



Protection and restoration of forest and peatland permafrost carbon pools in Komi Republic and Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug

Mid-term Review

Pilot project of the EU ClimaEast Project

As a component of the UNDP/GEF Project Strengthening Protected Area System of the Komi Republic to Conserve Virgin Forest Biodiversity in the Pechora Headwaters Region

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Evaluation Summary Table

Evaluation Ratings:			
1. Monitoring and Evaluation	rating	2. IA& EA Execution	rating
M&E design at entry	S	Quality of UNDP Implementation	HS
M&E Plan Implementation	HS	Quality of Execution - Executing Agency	HS
Overall quality of M&E	HS	Overall quality of Implementation / Execution	HS
3. Assessment of Outcomes	rating	4. Sustainability	rating
Relevance	HS	Financial resources:	L
Effectiveness	S	Socio-political:	HL
Efficiency	S	Institutional framework and governance:	L
Overall Project Outcome Rating	S	Environmental	ML/L
		Overall likelihood of sustainability:	L

Evaluation Ratings: HS=Highly Satisfactory; S=Satisfactory; MS=Moderately Satisfactory; MU=Moderately Unsatisfactory; U= Unsatisfactory

Sustainability Ratings: HL=Highly Likely; L=Likely; ML=Moderately Likely; MU=Moderately Unlikely; U=Unlikely

Introduction

Purpose of the review

The ClimaEast project package was designed to assist Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership Countries and Russia in approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The project represents one of the pilot projects under the first component of the ClimaEast funding – which was focused on ecosystem-based approaches to climate change. The project has activities in the Russian north (including the northern areas of the Komi Republic and in the NAO) as well as in the southern peatlands (the so-called “Steppe project” in the Bryansk region, Voronezh region and Republic of Bashkortostan)¹.

The current evaluation represents the mid-term review of the *northern* ClimaEast project with the aim of providing recommendations for the second half of the project and specifically for improvements on project management and effectiveness. However, on the basis of a presentation of the activities in the southern (Steppe) portion of the project as well as an interview with the Project Manager, some insights into the progress in the south were gained and comments are made regarding the Steppe project in various places, as appropriate, through the report.

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA).

The MTR was conducted by one international consultant who was independent of the policy-making process, and the delivery and management of the assistance to the project. The consultant was also not involved in the implementation and/or supervision of the project.

The MTR was carried out with a mission to Russia from 30 August – 12 September 2014.

Scope & Methodology

The approach for the MTR was determined by the Terms of Reference (TOR, see Annex I). The TOR were followed closely and, therefore, the evaluation focused assessing progress towards the achievement of the Clima East Pilot project objective, identifying lessons learned (including lessons that might improve design and implementation), and making recommendations regarding specific actions that might be taken to improve the project. The evaluation was designed to play a critical role in the future implementation of the project by providing advice on: (i) how to strengthen the adaptive management and monitoring function of the project; (ii) how to ensure accountability for the achievement of the EU Clima East Pilot project objective; and (iii) how to enhance organizational and development learning, including among the other peatlands projects under the Clima East.

¹ This is taken in the context that over 30% of Russia is comprised of peatlands, with over 8% of peatlands of >30cm and over 22% of peatlands of <30cm and that these peatlands store an estimated 113.5-210 gigatonnes of carbon. Some of these peat bogs are significantly disturbed by human activities.

Structure of the evaluation report

The report was structured as per the TOR. As such, it first deals with a description of the project (Section 2), it then deals with the Project Implementation Patterns (Section 3) of the evaluation within three sections (Management arrangements, Partnership Arrangements, M&E Activities and Project Finance, respectively) and Project Results. The report then draws together the Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons from the project (Section 4).

Project description including problems that the project sought to address and expected results

The ecosystems of the Komi Republic, and Nenetsky Autonomus Okrug (NAO) are comprised primarily of forests and peat permafrost systems. The (relatively) pristine forest systems of the Komi Republic are estimated to be approximately 29.2 million hectares – representing almost 35% of the total pristine forest carbon pools remaining in the European Russia. In the northern area of the Komi Republic, there are extensive permafrost peatlands that, when coupled with the permafrost peatlands of the NAO, these form almost the entire area of permafrost peatland of the Russian Northeast.

The boreal forests and permafrost peatlands are carbon stores of global significance. The protected areas of the Komi Republic (totalling 1.63 million ha) are estimated to harbour over 100 million tons of carbon. Furthermore, the forests are estimated to sequester an additional 3 million tons of carbon a year. Globally, the northern, permafrost soils – an area of approximately 18.8 million km² – are estimated to harbour 1.7 trillion tons of organic carbon².

In addition, the natural tundra ecosystems of NAO are responsible for maintenance of the significant carbon storage both in upper soil layer and permafrost, which, in NAO, is up to 400m deep. Globally, the northern permafrost region contains an estimated 1.7Eg of organic carbon, of which approximately 1.5Eg, or 88%, occurs in perennially frozen soils and deposits. The overall quantity of subsoil organic carbon in the NAO accounts for an estimated 50% of the global subsoil organic carbon pool.

