

**Report of the Russian Federation on implementing the provisions of the
Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty
2006-2007
(in compliance with Article 17)**

An analysis of fulfilling the requirements of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (Protocol) is presented in the form of a structured Report on fulfilling the provisions of the Protocol itself and its Annexes (I-V) and covers the period of activity of the 52nd Russian Antarctic Expedition (2006 – 2007).

PROTOCOL

1. Legal and administrative actions to provide observance of the Protocol

In order to implement control for observance of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Roshydromet designated observers of the activity of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area for 2007 from the number of participants of the Russian Antarctic Expedition:

- Kiselev V.V. – Head of seasonal operations of the 52nd RAE – for the period 01.01.2006 to 07.04.2007;
- Savatyugin L.M. – Head of the wintering team of the 52st RAE – for the period 07.12.2006 to 31.05.2008.

The observers are guided in their activity by the Provision on the order of designating observers of the activity of the Russian individual persons and physical entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area and fulfilling the functions they are entrusted with, adopted by the Order of Roshydromet of 07.12.99 No. 139.

According to the Order of Roshydromet, responsible representatives of the Russian Federation in the Antarctic Treaty Area for 2007 were designated at all Russian Antarctic stations and aboard the research vessels:

- Panfilov A.V. – Head of Mirny Observatory of the 52nd RAE – in the operation area of Mirny Observatory;
- Zubkov V. M. – Head of Vostok station of the 52nd RAE - in the operation area of Vostok station;;
- Savchenko Ye. P. – Head of Novolazarevskaya station of the 52nd RAE - in the operation area of Novolazarevskaya station;
- Dorofeyev A.V. – Deputy Head of Novolazarevskaya station on the air field complex – in the airfield area of Novolazarevskaya station – from February 2007 to February 2008;
- Matveychev L.N. – Head of Progress station of the 52nd RAE - in the operation area of Progress station;
- Shmarin A.V. – Head of Bellingshausen Base of the 52nd RAE in the operation area of Bellingshausen Base;
- Soloviev V.D. - Head of the Molodezhnaya field base – in the operation area of the Molodezhnaya field base – from December 2006 to March 2007;
- Benevolensky S. Ye. - Head of the Soyuz field base – in the operation area of the Soyuz field base – from December 2006 to March 2007;
- Voronin V.R. – Deputy Head of Mirny Observatory on transport provision – in the area of sledge-caterpillar traverses Mirny – Vostok – from January 2007 to March 2008;

- Ivanov N.A. – Head of Druzhnaya-4 Base of the 52nd RAE in the operation area of Druzhnaya-4 Field Base;
- Viktorov V.A. – Captain of the R/V “Akademik Fedorov” of the 52nd RAE in the operation area of the R/V “Akademik Fedorov”;
- Gandyukhin V.V. – Head of the cruise of the R/V “Akademik Aleksander Karpinsky” - in the operation area of the R/V “Akademik Aleksander Karpinsky” from November 2006 to May 2007.

The Russian Federation representatives are designated annually and they use as guidance in their activity the Provision on the order of designating responsible representatives of the Russian Federation and fulfilling the responsibilities they are entrusted with.

The duties of responsible representatives include:

- control for observing the requirements of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty;
- checking that the Russian individual persons and legal entities have national permits for activity in the Antarctic Treaty Area;
- revealing inconsistency of the activity performed with the declared activity or the activity not envisaged in the issued national permit and undertaking measures up to its termination;
- prevention of the risks of occurrence of environmental emergencies;
- provision of the persons implementing the activity with necessary information on the issues of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, etc..;
- immediate notification about the occurrence of emergencies and (or) suspension of activity of the RAE administration and the Secretariat of the Commission on consideration of applications for the activity of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area and issuance of permits, located in Roshydromet;
- monthly reporting about undertaking the aforementioned measures, all visits to the area of responsibility, the Russian individual persons and legal entities having national permits, breaches revealed and guilty persons.

The information obtained was submitted to the Secretariat of the Commission on consideration of applications for activity in the Antarctic at Roshydromet. This information allows the Commission to control the activity of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area, make it more orderly and draw their attention to the need of obtaining a national permit for activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area.

For the period December 2006 to December 2007, the Commission issued 6 permits for implementing the activity in the Antarctic Treaty Area.

2. Plans of actions in emergency

All Russian marine ships that have a Permit for activity in the Antarctic also have the Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plans corresponding to the requirements of MARPOL 73/78.

The plans of action in emergency for the Russian Antarctic stations are available in the form of the approved instructions. Training exercises are undertaken on a periodical basis.

