

REGIONAL PROFILE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS, TO BE USED IN BPAN PROJECT	
The draft reporting framework facilitates capturing the progress in completing assessments on 13 key goals of the program of work on protected areas and specific actions taken to implement the results of those assessments, in order to indicate the status of implementation. Progress in completing these assessments is measured from 0-4 (0 – no progress; 1 – planning phase; 2 – initial progress; 3 – substantial progress; 4 – nearly or fully completed).	
COUNTRY/region:	RUSSIAN FEDERATION/Republic of Karelia
Name of person completing survey:	Kiprukhin, Ivan Vladimirovich
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Date survey completed:	10th October, 2011
Please briefly describe who was involved in gathering information for this survey	Kiprukhin, Ivan, Ministry of Nature Management and Ecology of the Republic of Karelia; Mikhaleva, Elena, Directorate of Regional Protected Areas of the Republic of Karelia; Belousova, Elena, Vodlozero National Park.
1) Has a multi-stakeholder advisory committee been formed to implement the PoWPA?	No
2) Is there an action plan for implementing the PoWPA?	No
3) If yes, please provide a URL (or attach a pdf) of the strategic action plan:	-
4) If yes, which is the lead agency responsible for implementing the action plan?	-
5) If not, are the PoWPA actions included in other biodiversity-related action plans? (please provide a URL or attachment if so)	-

I.1 To establish and strengthen national and regional systems of protected areas integrated into a global network as a contribution to globally agreed goals	
1) What progress has been made in assessing the representativeness, comprehensiveness and ecological gaps of your protected area network?	I
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the gap assessment report:	-
3) Do you have specific targets and indicators for the protected area system?	Yes
4) If yes, please provide a URL (or attach a pdf) of the targets and indicators:	-
5) What actions have been taken to improve the ecological representativeness of the protected area network? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Protected land area	4,5% of the total area of the Republic of Karelia (2,5 % - federal protected areas; 2% - regional protected areas)
Protected sea area	Protected areas on the White Sea and lake shores: 0,77% of the total area of the Republic of Karelia; 38,6 % of the total area of regional protected areas
Proposed or planned PAs	In progress: - Regional protected areas – 0,3% of the total area of the Republic of Karelia (Gridino landscape reserve 43 800 ha; Kumi-Porog natural monument 3 600 ha); - Federal protected areas – 0,85 % of the total area of the Republic of Karelia (planned Ladoga Skerries National Park 152 800 ha)

Promoted an array of different types of protected areas (e.g., different IUCN Categories, CCAs (Community Conserved Areas) etc)	I
Other actions to improve the representativeness and comprehensiveness of the network	<p>Proposals to improve the ecological representativeness of the regional protected area network are presented in the transactions of the national scientific and practical conference “Protected areas in the 21st Century: current state and perspectives for development” (Petrozavodsk, 1-3 June 2011).</p> <p>Report of the federal target programmes “Ecology and natural resources in the Republic of Karelia (2004-2010)” and “Inventories of regional protected areas in the Republic of Karelia (2007-2009)”.</p> <p>Seminars and workshops in the frameworks of the international projects “Development of the regional protected area network in northwest Russia” and “Gap analysis of the protected area network in Murmansk, Leningrad, Arkhangelsk and Vologda Regions, Republic of Karelia and the City of St Petersburg”.</p>

I.2 To integrate protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function	
1) What progress has been made in assessing protected area landscape and seascape connectivity?, see: http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-44-en.pdf	I
What progress has been made in assessing protected area landscape and seascape sectoral integration?	
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of protected area connectivity and sectoral integration:	Made for cultural landscapes
3) What actions have been taken to improve protected area connectivity and sectoral integration? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Changed the legal status and/or governance in key connectivity areas	-
Created new protected areas in key connectivity areas	-
Improved natural resource management to improve connectivity	-
Designated connectivity corridors and/or buffers	-
Created market incentives to promote connectivity	-
Changed awareness of key stakeholders in key connectivity areas	-
Improved laws and policies within or around key connectivity areas	-
Restored degraded areas in key connectivity areas	-
Changed land use planning, zoning and/or buffers in key connectivity areas	-
Removed barriers to connectivity and ecological functioning	-
Integrated protected areas into poverty reduction strategies	-
Other actions to improve connectivity and integration	-

