

Economic dimension of biodiversity in Russia

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A - National Regulations concerning impact on Biodiversity and their implementation.

Ministry of Natural Resources and ecology of Russian Federation (<http://www.mnr.gov.ru/>) is a federal subject of the executive power with functions of development of state politics and regulation in sphere of investigation, use, reproduction and protection of natural resources, including whole aspects of biodiversity, its conservation and protected natural territories.

The ministry of natural resources and ecology of RF is guided by the Constitution of Russian Federation, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, appointments of the President of Russian Federation and Government of Russian Federation, international agreements of Russian Federation.

1- In your country does it exist national regulations concerning

1.1. Biodiversity impact assessments? If yes, for which type of activities? Industry? Infrastructures (roads, dams etc.)? Agriculture? Else ?

1.1. Concerning any impact on biodiversity in Russian Federation is exist legislative regulation. Ministry defines the order of examinations on industrial safety and requirements to registration of the conclusion of the specified examination. The same rules functioning for different kinds of human activity – energetic, mining, water power stations, building e t.c. Ecological monitoring of environmental quality also organizing by Ministry and it's local divisions. Federal service on supervision in natural resources usage headed by O.L.Mitvol (<http://control.mnr.gov.ru/part/?pid=607>) is executive official power under control of Ministry of Natural Resources and ecology. In the field of fauna resources usage main control functions also are carry out by Russian Agriculture supervision of Russian Ministry of agriculture (<http://fsvps.ru/fsvps/main.jsp? language=ru>).

1.2. Mitigation/compensation for biodiversity impact?

1.3. Are these regulations implemented? Who enforces this implementation?

Mitigation and compensation for biodiversity impact are under control of Federal service on supervision in the field of natural resources usage. This service and its local departments functioning in the frames of Russian Federation legislation can apply restrictive, precautionary and preventive or mitigation measures in the case of any Infringement of Federal laws in this field.

1.4. Does it exist any agency, public or private, to manage impact evaluations and/or compensations-mitigations (such as mitigation banking...)?

Actually there are no other serious organizations (public or private) that can effectively support financially compensation - mitigation except governmental structures.

B - Measures taken by companies (private or public) concerning Biodiversity conservation and research and National B&B

Measures that taken place for mitigation and/or compensation after biodiversity impact by private or state companies usually taken place after investigation of Federal service and it's conclusion about administrative or judicial responsibility of company. Public organizations can take an initiative for mitigation, but these measures are not significant without financial support.

2 - Do the companies in your country (list names for each question)

2.1. Have any accounting of their impacts on biodiversity?

Companies in Russian Federation have accounting of their impact on biodiversity, but as a rule it's compelled measures induced by administrative or judicial subjects after some accidents investigation. Some of Russian companies declared their environmental policy as a conception that corresponds to the requirements of sustainable development that mean minimization of environmental pollution and disturbance, usage of ecologically "clean" technologies, environmental restoration if it were disturbed e t.c. They actively supports principles of a Charter "Business and steady development", developed International trade chamber, and Code of the Responsibility accepted by the enterprises of a chemical industry.

It's possible to mention below the following: RAO "Gazprom", corporations PROMEC-HOLDING, OAO "Symbol", "Octel" company, Akzo Nobel company, FIAT company (<http://www.14000.ru/books/voluntary/app1.html>).

2.2. Which main measures have they taken to minimize their impacts?

The main measures that companies taken to minimize their impact are implementation of new technologies, or modernization of special equipment and facilities for industrial wastes recycling, purifying e t.c.

2.3. Do they contribute to the conservation of biodiversity? Through which types of actions ?

Unfortunately, development of the "wild market" in Russia during last 15 years and structural reorganizations of nature resources usage are not supporting effective measures directed on biodiversity conservation. Because of this:

- There is no positive experience of ecological regulation in these new conditions;
- New mechanisms for biodiversity conservation still are under construction;
- There is very few professional training of the experts - ecologists, which should supervise mitigation of disturbed biodiversity;
- Preventive measures against biodiversity loss mostly exception than rule;
- The resources for ecological restoration of disturbed biodiversity are not created.

So it's mostly looks like restoration measures after disturbance, pollution, accidents.

3 - Do you have any National or Regional Business & Biodiversity initiative? Who is managing this initiative? How is it regulated?