The value of these areas has been globally recognised: Komi shelters the only significant block of pristine forest that is oriented in a north-south direction (which is important for climate change adaptation); these forests have been included by WWF in the list of 200 global ecological regions and by UNESCO in the List of World Natural Heritage Sites ("Pristine forests of Komi"). The NAO is described as being one of the starting legs of the Euro-African and Eurasian flyways.

There are a number of predictions associated with climate change in these ecosystems:

- The mature and over-mature spruce stands (which are currently susceptible to fire) will give way to a proliferation of deciduous stands
- The tree-line is expected to shift upward by an estimated 200m (and there is evidence suggesting that this is already occurring in the Ural Mountains)

² This about four times more than all the carbon emitted by human activity in modern times and twice as much as is currently present in the atmosphere

- The carbon cycle within soil carbon stocks under a warming climate scenario remains unknown while acknowledging that the permafrost and peat layers within these ecosystems are dynamically interlinked. Changes to either component may result in significant changes in landscape structure and biogeochemistry inducing losses of stored carbon.
- Exploration and production of oil and gas reserves (which are also significant within these ecosystems) since the 1970s have also had significant impacts on the ecosystems. These are expected to *increase* in the coming decades.

Climate change is expected to exacerbate these changes, especially as average temperature increases in the Arctic have been nearly twice as high as the mean global increase. The other principal predicted change is in mean precipitation. The impacts of these changes are predicted to include significant changes in ecosystem regulation functions such as hydrology, permafrost status, carbon storage and exchange. In other areas where abrupt thaw has occurred, permafrost degradation and carbon releases have been rapid. Because this has also included the release of methane (CH₄), the impacts on the climate are even more significant. Furthermore, once degraded, there is an extremely low permafrost regeneration capacity as carbon sequestration in these ecosystems is very limited. As a consequence, protection of these ecosystems is imperative.

The EU-funded ClimaEast project in the Komi and NAO regions of Russia have, therefore, the following overall objective: to demonstrate effective approaches to conserving, restoring and managing carbon-rich forests and permafrost areas of the Russian North under pending climate change threats. This will be achieved through achievement of the following results:

1. To expand and strengthen the protection of boreal forests and permafrost peatlands
2. To ensure that the management plans of the resulting protected areas include objectives of preserving carbon pools, emissions avoidance, maintenance of other regulating services of ecosystems
3. To ensure regulation of development permits in the boreal and permafrost peatlands such that they account for the biological and climatic functions of these systems
4. To experiment and test methodology for permafrost peatland regeneration³ – as, currently, no natural regeneration is occurring
5. To improve understanding of the forest and permafrost peatland carbon pools particularly in the Komi and NAO regions where the southernmost permafrost occurs in areas of warmer temperatures than elsewhere.

The project is built on the synergies of the UNDP-GEF and ICI projects and will include three activities (or components):

1. *Protected Areas*. Expanding and strengthening protection of forest and permafrost ecosystem, including:
 - a. Mapping and classifying peatlands
 - b. Listing existing and potential threats
 - c. Defining ecosystem resistance and resilience

³ The methodology for rehabilitation of ecosystems damaged by oil and gas development as designed by Wetlands International in partnership with Shell; see “Study of Mitigation, Recovery and Restoration Options: Oil and Gas Industry Impacts on Arctic Wetlands”

- d. Define conservation and regulatory framework for sensitive areas
 - e. Propose new land use plans for the Komi Republic and NAO
 - f. Establish a new, regional *zakaznik* in the Chernorechenskaya area
 - g. In conjunction with the UNDP-GEF project, strengthen the capacity in the Yugyd va National Park including production of climate mitigation and adaptation plans
 - h. Engage local and indigenous communities into forest fire prevention measures, conservation and adaptation activities
2. *Permafrost & peatland restoration*. Piloting restoration of peat permafrost ecosystems by carrying out trial restoration measures in three pilot sites in NAO (Shapkina river, Kumzha in the Pechora Delta and the Upper Kolva)
 3. *Monitoring & research*. Monitoring and carrying out research on climate-permafrost nexus, publicizing and replicating the experience, including establishing of a modern monitoring and research program for the permafrost areas of Russian North. Research and monitoring is taking place in: 1) natural, undisturbed and protected ecosystems; 2) ecosystems that have been and continue to be subjected to anthropogenic impacts; and 3) areas that have been restored.

The project activities in the Steppe Project in the south of Russia (Bryansk region, Voronezh region and Republic of Bashkortostan) in many aspects mirror those in the north. However, in this southern portion of the project, there are synergies with another UNDP-GEF project – “*Improving the coverage and management efficiency of protected areas in the steppe biome of Russia*”.

Project start and duration

Although the corporate agreement between EC and UNDP on the Clima East package was signed in December 2012, the project became operational only in mid 2013 once the budget arrangements, implementation framework and operational requirements were finalized.

It was designed as a four-year project – therefore, it is expected to be completed by December 2016.