I.3 To establish and strengthen regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighboring protected areas across national boundaries	
1) What progress has been made in identifying conservation priorities and opportunities for establishing transboundary protected areas and regional networks?	I
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of opportunities for transboundary protected areas and regional networks.	-
3) What actions have been taken to strengthen the regional protected area network and foster transboundary PAs? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Created transboundary protected area/s	-
Contributed to the creation of regional-scale conservation corridors	-
Participated in the establishment of regional networks	-
Created enabling policies to allow for transboundary protected areas, such as Green belt, park to park etc.	-
Established a multi-country/regional coordination mechanism	-
Other actions to foster regional networks and transboundary areas	<p>In 2007 the Government of the Republic of Karelia approved the Scheme of Spatial Planning of the Republic of Karelia. All proposed regional protected areas are listed in this document. In 2008 the implementation plan for the Scheme of Spatial Planning of the Republic of Karelia was approved. It lists the protected areas that will be established in the first phase of the Scheme of Spatial Planning by 2015.</p> <p>In 2008 the Voinitsa landscape reserve (zakaznik) was established in the Kalevala municipality, close to the Finnish border.</p> <p>The main tasks, principles and criteria for the establishment of the network of regional protected areas in the boreal forest region were discussed, and the importance of international cooperation in nature protection was emphasized, in the conference "Protected areas in the 21st Century: current state and perspectives for development" (Petrozavodsk, 1-3 June 2011).</p>

I.4 To substantially improve site-based protected area planning and management	
1) What progress has been made in developing protected area management plans?	STATUS: 2 The basic structure of management plans for protected areas and proposals for specific parts of the management plans have been prepared.
1) What percentage of your protected areas has an adequate management plan?	0,7%
2) What percentage of the total surface area of protected areas does the management plan(s) cover?	
3) Please provide a URL (or pdf attachment) of a recent example of a participatory, science-based management plan	-
4) What actions have been taken to improve protected area management planning? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Developed guidelines and tools for developing management plans	The general development plan for the Vodlozero National Park is in line with the objectives, functions and principles of Biosphere Reserves as well as the criteria for their nomination by UNESCO.

<p>Provided training and/or technical support in management planning</p>	<p>With the aim of exchanging experiences in the management of protected areas, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation has organized study tours for directors and staff of Russian and Swedish protected areas (Project NC-04).</p> <p>International scientific and practical conference «Protected areas in the 21st Century: current state and perspectives for development» (Petrozavodsk, 1-3 June 2011).</p>
<p>Developed management plans for protected areas</p>	<p>Management plan and strategic development plan for the Vodlozero National Park;</p> <p>The general development plan for the Vodlozero National Park has been prepared in accordance with the Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves. The contents of the general development plan are in line with the criteria – including goals, functions and principles – for Biosphere Reserves.</p> <p>In progress – Development strategies for the Vodlozero National Park and the revival of the cultural heritage of Vodlozerie.</p> <p>In 2008 – Development strategy for the Paanajärvi National Park.</p>
<p>Do you have good scientific basis of existing management plans</p>	<p>In 2011 the Vodlozero National Park was assessed for the status of biosphere reserve. According to the evaluation, the objectives, functions and principles of the national park are in accordance with the UNESCO criteria for biosphere reserves.</p>
<p>Conducted protected area resource inventories</p>	<p>In 2007-2009 inventories of regional protected areas in the Republic of Karelia were conducted in the framework of the federal target programme “Ecology and natural resources in the Republic of Karelia (2004-2010)”.</p> <p>In the Vodlozero National Park, inventories cover different habitats, including forests, mires, meadows and aquatic ecosystems, as well as groups of plants, lichens and fungi. There has been regular monitoring of mammals and birds since 1992, fish since 1994 and forests since 1998.</p>
<p>Other actions to improve management planning</p>	<p>Seminars and workshops in the framework of international projects “Development of the regional protected area network in northwest Russia” and “Gap analysis of the protected area network in Murmansk, Leningrad, Arkhangelsk and Vologda Regions, Republic of Karelia and the City of St Petersburg”.</p> <p>In order to maintain protected regimes of several nature reserves (zakazniks) and one natural monument, the following inventories have been conducted:</p> <p>How do protected regimes and demands of nature protection legislation are implemented?</p> <p>Which parts of the PAs are most often visited, and which parts are avoided by the visitors? (recreational use of PAs).</p> <p>As a result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations on creation of nature trails, walking paths, shelters and fire places for tourists were prepared. - Negotiations concerning ecological education with local people, visitors, organizations and individual enterprises acting on PAs’ territories. - Negotiations with local administrations concerning nature reserves (zakazniks) on their territories. - Recommendations on PAs’ management, implementation of protected regimes and their optimization. - Proposals for the involvement of local people and local governments in the management of protected areas and the enforcement of special protection regimes <p>Every five years, the Institute of Economics of the Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences conducts socio-economic research in the Vodlozero Biosphere Reserve.</p>