ANNEX I. Environmental Impact Assessment

3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

After issuance of the Decision of the Government of the Russian Federation of December 11, 1998 No. 1476 “On adoption of the Procedure for consideration and issuance of permits for activities of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area”, all kinds of activity in the Antarctic prior to their implementation must undergo the corresponding procedures. They are presented in the Regulations of the Commission for consideration of applications for activities of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area and issuance of conclusions on them. This Commission, based on the submitted documents (including the EIA), makes a decision about a possibility of issuing a permit for the activity.

The EIA preparation is a mandatory condition for obtaining a permit by individual persons and legal entities, including private and state organizations.

Thus in order to obtain a permit for the activity of the Russian Antarctic Expedition up to 2012, in compliance with Article 1 of Annex 1, the EIA of the ongoing activities of the Russian Antarctic Expedition was performed and the corresponding permit was obtained.

4. List of the Permits issued for activity in the Antarctic and the corresponding EIAs performed from December 2006 to December 2007

No. of permit, date of issuance	To whom it was granted	Type of activity	Area (route)	Period of validity
043 27.12.2006	Limited responsibility Society “Aviation enterprise “Gazpromavia”	Flights of airplane of type AN-74 to the runway of patriot Hills for the delivery of a group of officials in the framework of preparation for IPY 2007/2008	Antarctic region between the points Punta Arenas (Chile) and the air field in Patriot Hills	27 December 2006 – 20 January 2007
044 13.06.2007	Open Joint Stock company “Polar expedition”	Navigation in Antarctic waters of the passenger ship “Polar Pioneer” under the charter agreement	From 50 to 67 deg S and from 25 to 70 deg W	27 November 2007 – 20 March 2009
045 13.06.2007	Open Joint-Stock Company “Murmansk Shipping Company”	Activity of the M/V “Ivan Papanin” for supply of research stations in the Queen Maud Land area	Area of the Queen Maud Land	01 November 2007 – 01 May 2009
046 13.06.2007	SI “Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute” of Roshydromet	Installation of a panel house for ecological purpose at the Russian Antarctic station Bellingshausen	Bellingshausen station, King-George Island, the South Shetland Islands	15 June 2007 – 31 October 2007
047 05.10.2007	OJSC “Far Eastern Shipping Company”	Transportation of general cargo onboard the M/V “Amderma” for supply of the Antarctic station Halley (Great Britain) under the charter agreement	75 deg 37 min S, 26 deg 06 min E	01 December 2007 – 31 January 2008
048	SI “Arctic and Antarctic Research	Russian Antarctic Expeditions	– King-George Island, the South Shetland Islands	01 January 2008 – 31

29.12.2007	Institute of Roshydromet		(Bellingshausen station); – Queen Maud Land (Novolazarevskaya station); – Enderby Land (Molodezhnaya field base); – McRobertson Land (Soyuz field base); – Princess Elisabeth Land (Progress station, Druzhnaya-4 field base); – Queen Mary Land (Mirny station); – Antarctic Plateau (Vostok station); – Victoria Land (Leningradskaya field base); – Mary Bird Land (Russkaya field base); – the seas adjoining Antarctica.	December 2012
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5. Monitoring

In compliance with Article 5, Annex 1, monitoring of environmental key parameters is being carried out for assessing and checking the impact of implemented activity. During the 52nd RAE season, microbiological, lichenological and ornithological studies at the coastal stations were continued. An analysis of the data obtained allows us to assess the degree of anthropogenic environmental impact in these areas.

Anthropogenic impact on flora and vegetation

At Bellingshausen station, study of terrestrial flora and vegetation (lichen, bryophytes, fungi and algae) at the land surface free of snow and ice and sampling of terrestrial micro-fauna for a subsequent study at the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Science was undertaken.

It was noted that two main tendencies could be observed in the change and development of vegetation of the Fildes Peninsula. Due to a very strong anthropogenic impact – a large number of tourists, scientists and other visitors of the island, construction and road activities, the vegetation cover is being destroyed in the most visited places. The lichen communities are extremely sensitive and a long time is required for their reconstruction.

At the same time significant climate warming leads to an increase in the biomass of lichens in stable vegetation communities. Wide spreading of a vascular plant *Deschampsia Antarctica* on the Fildes Peninsula is evidence of the occurring warming event (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Underbrushes of *Deschampsia antarctica* and moss among the cliffs covered by crustose lichens at Cape Nebles Point in Collins Bay

Monitoring the numbers of bird populations in ASPA No. 27 “Haswell Island”

The results showed that the numbers of the populations of main bird species nesting in the territory of ASPA No.127 “Haswell Island” are at a relatively stable level during the last decade after a decrease in the numbers during the period 1970-1999.

ANNEX II. Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna

6. Exchange of information on flora and fauna

In compliance with Article 6, Annex 2:

a) No takings of animals or plants by RAE were undertaken during the reporting period.