Table 1. Intended Outputs, Targets, Activities and the Responsible Parties for the Project.

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:			
Outcome Indicator: Environment indicators included into development policies at the sub-national and regional levels; Baseline: Environmental impact is not a priority for development planning, energy efficiency is not considered as mandatory condition for effective development at local level; Target: Environmental impact is considered as a threat to sustainable development in at least 3 Russian regions; energy efficiency/energy saving strategies are developed and introduced in a number of Russian regions			
Applicable Key Result Area: Environment and Sustainable Development			
Partnership Strategy: The key national partner of the project is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), which with its subordinate Federal Service to Hydrological Monitoring and Meteorology (Roshydromet) is responsible for monitoring and reporting on greenhouse gas emission within UNFCCC including those derived from land use change. The federal MNRE is also responsible for protected areas policies and management of federal protected areas (including the Yugyd Va National Park). The Government of the Komi Republic and the Komi Rosprirodnadzor are the key regional stakeholders of the project responsible for decision making on land use and the regional protected areas system (regional sanctuaries). Key regional partners will include the Ministry of natural resources of the Komi Republic and the Forestry Service of the Komi Republic. The Administration of the Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug (NAO) will be engaged as a partner for permafrost peatlands restoration activities in the NAO pilot site. To secure high level of professional expertise the project will cooperate with and engage as appropriate the institutes of the Russian Academy of Science (e.g. Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Centre, Institute of Forest Science and others) and international expertise through professional international NGOs (such as Wetlands International).			
INTENDED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT TARGETS FOR (YEARS)	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
<p>Output 1: Expanding and strengthening protection of forest and permafrost ecosystem</p> <p>Baseline: Permafrost carbon pools underrepresented in the regional PA system, management capacities of existing PAs to conserve high-value natural forests and fragile permafrost ecosystems are limited</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20,000 ha of new regional protected area created in the Chernorechenskaya area of the Komi Republic - Strengthened protected area management capacities of the largest existing forest-and permafrost protected area Yugyd Va National park (1.9 mln 	<p>Year 2013</p> <p>Methodology for classification and mapping of peatlands on permafrost developed (quarter 1 through 3) and appraised (quarter 4).</p> <p>Feasibility assessment for creation of a new regional zakaznik in the permafrost area performed (quarter 2-3).</p> <p>Capacity assessment of the strengthen capacities of the Yugyd Va National Park performed, capacity gaps and needs identified (quarter 2-3). Climate mitigation and adaptation plans developed for the target protected areas (quarter 3-4).</p> <p>Year 2014</p> <p>Analysis of existing and potential threats</p>	<p>1.1. Development of a comprehensive methodology for classification, inventory and mapping of permafrost peatlands;</p> <p>1.2. Establishment of a new regional protected area covering vulnerable permafrost peatland ecosystems;</p> <p>1.3. Strengthening capacities of the existing PA to conserve high-value forests and permafrost pools;</p> <p>1.3. Community engagement into forest fire prevention and control, conservation and adaptation activities</p>	<p>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment</p> <p>Komi Rosprirodnadzor</p>

<p>ha).</p>	<p>for permafrost ecosystems performed (quarter 1 through 4). Technical & staff capacities of the Yugyd Va National Park strengthened (quarter 2-3). Means provided for implementation of PA climate mitigation and adaptation plans, including fire surveillance and prevention equipment (quarter 2-3). Year 2015 Programmes developed to engage local and indigenous communities into forest fire prevention measures, conservation and adaptation activities (quarter 1 through 4). Year 2016 Creation of a new regional zakaznik in the permafrost area of the Komi Republic finalized (quarter 1-4).</p>		
<p>Output 2: Piloting restoration of peat permafrost ecosystems: hydrological restoration, assisted revegetation Baseline: abandoned permafrost ecosystems at various stages of degradation Indicators: - 180 ha of abandoned permafrost peatland ecosystem restored - 60 ha of permafrost peatland under ongoing industrial exploitation – agreements reached with companies on biodiversity and climate-friendly restoration after completion of their activity, in order to avoid permafrost melt.</p>	<p>Year 2013 Restoration methodologies developed by experts (quarter 1-3). Selection of restoration sites reconfirmed (quarter 3). Feasibility study (incl. fieldwork) for each of the pilot sites performed (quarter 3). Regulatory gap analysis for restoration performed (quarter 2-3). Community outreach ensured (quarter 2-4). Necessary land use permissions obtained (quarter 4). Year 2014 Technical plans for restoration designed (quarter 1-2). Equipment & machinery required for</p>	<p>2.1. Development of methodologies for piloting restoration of permafrost peatlands, technical design of restoration projects, relevant cost-benefit assessment; 2.2. Implementation of pilot restoration projects, stakeholder outreach, community engagement; 2.3. Restoration project monitoring, assessment of restoration effectiveness for biodiversity and carbon mitigation, collection of lessons learned and dissemination of pilot testing results</p>	<p>Directorate of Natural Resources of NAO and Nenets Rosprirodnadzor</p>