I.5 To prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to protected areas	
1) What progress has been made in assessing the status of protected area threats, and opportunities for mitigation, prevention and restoration?	STATUS: 2
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of the status of threats and opportunities for mitigation, prevention and restoration.	
3) What actions have been taken to mitigate or prevent protected area threats, or restore degraded areas? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Changed the status and/or governance type of a protected area	The management of nature parks has been moved to a department within the Directorate of Regional Protected Areas of the Republic of Karelia. Vodlozero National Park retains the status of Biosphere Reserve. A buffer zone is being created around the Vodlozero National Park. (The process is nearly completed.)
Improved staffing numbers and/or skills to prevent and mitigate threats	Directorate of regional protected areas in the Republic of Karelia has been established.
Included measures to address threats in a management plan	-
Improved management practices to prevent or mitigate threats	The Kizhski nature reserve (zakaznik) has moved under the management of the Vodlozero National Park. The number of staff has increased respectively. The Olonetsky nature reserve (zakaznik) has moved under the management of the Nizhnesvirski Strict Nature Reserve (zapovednik).
Increased threat mitigation funding	Yes, due to the establishment of the Directorate of Regional Protected Areas of the Republic of Karelia.
Developed a plan to address the impacts of climate change	-
Changed market incentives to reduce or prevent threats	Socio-economic development strategy for the Republic of Karelia until 2020 (Directive № 1755-IV3C of the legislative assembly of the Republic of Karelia from 24th June 2010); Developing a network of protected areas is one of the main tasks in environmental safety of the Republic.
Improved monitoring and detection of threats	-
Evaluated the efficiency of threat-related actions	-
Improved public awareness and behavior regarding threats	Environmental education activities; Public hearings, meetings and protected area visitor surveys; Working meetings with local governments and negotiations with local people and businesses operating in protected areas; Proposals for the involvement of local people and governments in the management of protected areas and the enforcement of special protection regimes. Funding for these activities comes from the annual event "March of the parks" as well as environmental camps in the protected areas. Information signs have been placed along the borders of regional protected areas as well as the nearest cities and villages. During the process of establishing new protected areas, local people are informed in public hearings in the municipalities. All information concerning protected areas is also published in newspapers. The administration of the Valaam Nature Park organises excursions, environmental events and ecological courses.
Changed laws and policies related to threats	-

Restored degraded areas	-
Developed and/or implemented strategies to mitigate threats	In 2007 the Government of the Republic of Karelia approved the Scheme of Spatial Planning of the Republic of Karelia for the Republic of Karelia. All proposed regional protected areas are listed in this document. In 2008 the implementation plan for the Scheme of Spatial Planning of the Republic of Karelia was approved. It lists the protected areas that will be established in the first phase of the Scheme of Spatial Planning by 2015.
Other actions to mitigate and prevent threats	<p>Special protection regimes, borders and areas of 25 wetland natural monuments, five botanical natural monuments and one landscape reserve.</p> <p>Regulations for six nature reserves (zakazniks): 2 botanical nature reserves, 3 mire reserves and 1 landscape reserves.</p> <p>Monitoring compliance with special protection regimes and environmental legislation; monitoring visitor use in accessible parts of protected areas;</p> <p>Proposals for creating nature trails, routes, walking paths, camping sites etc.;</p> <p>Cooperation in natural resource management and protection between different agencies.</p>

