

acknowledged the work done on defining specific exclusion criteria for the "hot spots" Ko7 and Severodvinsk Heat and Power Plant (A3-1) , and encouraged the implementation of action plans for environmental improvements in these hot spots;

acknowledged the work done to develop and implement support activities that can contribute to exclusion of the environmental "hot spots" and implementation of Best Available Techniques, and encouraged to continue this work in close cooperation with enterprises, environmental authorities and the Russian BAT bureau;

encouraged to strengthen the cooperation between the Subgroup on Hot Spots Exclusion and the environmental authorities in the Russian regions and to consider revising the hot spot exclusion procedure, taking into account the new Russian legislation on permit granting;

stressed the need for further environmental improvements in the remaining "hot spots" on the list, with special emphasis on the need for reduction of pollution in hot spots with cross-border impacts, such as from the nickel production in the Kola Peninsula;

welcomed the contribution of NEFCO in the work aimed at "hot spot" exclusion, and encouraged implementation of relevant environmental investment projects and support activities.

5. OBJECTIVES FOR THE SWEDISH CHAIRMANSHIP 2018-2019

5.1. Programme objectives

Based on the Mandate and the 2017 BEAC Ministerial Declaration, the *priorities or programme objectives* for the Swedish Chairmanship 2018-2019 are the following:

P1 - Continuing exclusion of environmental hot spots according to the exclusion procedure;

P2 - Promoting progress in environmental performance at the environmental hot spots through supporting activities;

P3 - Linking the work on hot spots exclusion process closer to the new Russian legislation on best available techniques;

P4 - Strengthening the capacity to ensure efficient environmental protection work;

P5 - Reviewing the hot spot exclusion process to be more in line with the new Russian legislation

These programme objectives are supposed to be achieved by implementing the SHE Activities presented in Annex A – “List of SHE Activities”, and also form the reference to which the success of this Work Programme should be followed up against.

5.2. Operative Objectives for the SHE Supporting Activities 2018-2019:

For the achievement of priority P2, an Indicative List of SHE Supporting Activities is presented in Annex B. These SHE Supporting Activities should be guided and followed up by the following Operative Objectives (O1-O4), which are formulated to be measurable and with clear indication to which part of the Hot Spot Exclusion Procedure they should contribute:

O1. Experts at regional level trained in both FZ-219, Russian and EU BAT and BREFs

O2. Specific Exclusion Criteria Formulated for a prioritized selection of remaining hotspots ready for Full Track Exclusion (= Step 3)

O3a. Action Plans have been approved at minimum two HS per Federation Subject (= Step 4)

O3b. Action Plans in Congruence with FZ-219 and Russian BREFs have been approved at minimum one HS per Federation Subject (= Step 3 + Step 4)

O4. Action Projects obviously leading to reduced environmental impact is under implementation at minimum one HS per Federation Subject (= Step 6)

Thus, Supporting Activities developed and started up under the Swedish chairmanship, should be designed to and when completed followed up against the above listed Operative Objectives.

6. METHODS AND PREREQUISITES FOR THE SUBGROUP'S WORK

6.1. 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.

6.2. 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. Meeting documents should be circulated at least 1 week before the meeting.
- 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)** As an instrument to promote and support the work of the HEGs and encourage progress in environmental performance, SHE may initiate and draftly formulate SHE Supporting Activities, which may be annexed to the 2-year Work Programme. Based on this list and the HEG priorities, the Supporting Activities are then to be designed in detail by NEFCO in close cooperation with HEGs and hot spots owners and other relevant bodies.
- E)** 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.
- F)** SHE will be co-chaired by Sweden, as a chair of WGE BEAC in 2018-2019 and Russia up to 2019. After Sweden, SHE will be co-chaired by Finland and Russia.
- G)** Reports and recommendations from SHE will be submitted to the WGE for approval.

6.3. 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, such as the Supporting Activities, to be financed, inter alia, by NEFCO BHSF. Projects and activities in the Work programme will be addressed as time, resources and opportunity permit.

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8. 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 = 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 (managed by NEFCO)
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 17 th , 2010.
Supporting Activity	A specific activity or set of activities agreed by SHE to facilitate or assist in the hot spots exclusion work. May be funded by BHSF.
TEC:	Technical Expert Committee
TF:	The Ad hoc Task Force on Elaboration of Procedures and Criteria for Exclusion of Barents Environmental "Hot Spots"

ANNEX A

LIST OF SHE ACTIVITIES 2018-2019

This list presents the activities to be conducted by SHE during the Swedish chairmanship in order to achieve the priorities or programme objectives set in section 5.