	<p>restoration procured (quarter 2-3). Restoration works initiated (quarter 3). Year 2015 Monitoring of restoration activities ensured (quarter 2-4). Year 2016 Restoration completed (quarter 2 3). Effectiveness of restoration for biodiversity and carbon mitigation assessed and monitored (quarter 2-4). Lessons learned collected, result dissemination activities performed (quarter 3-4). Rehabilitated lands transferred for use of local deer herders (quarter 4)</p>		
<p>Output 3: Monitoring and research: exchanges between leading permafrost scientists, publication of results Baseline: environmental features of permafrost peatlands in the Arctic are poorly understood. Lack of knowledge of the diversity, distribution patterns, and natural functions of the permafrost, on their biodiversity and gas regulation functions makes it difficult to plan restoration, conservation, and ecosystem management Indicators: - 1 method for restoring permafrost ecosystem demonstrated resulting in slowing down of permafrost thaw - 3 articles in leading international journals on the subject of permafrost ecosystems relationship with climate change.</p>	<p>Year 2013 Integrated peatland monitoring programme developed (quarter 1-4). Detailed fieldwork plan developed (quarter 2). Field monitoring equipment procured, monitoring sites duly equipped (quarter 3-4). Year 2014 Monitoring of GHG emissions for three peatland permafrost types (including those under restoration) initiated (quarter 2). Baseline carbon storage & emission data collected at the selected monitoring sites (quarter 2). Study on replacement of spruce forest species with deciduous species in forest tundra; shifting altitude and latitude of forest boundaries implemented (quarter 2-4). Year 2015</p>	<p>3.1. Development of an integrated peatland monitoring programme; 3.2. Implementation of monitoring programme and analysis of GHG storage and emissions data for three peatland permafrost types; 3.3. Outreach to international scientific community and sharing of obtained knowledge and data on permafrost ecosystems relationship with climate change</p>	<p>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Komi Rosprirodnadzor; and Directorate of Natural Resources of NAO and Nenets Rosprirodnadzor</p>

	<p>Monitoring of GHG emissions for three peatland permafrost types (including those under restoration) continued (quarter 1-4). Detailed studies of carbon stocks in intact in permafrost zones (including gas exchange in soils, vegetation and bedding) continued (quarter 1-4).</p> <p>Year 2016</p> <p>Monitoring of GHG emissions at three peatland permafrost types (including those under restoration) continued (quarter 1-4). Impact assessment of climate change on the flora endemics finalized (quarter 3). Results of study on replacement of spruce forest species with deciduous species in forest tundra; shifting altitude and latitude of forest boundaries obtained (quarter 3). Lessons learned collected, result dissemination activities performed (quarter 4).</p>		
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Project implementation and management arrangements

The project is being implemented by the same team that implemented the UNDP-GEF project “Strengthening Protected Area System of the Komi Republic to Conserve Virgin Forest Biodiversity in the Pechora Headwaters Region” and under the same modalities. The National Implementation Modality (NIM) is standard for the UNDP projects in the country, and the National Implementing Partner for this project is the Komi Division of the Federal Supervisory Natural Resource Management Service (*Rosprirodnadzor*). The head of this service is the project’s National Project Director (NPD). Project oversight and responsibility falls under the Project Steering Committee (PSC) – a key decision-making body for all the project components (GEF and EU-funded). The PSC is chaired by the NPD. The PSC meets once a year in Syktyvkar but communication with all the members of the PSC is maintained and the members are consulted electronically on a regular basis through the year. The PSC examines and approves all annual workplans and budgets. The stakeholder representation in the PSC seems to be adequate with probably one exception: despite the fact that the EU delegation in the country was invited to participate in the PSC for the project, the nominated representative did not attend the first and only meeting for the EU-funded component convened so far.

The project is not wholly nationally executed as the UNDP-CO manages the finances, is accountable for reporting to the donor, hosts annual audits, clears contracts with all major contractors (both companies and consultants), and manages the contracts of the project team. The PMU is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the project, including aspects such as drafting Terms of Reference.

The project is being implemented by a Project Management Unit (PMU) consisting of the Project Manager (PM) and a number of associated members of staff (see Table 2). This team is considerably smaller than the original PMU under the GEF- and ICI-financed components although it retains the key members of staff. As a result, the EU-funded project is benefitting from existing management capacities, professional networks and implementation instruments developed for the UNDP-GEF project. In the Terminal Evaluation of the GEF-funded components, the evaluator rated project implementation as highly satisfactory and attributed the success of the project largely to the quality and dedication of the project management team.