2.1 To promote equity and benefit-sharing	
1) What progress has been made in assessing the equitable sharing of costs and benefits of establishing protected areas?	STATUS: I
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of equitable sharing of costs and benefits of establishing protected areas.	-
3) What actions have been taken to improve equitable benefits sharing? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Developed compensation mechanisms	-
Other actions to strengthen equitable benefit-sharing	-
4) What progress has been made in assessing protected area governance?	STATUS I
5) What percentage of protected areas has been assigned an IUCN category?	-
6) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a pdf) of the assessment of protected area governance:	
7) What actions have you taken to improve and diversify governance types? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Created new protected areas with innovative forms of governance, such as community conserved areas	-
According to IUCN guidelines reference...	-
Changed laws or policies to enable new governance types	-

2.2 To enhance and secure involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders	
1) What is the status of participation of indigenous and local communities and other key stakeholders in key protected area decisions?	STATUS: I
2) What actions have been taken to improve indigenous and local community participation? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Assessed opportunities and needs for local community participation in key protected area decisions	Environmental education activities, including: - Public hearings, meetings and protected area visitor surveys; - Working meetings with local governments and negotiations with local people and businesses operating in protected areas; - Proposals for the involvement of local people and local governments in the management of protected areas and the enforcement of special protection regimes Every five years, the Institute of Economics of the Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences conducts socio-economic research in the Vodlozero Biosphere Reserve.
Improved laws, policies and/or practices to promote participation	Regulations for conducting public hearings in municipalities have been developed and approved.
Developed policies for prior informed consent for resettlement	-
Improved mechanisms for participation of indigenous and local communities	A legal act has been drafted to establish a public environmental council under the Head of the Republic of Karelia. The public environmental council has been created under the head of the Petrozavodsk municipality.
Increased participation of indigenous and local communities in key decisions	During the process of establishing new protected areas, local people are informed in public hearings in the municipalities. All information concerning protected areas is also published in newspapers. Cooperation agreement on the social and economic development of the Vodlozero National Park between the administration of the Pudozh region, Kuganavolok village and the Vodlozero National Park.
Other actions to promote participation	Involvement of local people and businesses (organizations and individual enterprises) in the enforcement of special protection regimes in protected areas (through agreements). Improvement works in protected areas, most popular among tourists.

3.1 To provide an enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for protected areas	
1) What progress has been made in assessing the policy environment for creating and managing protected areas?	STATUS: I
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the assessment of the policy environment:	-
3) What actions have been taken to improve the protected area policy environment? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Harmonized sectoral policies or laws to strengthen management effectiveness	In 2007, the Government of the Republic of Karelia approved the Scheme of Spatial Planning of the Republic of Karelia. All proposed regional protected areas are listed in this document. In 2008 the implementation plan for the Scheme of Spatial Planning of the Republic of Karelia was approved. It lists the protected areas that will be established in the first phase of the Scheme of Spatial Planning by 2015.
Integrated PA values and ecological services into the national economy	The management of the Valaam Nature Park organises excursions, environmental events and ecological courses.

Developed incentive mechanisms for private protected areas	-
Developed positive market incentives to support protected areas	Socio-economic development strategy for the Republic of Karelia until 2020 (Directive № 1755-IV3C of the legislative assembly of the Republic of Karelia from 24th June 2010); Developing a network of protected areas is one of the main tasks in environmental safety of the Republic. Re-organisation of federal environmental organisations (from federal government agencies into federal governing bodies) in order to streamline management activities, aiming at generating additional income for people and businesses
Removed perverse incentives that hinder effective management	-
Cooperated with neighboring countries on transboundary areas	In the framework of the Finnish-Russian projects “Gap analysis of the protected area network in Murmansk, Leningrad, Arkhangelsk and Vologda Regions, Republic of Karelia and the City of St Petersburg” and “Development of regional protected areas in northwest Russia”
Other actions to improve the policy environment	“Programme of exchange of experiences between directors and staff of Swedish and Russian protected areas” (Project NC-04) has been implemented under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.
4) What progress has been made in assessing the contribution of protected areas to the local and national economies?	STATUS: I
5) What progress has been made in assessing the contribution of protected areas to the Millennium Development Goals?	STATUS: I
6) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) with the assessment of the contribution of protected areas to the local and national economy and to the Millennium Development Goals:	-
7) What actions have been taken to value the contribution of protected areas? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Created finance mechanisms linked to protected area values (e.g., payment for ecosystem services)	-