7. Quantity and character of permits related to flora and fauna

During the reporting period, no permits related to flora and fauna were requested and issued.

ANNEX III. Waste Disposal and Waste Management

8. Preparation of the Waste Management Plans

The garbage disposal at the stations and onboard ships is made in strict compliance with the existing instructions that temporarily replace the Waste Management Plans.

9. Introduction of the Waste Management Plans

The waste disposal at the RAE stations and onboard the RAE ships is realized in accordance with the adopted instructions.

In compliance with the Protocol, the methodology of waste disposal planning for the RAE stations and ships was developed.

Novolazarevskaya station

During the season of the 52nd RAE, an ecological set was delivered to Novolazarevskaya station, which presents the main equipment of the separate sewage water treatment complex. Its introduction into practice during the period of the 53rd -54th RAE will allow us to perform treatment of washing (grey) water of the station with a subsequent dumping to the relief. In the framework of the same project, two incinerator-toilets (incinolets) were installed in the building of aerologists and at the building of diesel power station.

During the 51st RAE, work of the press for pressing metal tin cans (iron and aluminum) to empty 200-liter drums was arranged, which reduces the volume of waste 5-fold. During a year, ten 200-liter drums were filled with pressed tin cans.

10. Inventory of past activities

A handbook was published: V.V. Lukin, N.A. Kornilov, N.K. Dmitriyev “Soviet and Russian Antarctic Expeditions in figures and facts (1955-2005)”, containing information on past activity of the national Antarctic Expedition of the USSR and the Russian Federation in the Antarctic.

11. Waste disposal

In compliance with the requirement of the Decision of the Government of the Russian Federation of 24.09.01 No. 685 (paragraph 3.1 of the Plan of Actions) and the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, work on cleaning the territories, collection and removal of waste was continued during the reporting period. The work was carried out both during the seasonal period under the special programs and during the wintering period by all personnel at each station.

In total during the season of the 52nd RAE, 241 tons of waste was removed during the season of the 52nd RAE onboard the R/V “Akademik Fedorov”.

ANNEX IV. Prevention of marine pollution

All Russian marine ships that have a Permit for activity in the Antarctic (including the research-expedition vessel “Akademik Fedorov” and the research vessel “Akademik Aleksander Karpinsky”) have shipboard garbage management plans, and are equipped with incinerators and treatment systems, corresponding to the requirements of MARPOL 73/78.

ANNEX V. Area protection and management

No work connected with the Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPA) was carried out.

In 2007, a joint work (Australia, India, China, Russia and Romania) on preparation of the Management Plan of the Antarctic Specially Managed Area (ASMA) “Larsemann Hills”, which was approved by the Thirtieth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, was finished. Measure 2 (2007) on designation of ASMA No. 6 “Larsemann Hills, East Antarctica” was adopted. The management

plan contains rules of behavior in the area and measures aimed at conservation of the environment of the Oasis.

ANNEX VI. On liability

At XXX ATCM the Delegation of the Russian Federation informed the international community about approval on December 26, 2007 by the Russian Federation Government of the Federal Law Draft Concept “On regulation of activities of the Russian citizens and legal entities in the Antarctic” and on the introduction of the draft law in the plan of lawmaking activity of the Russian Federation Government for 2007.

The Draft Law “On regulation of activities of the Russian citizens and legal entities in the Antarctic” consists of seven sections. Section 6 “Liability in implementing activities in the Antarctic” (2 articles) defines types of liability of citizens, official and legal entities for infringement of the law regulating relations in activities in the Antarctic. Legal standards of liability for harmful environmental impact arising from the activities of the citizens and legal entities are established. Procedure and terms of payment of the costs of response action is defined.

At the same time, for the purpose of combined correction of approaches to legal regulation of activities in the Antarctic, amendments are being introduced to the Russian effective legislation (customs, administrative and criminal legislation and licensing).

In general, adoption of these Draft Laws should lead to creation of a system of state control and regulation of activities of the Russian citizens and legal entities in the Antarctic; establishment of the standards determining liability for non-compliance with the requirements set for such activities; strengthening of the bases of the Russian Antarctic Expedition activity and increase of the personnel social security. It will also bring the Russian legislation in conformity with the current standards of the international law.

CONCLUSIONS

During the reporting period, no dangerous actions or incidents from the side of the Russian citizens and legal entities in respect of the Antarctic environment were revealed.

RAE carries out its activity in the Antarctic in the framework of the requirements of the Protocol, on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty.

The main direction of nature protection activities of RAE during the reporting period was removal of waste of past activity and installation of treatment facilities and incinerators. This activity will be continued in the next few years.