For each of the SHE activities presented below, the lead partner and preferred implementation dates are indicated (Q = quarter of the year). The lead partner is supposed to initiate and steer the respective activity, though with assistance from the other partners.

<u>Meetings etc (overarching)</u>	<u>LEAD</u>	<u>TIME</u>
1) Kick-Off Meeting to agree on the WP and schedule	SE	March 2018
2) SHE Meetings (by telephone or physical in connection with WGE, HEG or other activities)	SE	Continuously
3) SHE-HEG Meetings (preferably in all five regions)	RU	Q2-Q3 2018 Q2-Q3 2019
4) Preparations for and Execution of Ministerial Meeting	SE+RU	Q3-Q4 2019
<u>Administrating Supporting Activities (see Appendix B) (aiming at P1, P2, P3 and P4):</u>		
5) Initiating Support Activities	SE	Q2-Q4 2018
6) Further development, Implementation and Reporting on Supporting Activities	NEFCO	Q3-Q4 2018 Q3-Q4 2019
<u>Administrate remaining Fast Track Exclusions (aiming at P1)</u>		
7) Assess S&A reports	RU	Q3-Q4 2018 Q1-Q2 2019
8) Assess Exclusion Applications	RU	Q2-Q3 2019
<u>Refinement of the SHE Work incl. review of the Exclusion Procedure (aiming at P5)</u>		
9) Coordinate the review and up-date Guidelines for Step 3, etc.	NO	Q2-Q4 2018
10) Coordinate the review of the Exclusion Process and elaborate up-dates in line with new Russian legislation	FI	Q4 2018 Q1-Q2 2019
<u>Outreach Activities (overarching)</u>		
11) Administrate documents and web-site	IBS	Continuously
12) Communication work	IBS+SE+RU	Q3-Q4 2018 Q3-Q4 2019

ANNEX B

INDICATIVE LIST OF SHE SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES 2018-2019

This Indicative List of SHE Supporting Activities is a further developed version of the document elaborated till and adopted during the Norwegian chairmanship (SHE Meeting #59) and should serve as a guidance for as well SHE, HEGs and NEFCO for which Supporting Activities to chose between for different branches, and hot spots, based in particular on the prioriites of the HEGs and the hot spots owners. Through brief 1-page Synopsises, SHE during its operative work may give some further guidance to this list, but the details of each particular SHE Supporting Activity by necessity has to be outlined jointly by the HEGs and the respective hotspot owners with support from NEFCO.

Supporting Activities for promotion of BAT-based Action Projects (aiming at P1 and P3):

- 1) a) BAT Training for Managers (O1) (New)
b) BAT Training for Experts (O1)
- 2) Branch-Specific Seminars (O1) for capacity building on Russian BREFs, BAT and BEP incl. Nordic Experience and Technical Innovations, regarding (e.g.): (Previous 2)
 - a) Pulp and Paper
 - b) Water and Waste Water Treatment
 - c) Heating Plants
 - d) Mining and Metallurgy
 - e) Waste Management
- 3) Branch-Specific Study Tours (O1), regarding (e.g.): (New)
 - a) Pulp and Paper?
 - b) Water and Waste Water Treatment?
 - c) Heating Plants?
 - d) Mining and Metallurgy?
 - e) Waste Management?
- 4) Training in BAT-based Permit Granting leading towards Agreed Criteria (Step 3) at selected Pilot Plants (e.g.) (O1, O2, O4): (Previous 3)
 - a) Pulp and Paper?
 - b) Water and Waste Water Treatment?
 - c) Heating Plants?
 - d) Mining and Metallurgy?
- 5) Drafting of Environmental Efficiency Plans for Pilot Plants (Step 4) (Special case of previous 1b)

Supporting Activities for promotion of actions at other hotspots prioritized for Full Track Exclusions (aiming at P1 and P4)

- 6) Support in Elaboration and Refinement of Screening & Analysis Reports (Step 2) (Previous 1a)
- 7) Determiniation of Specific Criteria (Step 3) (New)
- 8) Support in Drafting of Action Plans (Step 4) (Previous 1b)
- 9) Support in Execution of Action Plans (Step 6) (Previous 1c)

Other Supporting Activities

- 10) Voluntary Inventories of climate impact and possible remediation actions, using approved Russian methodologies (rev. of previous 1d)
- 11) Support in Progress Assessment and Communication at Hot Spots selected for Full Track Exclusion (Previous 1e)