3.2 To build capacity for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas	
1) What progress has been made in assessing protected area capacity needs?	STATUS: I
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the assessment of capacity needs:	-
3) What actions have been taken to strengthen protected area capacity? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Created a professional development program for protected area staff	Exchange of experiences between directors and staff of Swedish and Russian protected areas in the framework of Swedish-Russian cooperation; Participation in the project «Programme of exchange of experiences between directors and staff of Swedish and Russian protected areas» The project “Endangered masterpieces” with the support of the Fund for monuments of wooden architecture; In the framework of the project, a study tour on tourism was organized for the staff of the Vodlozero National Park in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, supported by the European Union.

Trained protected area staff in key skills	Training courses in the Vodlozero National Park
Increased the number of protected area staff	Directorate of Regional Protected Areas of the Republic of Karelia has been created. The Kizhy federal nature reserve (zakaznik) has moved under the management of the Vodlozero National Park. The number of staff has increased respectively.
Other actions to improve capacity	In 2010 the project "Field guides to wildlife" was implemented in the Vodlozero National Park with the support of WWF. It has become a year-round permanent tutorial for students and tourists.

3.3 To develop, apply and transfer appropriate technologies for protected areas	
1) What progress has been made in assessing the needs for relevant and appropriate technology for protected area management?	
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attached a PDF) of the assessment of the technology needs:	-
3) What actions have been taken to improve the access to and use of relevant and appropriate technology? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Developed and/or used appropriate technology for habitat restoration and rehabilitation	
Developed and/or used appropriate technology for resource mapping, biological inventories and rapid assessments	The vegetation of the Vodlozero National Park has been mapped using GIS. Methodological guide to biodiversity inventory in the Vodlozero National Park has been used in geobotanical studies as well as monitoring the current vegetation and mapping the results in GIS.
Developed and/or used appropriate technology for monitoring	Scientific research and ecological monitoring in the Vodlozero National Park are conducted by the park's scientific department in cooperation with the Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences and other research institutes in the Republic of Karelia and other Russian regions.
Encouraged technology transfer and cooperation between protected areas and agencies	Seminars, workshops and stakeholder meetings in the framework of ongoing programs and projects (e.g. "Programme of exchange of experiences between directors and staff of Swedish and Russian protected areas")
Other actions to improve access to and use of appropriate technologies	Websites have been created for the Vodlozero National Park and the Association of nature reserves and national parks in northwest Russia.

3.4 To ensure financial sustainability of protected areas and national and regional systems of protected areas	
1) What progress has been made in assessing protected area finance needs?	STATUS: I
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the assessment of finance needs:	-
3) What progress has been made in developing and implementing a sustainable finance plan that incorporates a diversified portfolio of financial mechanisms?	STATUS: 0
4) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the sustainable finance plan:	-
5) What actions have been taken to improve the sustainable finance of your protected areas? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Developed new protected area funding mechanisms	-
Developed protected area business plan or plans	Development strategy for the Vodlozero National Park and the revival of the cultural heritage of Vodlozerie (2010-2012); Development strategy for the Paanajärvi National Park (2008).

Improved resource allocation procedures	-
Provided financial training and support	-
Improved accounting and monitoring	-
Improved financial planning capacity	-
Removed legal barriers to sustainable finance	-
Other actions to improve sustainable finance	-

