



Draft Minutes

Participants

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0. Opening

The ISIRA Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to the meeting. The participants of the meeting introduced themselves.

1. Russian IPY activities

Maxim Moskvalevsky provided an overview of the IPY program of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The program is available in printed form in Russian and an English summary will be made available.

Arkady Tishkov presented a summary of the Russian IPY activities. The full database with all Russian IPY Projects is available at the website of the Eurasian IPY Sub-Office in St. Petersburg (www.ipyeaso.aari.ru). The presentation is given in Annex 1.

2. Presentations of some recent and planned studies in the Russian Arctic within the frame of international projects

Ivan Senchenya presented an overview of the **UNEP/GEF Russian NPA-Arctic Project**. The project prepares a strategic action program on marine environment protection in the Arctic. Details can be found on the website (www.npa-arctic.ru).

Evgeny Kuznetsov provided an overview of the **UNEP/GEF Project ECORA** which is developing an integrated ecosystem management approach to conserve biodiversity and to minimize habitat fragmentation in three selected model areas in the Russian Arctic (www.ecoinfo.ru/ecora).

Tatyana Vlasova presented the **IPY Project CASEAS** (Circumpolar socio-environment assessment for sustainability: integration of science, traditional knowledge and education).

3. National reports

Brief updates on bilateral and multilateral activities were presented by the ISIRA members. The reports will be made available on the ISIRA website which will be set up under the IASC website (www.iasc.se).

The group agreed that the national reporting is very helpful and should be continued in the future. The information should be available on the web in a searchable database. A template will be developed for the next meeting.

Action: Rachold

4. The role of ISIRA

This agenda item included a brainstorming of the need for the ISIRA forum and its benefits for the Russian and international science community. Three main objectives for the future ISIRA were agreed upon:

- (A) **National Reporting** – The participants agreed that the national reports on bilateral and multilateral activities are very valuable and a searchable database will be developed and maintained by the ISIRA secretariat (see agenda item 3).

Action: Rachold and ISIRA Members

- (B) **Access to the Russian Arctic** – It was concluded that ISIRA should be a forum to discuss and support access to the Russian Arctic. A high-ranking representative of the Russian authority will be invited to next meeting to present and discuss rules and regulations for the access to the Russian Arctic with the ISIRA group.

Action: Tishkov

- (C) **Young Russian Scientists** – The participants agreed that ISIRA should play a role in supporting young Russian scientists. Three promising young Russian scientists will be invited to the next ISIRA meeting to present their projects and/or research ideas.

Action: Tishkov

- (D) **Ongoing Projects in the Russian Arctic** – The participants noted the progress in the implementation of the international UNEP/GEF projects in the Russian Arctic. Taking into account the importance of these science-based projects for the scientific community dealing with Arctic issues these long-term, multidisciplinary projects are invited to participate in future ISIRA meetings and to report on the further progress.

Action: Tishkov

5. Next Meeting

The next ISIRA will be held in Russia, October 2007.