Table 2. The team implementing the project

Name	Position	Employment dates
Vasily Ponomarev	Project Manager	01 Nov 2008 - 31 Dec 2015
Svetlana Zagirova	Expert on Monitoring and Studying Climate-Permafrost Relationship	05 Jan 2014 - 04 Jan 2015
Anastasia Tentyukova	Project Assistant	01 Nov 2008 - 31 Dec 2016
Valentina Sheveleva	Project Accountant	01 Dec 2008 - 31 Dec 2015
Galina Zaytseva	UNDP-based Financial Specialist (managing Atlas entries for the project 25% on project time)	01 Sept 2010 - 31 Dec 2015
Pyotr Khlestunov	Project Legal Expert	01 Feb 2009 - 31 Dec 2015
Sergei Kokovkin	Procurement Expert	Nov 2014 – Mar 2015
Tatiana Minaeva	Consultant/coordinator for Peatland Ecosystem Restoration	01 Aug 2013 - 31 Dec 2015

Ruslan Bolshakov	Manager for Peatland Ecosystem Restoration	20 Jun 2013 - 31 Dec 2015
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Partnership arrangements (with relevant stakeholders involved in the country/region)

The key national partner of the project is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), which, with its subordinate Federal Service to Hydrological Monitoring and Meteorology (*Roshydromet*), is responsible for monitoring and reporting on greenhouse gas emission within UNFCCC including those derived from land use change. The Ministry is also responsible for protected areas policies and management of federal protected areas (including the Yugyd Va National Park within the Komi Republic). The Government of the Komi Republic is another key stakeholder of the project responsible for decision making on land use and the regional protected areas system. Key regional partners will include the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Komi Republic and the Forestry Service of the Komi Republic. The Administration of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug (NAO) will be engaged as a partner for permafrost peatlands restoration activities in the NAO pilot site.

To secure high level of professional expertise, the project cooperates with and engages, as appropriate, the institutes of the Russian Academy of Science (e.g. Institute of Biology of the Komi Scientific Centre and the Institute of Forest Science) and international expertise through professional international NGOs (such as Wetlands International).

There are further synergies because the project builds on the experience and methodologies emerging from the projects funded by the German Government (ICI/BMU): “Capacity Development for a sustainable energy- and climate-policy in Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia - development of a Decision Support System for peatlands restoration” (2010-2011) and “Restoring Peatlands in Russia – for fire prevention and climate change mitigation” as well as the now-completed UNDP-GEF project in the Komi Republic. The latter project was aimed at strengthening the protected areas system within the Komi Republic, including enhancing carbon sinks in forest and peatland ecosystems. However, in contrast, that project was implemented in the areas to the south of the permafrost areas of the Republic and the project had a significant focus on fire prevention.

M&E activities

The project is committed to produce quarterly reports – which culminate in an annual report at the end of the calendar year. The annual report will be the principal reporting mechanism for the EU and the UNDP Regional Support Centre in Istanbul (formerly in Bratislava) will be responsible for delivering this report.

In addition, at the completion of the project, a Final Report will be produced and submitted.

The project has been monitored by the UNDP-CO, the UNDP ClimaEast Pilot Project Regional Coordinator, and an EC results-oriented monitoring mission was carried out in 2013 (see Table 3). The current MTE is similarly a key monitoring activity for the project.

Table 3. The conclusions and recommendations from the UNDP-CO/EC monitoring mission in 2013 and how the project has since responded.

Conclusion/recommendation	Project response & MTR comment
No integrated inventory of peatlands (Steppe project)	Inventory and mapping carried out and ongoing. There appears to be satisfactory progress in the mapping and inventory aspects of the Steppe project.
Indicators need to be made SMART* ⁴	The indicators <i>could</i> be tighter (see comments in Table 7).
Increase capacity of local people to manage peatlands*	With the exception of work in the Permafrost project, little appears to have been done with regard to inclusion of the local communities ⁵ . There is no doubt that local knowledge would be interesting and important (e.g., peatland inventories and distribution; and information on perceived changes over time). In addition, building capacity (and transferring responsibility) to reduce those threats to peatlands for which the local communities are responsible would also be important. Furthermore, the Steppe project could build communities and local authorities into the protected area and restoration activities – when it gets round to doing those pieces of work. The emphasis should be in <i>sharing responsibilities and ensuring economic benefits</i> not simply awareness raising.
Build on local knowledge*	
Stakeholder involvement*	Stakeholder analyses for both projects were apparently undertaken. In the Permafrost project (building on the UNDP-GEF project), stakeholder involvement is satisfactory. If the Steppe project is going to achieve any level of success (particularly with the establishment and management of protected areas, as well as the pilot rehabilitation), inclusion of local stakeholders is critical. Some level of engagement has already occurred but this will have to be ramped up to ensure transfer of ownership and responsibility of things such as protected areas to local authorities.
Increase rate of implementation (Steppe project)	As discussed at various parts of the report, the Steppe project still lags significantly (and the Permafrost project needs to keep up if not increase its pace as well despite being so far ahead, as it were, of the Steppe project. Recommendations are made for increasing the pace of the Steppe project.
Develop sustainability plans*	See discussion in section on Sustainability.
Work with ClimaEast Policy (I) Project	This has been agreed by UNDP-CO and projects; however, it is dependent on results (of restoration and conservation of peatlands). If and when the projects have (preferably positive) results from their restoration experiments and the establishment of protected areas, the results should definitely be shared such that they can influence policy.