3.5 To strengthen communication, education and public awareness	
1) What progress have you made in conducting a public awareness and communication campaign/program?	STATUS: 2
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the public awareness and communication plan:	-
3) What actions have you taken to improve public awareness and strengthen education programs? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Identify core themes for education, awareness and communication programs relevant to protected areas	Research on biodiversity, vulnerability of island ecosystems and recreational use of nature has been conducted in nature parks. Ongoing programmes include “Protected Vodlozero”, “Flora and fauna of the Vodlozero National Park”, “Conservation of cultural and historical heritage”, “Days of the ecological calendar”, “Ecological modus vivendi”, “Regional ethnography”
Conducted an awareness campaign on the value of protected areas to local and national economies	Implementation of the project “Development of economic activities of local people and the potential for additional income for businesses associated with the environment” lead by EcoCentre “Zapovedniks” (strict nature reserves).
Conducted an awareness campaign on the value of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation	International festival of environmental films, showing educational films on forests and climate change as well as pollution and its impacts on climate
Established or strengthen communication mechanisms with key target groups, including indigenous and local communities	Guided tours, seminars, round table discussions, debates, classes and lectures, role play, films, competitions, local history studies for local schools, summer camps and environmental expeditions in the Vodlozero National Park
Developed protected area curricula with educational institutions, regarding to environmental education	Courses for students and schoolchildren, including “Regional ethnography” for primary schools, “Ecology and recreation” for secondary school field studies and “Nature of the Valaam archipelago” for anyone interested Ecological information for the residents of Valaam Island and publications in the local newspaper “The Light of Valaam” once or twice a year, in cooperation with the Valaam cultural centre Training seminars, lectures in schools and preschools; Project “School in the national park”, national park days in the school of the Kuganavolok village, creation of ecological trails in the Vodlozero National Park; Environmental studies in the Vodlozero National Park for primary and secondary schools, higher education and other educational institutions
Produced public outreach materials	In the framework of ecological education: -Booklets and leaflets about the Vodlozero National Park; a volume of scientific papers and books on cultural and historical heritage - Guides to nature trails and other information material about the flora and fauna of the Vodlozero National Park - Collection of folklore “Vodlozerskoe bylye” - Information leaflets for the “Days of the ecological calendar”, postcards, calendars etc.
Conducted public outreach programs, such as Junior ranger, Europarc	Articles in international, national and local newspapers; radio and TV programmes International film festival “EcoCup” in the Vodlozero National Park

Other actions to improve communication, education and awareness	<p>Environmental education activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public hearings (open discussions with local people, municipalities and other communities about borders, protection regime and other specific characteristics of planned PA), meetings and protected area visitor surveys; - Working meetings with local governments and negotiations with local people and businesses operating in protected areas; - Proposals for the involvement of local people and local governments in the management of protected areas and the enforcement of special protection regimes <p>Practical courses in the ecological summer camp “The green Island” (Valaam)</p> <p>Seminars for schoolteachers and the environmental education departments of federal and regional protected areas</p> <p>The public environmental council has been created under the head of the Petrozavodsk municipality.</p> <p>A legal act has been drafted to establish a public environmental council under the head of the Republic of Karelia.</p>
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4.1 To develop and adopt minimum standards and best practices for national and regional protected area systems	
1) What progress has been made in developing best practices and minimum standards?	STATUS: I
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of examples of protected area best practices and minimum standards.	-
3) Is there a system in place for monitoring protected area outcomes achieved in line with the program of work on protected areas	No
4) What actions have been taken related to best practices and minimum standards? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Developed standards and best practices for protected area establishment and selection	In 2007 the Government of the Republic of Karelia approved the Scheme of Spatial Planning of the Republic of Karelia. Recommendations for the establishment of protected areas in the first and second phases have been prepared in meetings and consultations between different agencies.
Developed standards and best practices for protected area management planning	Recommendations for the management of regional protected areas in the framework of the Finnish-Russian project «Development of regional protected areas in northwest Russia»
Developed standards and best practices for protected area management	Recommendations for the management of regional protected areas in the framework of the Finnish-Russian project «Development of regional protected areas in northwest Russia»
Collaborated with other Parties and relevant organizations to test, review and promote best practices and minimum standards, such as Emerald Network, Natura 2000, BPAN	Cooperation with the Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg State University, Scientific research centre “Valaam” etc. Interdepartmental cooperation on the management and protection of natural resources
Other actions related to best practices and minimum standards	