Some small steps in regional business and biodiversity initiative are related with usage of natural resources for hunting or fishing. Protection and funding on some hunting objects numbers support are exist in very restricted areas and for "useful" species only. Heads of some business companies are managing the initiative, because they're fond of hunting or fishing.

4 - Biodiversity research supported by private companies

There is no information on serious or any small biodiversity research that was supported by private companies.

3.1. Assess the existing or past research activities in partnership with the private sector and the public companies in the field of biodiversity

- For conservation in general,
- focused on the impacts of the companies activities and mitigation or restoration

By the reasons that were mentioned above there are no examples on private sector activities in the field of conservation, mitigation and restoration of biodiversity. There are some ideas in private business involvement in biodiversity conservation or mitigation, but only in the form of pilot projects that are just proposed:

<http://www.biodat.ru/db/mon/history.htm> <http://www.sci.aha.ru/ARC/C4.htm>

At 20th of december 2004 in office of The world Bank in Moscow was held round table "Ecological ratings as system of an estimation of efficiency of activity of the companies in Russia", that was organized by the International social-ecological union (<http://www.seu.ru/about> <http://www.seu.ru/documents/manifest.htm>) and Independent ecological rating agency.

The representatives of the companies mentioned below have taken part in work of a round table: RAO "Gazprom", "Surgutneftegas", "LUKOIL", The Petroleum company "UKOS", "Gorky car factory", "Nizhnekamskneftekhim", "Nizhny Tagil metallurgical factory", "TVEL", "UEC of Russia", "Rosneft", "SUAL HOLDING", "Uralvagonzavod", "Apatit", "GROUP CHTPF", "Akron", "Lebedinky MTC", news agency AK&M, ratings agencies PriceWaterhouseCoopers and "Ernst & Young", and also Ministry of economic development and trade of Russia. They have decided that - "for business favourably is to be ecologically responsible"... After this declaration pass about four years. Additional information – The international Social - ecological Union (<http://www.seu.ru/about> <http://www.seu.ru/documents/manifest.htm>), chairman of The international Social - ecological Union Svyatoslav Zabelin tel. +7 903 791 5909.

C - Ecological engineering

5.1. State of the art of Ecological engineering applied to industrial impact assessment and restoration / mitigation in your country

There are specializations in some Russian universities on a subject of ecological management and engineering. These specialties were founded in cooperation with Britain universities for example in Tomsy State University and some others. But it's too early to speak about art of Ecological engineering because there is no serious demand in state and private companies. The companies often need "specialists" for hiding of biodiversity loss from Federal service and their penalty. Unfortunately, that is more frequent practice. There are exist some companies as «Energocor-centre Engineering» (<http://www.energokor.ru/>) that work in the field of implementation of progressive technologies in electric power industry, ecological supervision and consulting, but it's too far from biodiversity mitigation. Private companies that are working in the field of ecological engineering, for example "ARS ecological engineering" (<http://www.arsspb.ru/>) in Saint Petersburg, mostly connected with problems of life quality standards, water resources usage, food quality. Another companies, as "Energy Ecology Engineering" (<http://www.npo-iem1.ru/rubrics/1136.shtml>) work with industrial gas wastes cleaning, or ecological audit. But this activity is not connected directly with biodiversity mitigation/restoration.

The list of the standards accepted in Russia in the field of ecological management and ecological audit:

ISO 14001	Environmental management systems — Specification with guidance for use.
ISO 14004	Environmental management systems — General guidelines on principles, systems and supporting techniques.
ISO 14010	Guidelines for environmental auditing — General principles.
ISO 14011	Guidelines for environmental auditing. – Audit procedures. – Auditing of environmental management systems.
ISO 14012	Guidelines for environmental auditing. – Qualification criteria for environmental auditors.
ISO 14020	Environmental labels and declarations. – General principles.
ISO 14031	Environmental management – Environmental performance evaluation – Guidelines (a draft).
ISO 14040	Environmental management – Life cycle assessment –

	Principles and framework.
ISO 14041	Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Goal and scope definition and inventory analysis.
ISO 14050	Environmental management – Vocabulary.

(WWW- version: <http://www.14000.ru/books/voluntary/app5.html>)

5.2. Please describe examples that could be emphasized during the November meeting

One of similar to business initiative - Centre on Bird of Pray Monitoring and Rehabilitation "Holsan" (<http://www.actinfo.ru/agricul/company/companycode=6404482>) headed by O.A.Svetlitsky registered as a noncommercial organization. The Centre is specialized in breeding and sale of birds of pray in the Ural region.

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