* Both projects

⁴ The 2013 monitoring mission does not make it clear which (or all) of the indicators that need to be made SMART – or which aspect of SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timebound) is lacking in the indicators.

⁵ Again, the 2013 monitoring mission does not make it explicitly clear how the local communities are expected to participate in what is quite a technical project.

Project Risk Profile

The project made a thorough risk analysis at its inception stage, and has been reporting on the risk situation in each quarter progress report: no changes to the initial risk analysis have yet been reported. In the previous monitoring mission, there was no analysis as to whether the risk profile had shifted. The risk analysis, as presented in the Project Document, is presented below (see Table 4).

Table 4. Comments on the risk analysis for the project based on the risks as identified in the project document.

Risk	Mitigation Strategy	MTE comments
There is no tested methodology for restoration of permafrost peatlands, and there is a gap in the domestic and international knowledge as to how permafrost can be preserved. Hence there is a risk for certain restoration techniques applied by the project to be only partially successful.	Norms, standards and safeguards for restoration must be developed very carefully and with the use of all relevant domestic and international experience. The restoration will be implemented in stages, allowing for adaptive changes in case of no success.	This, in the opinion of the MTE, is a negligible risk. The objective of the project is to pilot – or test – methodologies. Given the expertise of the people involved, these will be sensible. Whether they work or not is a separate question but they will, at least, inform. <i>However, all results, whether positive or negative should be reported.</i>
One of the suggested approaches for permafrost peatland restoration is through restoration of hydrological regime which involves either adjustment of spatial plans for permanent linear construction; or dismantling of temporal linear constructions; or adjustment of draining/flooding technologies. Approval process for such technological adjustments can take longer than expected by the project original timeframe.	The project will ensure early consultations with relevant authorities during the restoration projects' design stage.	The mitigation measure – and the political support and connections that the project has built – mean that this risk, while real, should be surmountable. However, it is something that the UNDP-CO and ClimaEast Regional Coordinator should continue to monitor. <i>In contrast, in the Steppe Project, this represents a greater risk and both the establishment of protected areas as well as any restoration work that may be proposed may not be achieved because of the time needed to achieve the results. In order to mitigate this risk in the Steppe Project, suggestions are made in the Recommendations Section.</i>
Upon completion of the project, the monitoring	Upon project completion, the monitoring activities	The sustainable financing of the monitoring activities

Risk	Mitigation Strategy	MTE comments
<p>program established for the permafrost areas should acquire a full stakeholder ownership and stable funding. Possible lack of governmental funding to ensure post-project sustainability of the monitoring program puts its post-project sustainability at risk.</p>	<p>(including carbon monitoring) will be continued by the local research institutes. For Komi, the RAS Institute of Biology has already confirmed their willingness to integrate permafrost monitoring programme developed by the project, into their agenda. For NAO, similar arrangements will be discussed with either the same institute, or similar research institute with relevant capacities. Official confirmations (either in form of cooperation agreement, or letter of intent) ought to be obtained by the project at the early stage of monitoring programme development.</p>	<p>(and, also importantly, the effective management of protected area) is indeed a risk. The project should strive to seek written commitments and agreements from the institutions involved with sustainability.</p>

The first risk listed above supposes that because there is no precedent and the project is, therefore, by definition experimental, there may only be partial success. As indicated in the comments, *even negative results* should be reported as this will ensure that future projects and/or experiments will draw off the results and not repeat the same experiment. As such, so long as the experiments take place, they can be viewed as a success whatever their results.

Although the second risk (see Table 4) does allude to the length of bureaucratic processes, it does not specifically mention the process of establishing protected areas as being a risk. In the Komi Republic, the risk of establishing is minimised because the project team and those responsible for establishing and managing protected areas have now achieved a good working relationship. This is in contrast to the NAO and the Steppe Project areas. The greater risk (which could be rated as being moderate/significant), however, lies in the Steppe Project areas where the relationships are not well established as those in the Komi Republic. Two points illustrate this point. First, after the six years of the UNDP-GEF project *only one small regional protected area was actually established* (although, to be sure, the Komi Republic and even MNRE have committed to establish further protected areas within the protected area strategic plan for the Republic). It should be reiterated that this was a project that was focused *exclusively* on protected areas and was not distracted by elements such as research and restoration. Second, following six years of project activity in the Komi Republic, the project team had built relationships and trust among all stakeholders; in contrast, the Steppe Project simply does not have this history.

Project Finance

As indicated above, the ClimaEast project is using the existing management capacities and implementation instruments as developed for the UNDP-GEF and BMU-ICI projects. In this way, the project achieved considerable efficiencies but also savings in project management costs while the UNDP-GEF project was still ongoing.

In terms of project implementation and reporting (including of finances), the project is complying with the terms and conditions of the European Union Contribution Agreement with UNDP # ENPI/2012/303-093 dated 4 December 2012.