4.2 To evaluate and improve the effectiveness of protected areas management	
1) What progress has been made in assessing the management effectiveness of protected areas?	STATUS: 2
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of the assessment of protected area management effectiveness:	
3) In what percentage of the total area of protected areas has management effectiveness been assessed?	45 % of the total area of regional protected areas in the Republic of Karelia (eight protected areas cover 165 000 ha in total, equaling 20% of the total area of protected areas in the Republic of Karelia.
4) In what percentage of the number of protected areas has management effectiveness been assessed?	5,6 % (eight regional protected areas)
5) What actions have been taken to improve management processes within protected areas? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Improved management systems and processes	The Directorate of Regional Protected Areas of the Republic of Karelia has been created. Its main duties are the management of regional protected areas in compliance with their protection regimes.
Improved law enforcement	New directives on the borders and protection regimes of regional protected areas
Improved stakeholder relations	Negotiations with organizations operating in protected areas or their immediate vicinity (in the framework of ecological education)
Improved visitor management	Protected area visitor surveys (in the framework of ecological education)
Improved management of natural and cultural resources	Competent authorities in the management of protected areas must approve all project documents of major construction, repair and reconstruction, as well as industrial forest management and mining plans.
Other actions to improve management effectiveness	The scientific department of the Vodlozero National Park has prepared several publications, including: - a textbook on forest monitoring in protected areas of northwest Russia (on the model of the Vodlozero National Park); - a monograph "The traditional life of Russians in the Vodlozero area"; - a monograph "Birds of the White Sea-Lake Onega watershed" as a result of long-term monitoring
Have you submitted management effectiveness results to UNEP-WCMC's WDPA	-

4.3 To assess and monitor protected area status and trends	
1) What progress has been made in establishing an effective monitoring system of protected area coverage, status and trends?	STATUS: 2
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of a recent monitoring report.	-
3) What actions have been taken to improve protected area monitoring? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Assessed the status and trend of key biodiversity	In 2007-2009 inventories of regional protected areas in the Republic of Karelian were conducted in the framework of the federal target programme "Ecology and natural resources in the Republic of Karelia (2004-2010)".
Monitored the coverage of protected areas	Land management in the Vodlozero National Park, including the definition of its borders. Defining borders and areas of nature reserves (zakazniks) and natural monuments. Ecological and economic justification for the establishment of the Ladoga Skerries National Park, including its borders and area.

Developed or improved a biological monitoring program	<p>Programme on biodiversity monitoring and indicators in the Valaam Nature Park in cooperation with the Scientific research centre "Valaam".</p> <p>Scientific research and ecological monitoring in the Vodlozero National Park are conducted by the park's scientific department in cooperation with the Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences and other research institutes from the Republic of Karelia, Archangelsk Region and other Russian regions. The research focuses on old-growth forests and landscape and ecological planning from the northwest Russian perspective.</p> <p>Modern scientific research is conducted in the framework of the long-term research programme "Spatial and temporal organization of natural systems and the basis for sustainable development in the Vodlozero Biosphere Reserve".</p>
Developed a database for managing protected area data	In progress
Revised management plan based on monitoring and/or research results	Protection regimes are developed based on the results of inventories and monitoring of protected areas.
Changed management practices based on the results of monitoring and/or research	Part of the management of protected areas has been delegated to the Directorate of regional protected areas of the Republic of Karelia.
Developed geographic information systems (GIS) and/or remote sensing technologies	Collecting and managing information using GIS
Other monitoring activities	-

4.4 To ensure that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and protected area systems	
1) What progress has been made in developing an appropriate science and research program to support protected area establishment and management?	STATUS: I
2) If available, please indicate the URL (or attach a PDF) of a recent research report:	-
3) What actions have been taken to improve protected area research and monitoring? Please check all that apply, and provide a brief description:	
ACTION	CURRENT STATUS
Identified key research needs	Hydrological characteristics of the Republic of Karelia; Sustainable use of (water) protection forests and their importance in species protection; Sustainable forest management
Assessed the status and trends of key biodiversity	In the framework of ongoing programmes and projects, including international projects
Developed or improved a biological monitoring program	
Conducted protected area research on key socio-economic issues	Assigned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, the company "Rosgiproles" has prepared the ecological and economic justifications for the establishment of the Ladoga Skerries National Park.
Promoted dissemination of protected area research	Scientific publications, TV and other media, conferences, seminars etc.
Revised management plan based on monitoring and/or research results	The results of inventories in regional protected areas in the Republic of Karelia (2007 - 2009) have been used in the development of the management and protection regimes of protected areas. Borders and areas of several protected areas have been specified.
Other research and monitoring activities	Institutes of Karelian Research Center of Russian Academy of Sciences participated in, altogether, 30 international projects, of these 50% were aimed nature protection.