Table 5. The distribution of funds (in USD) among the three components of the project and their total actual expenditure, to date, against the budgeted amounts

Component	Budgeted	Actual	% spent
PAs	1,038,960.00	722,088.03	69.50
Restoration	1,298,700.00	140,150.00	10.79
Monitoring/Research	909,090.00	74,270.00	8.17
Total	3,246,750.00	936,508.03	28.84

To date, the project is significantly *underspent* in its budget (see Table 5) with only 28.84% of the budgeted amount actually spent. When this is disaggregated by component, all components are underspent but the under-delivery in Components Two and Three (Restoration, and Monitoring/Research at 10.79% and 8.17% of the actual budget being spent, respectively) is the largest.

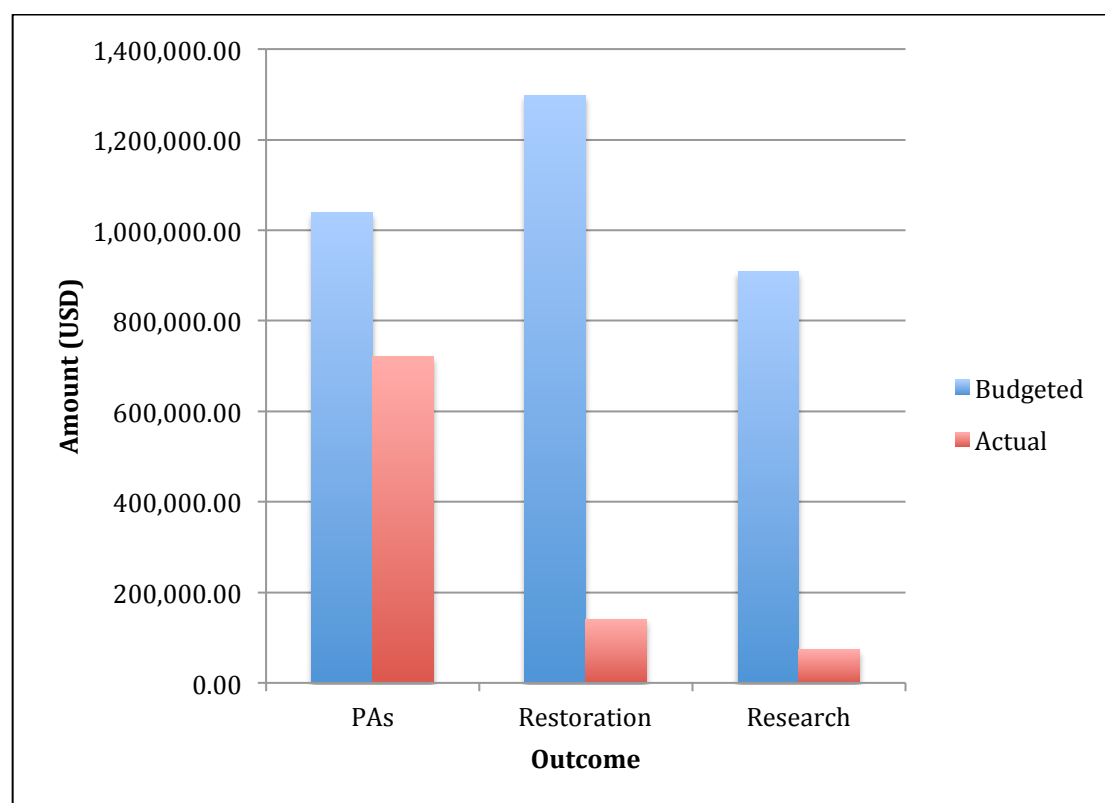


Figure 1. The actual expenditure by component as compared to the budgeted amounts: this illustrates the under-delivery to date.

It proved impossible to disaggregate and compare the expenditure against the budgets by year because of a technical mistake within the internal bookkeeping system used

by the project team. Therefore, it appeared as if, in 2013, spending on the first component (protected areas) *exceeded* the budget by 216.5% while nothing had been spent on components two and three (see Table 6). This error was corrected in 2014 and compensated in the overall figures.

A further aspect of note is that there is no reported project management budget line. This has two consequences. The first consequence is that project management costs (that were not available to the evaluator) are not visible without further analysis – thus, the overall cost efficiency of project implementation could not be assessed. The second consequence is that there was an assumption in the evaluation of the UNDP-GEF project that such a large team (even with the recognition that there is technically substantive contribution by many members of the team) could have only been sustained if the project management costs were shared across the three grants that the project team has been (and still is) implementing (see sections 3.1.8 and 4.1.4 of the main UNDP-GEF TE report). As a consequence, it is recommended that a) the management costs are analysed retroactively for 2013 and 2014, and b) some form of reporting of project management budgeting and reporting is carried out in the remaining part of the project (even if it is indeed that these costs are included in the different components).

Table 6. The actual expenditure by component compared to the budgeted amount separated by year (as it appears in the records before any correction of the errors).

Component	2013			2014		
	Budgeted	Actual	% spent	Budgeted	Actual	% spent
PAs	220,779.00	477,888.03	216.46	479,220.30	244,200.00	50.96
Restoration	214,285.50	0.00	0.00	398,700.90	140,150.00	35.15
Monitoring/ Research	101,298.60	0.00	0.00	472,726.80	74,270.00	15.71
Total	536,363.10	477,888.03	89.10	1,350,648.00	458,620.00	33.96

Project Results

While spending has been lower than expected, the project has embarked in a number of activities. These include, by outcome:

Outcome 1: Protected areas

- Creating a general permafrost map for the Komi Republic and the NAO (see Figure 2).
- Procuring an all-terrain vehicle for carrying out fire surveillance and patrolling of the alpine tundra zones of Yugyd va National Park (thereby explaining the frontloading on the expenditure on Outcome 1)
- Carrying out a socio-economic assessment in the vicinity of the proposed *zakaznik*
- Carrying out biodiversity surveys within the proposed protected areas
- Creating awareness (specifically through the production of booklets and developing a separate section of the website dedicated to the project⁶) regarding the ClimaEast project and its objectives

⁶ See http://undp-komi.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=19&Itemid=69

- Developing climate mitigation and adaptation sections to the management plan for Yugyd va National Park
- Convening a workshop on “Landscape indications of geocryological conditions in the northeast of Europe”
- Procurement of equipment and building infrastructure for *zakazniks* and District level authorities

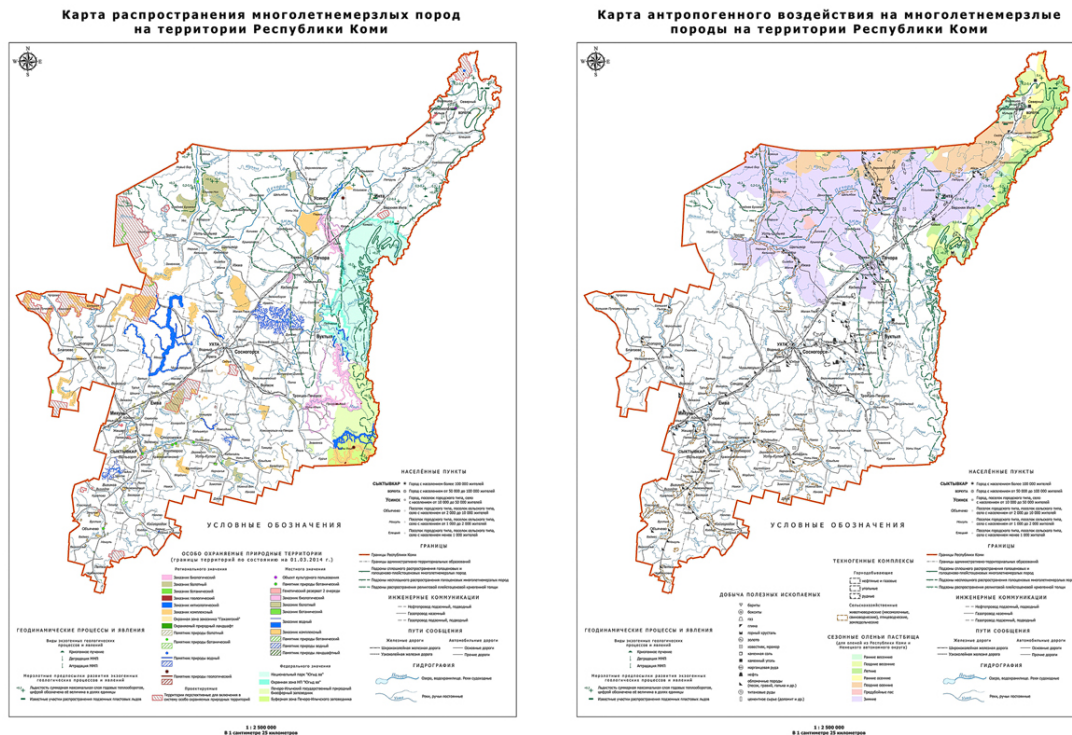


Figure 2. Preliminary maps showing i) the extent of the permafrost in the Komi Republic and ii) the anthropogenic impacts on the permafrost ecosystems in the Komi Republic. The final maps are expected by March 2015.

Outcome 2: Peatland restoration

- Carrying out a review of ecological restoration within Arctic environments and preparation of provisional guidelines for carrying out restoration
- Building a conceptual model for carrying out ecological restoration of peatlands
- Carrying out a legal review of the legislation to determine the scope for economic incentives for restoration within the voluntary carbon market
- Identifying three pilot sites for restoration on the basis of agreed criteria; within each site, carrying out baseline surveys
- Designing the feasibility and engineering work for restoration of the pilot sites
- Developing framework for the monitoring of the restored and control sites
- Carrying out theoretical, desk-based studies and establishing permanent plots in trial sites
- Integrating project data into negotiations at IPCC and presenting results in international conferences and workshops

Outcome 3: Monitoring and research

- Establishing three sites for monitoring permafrost peatlands in Inta District (see Figure 3)

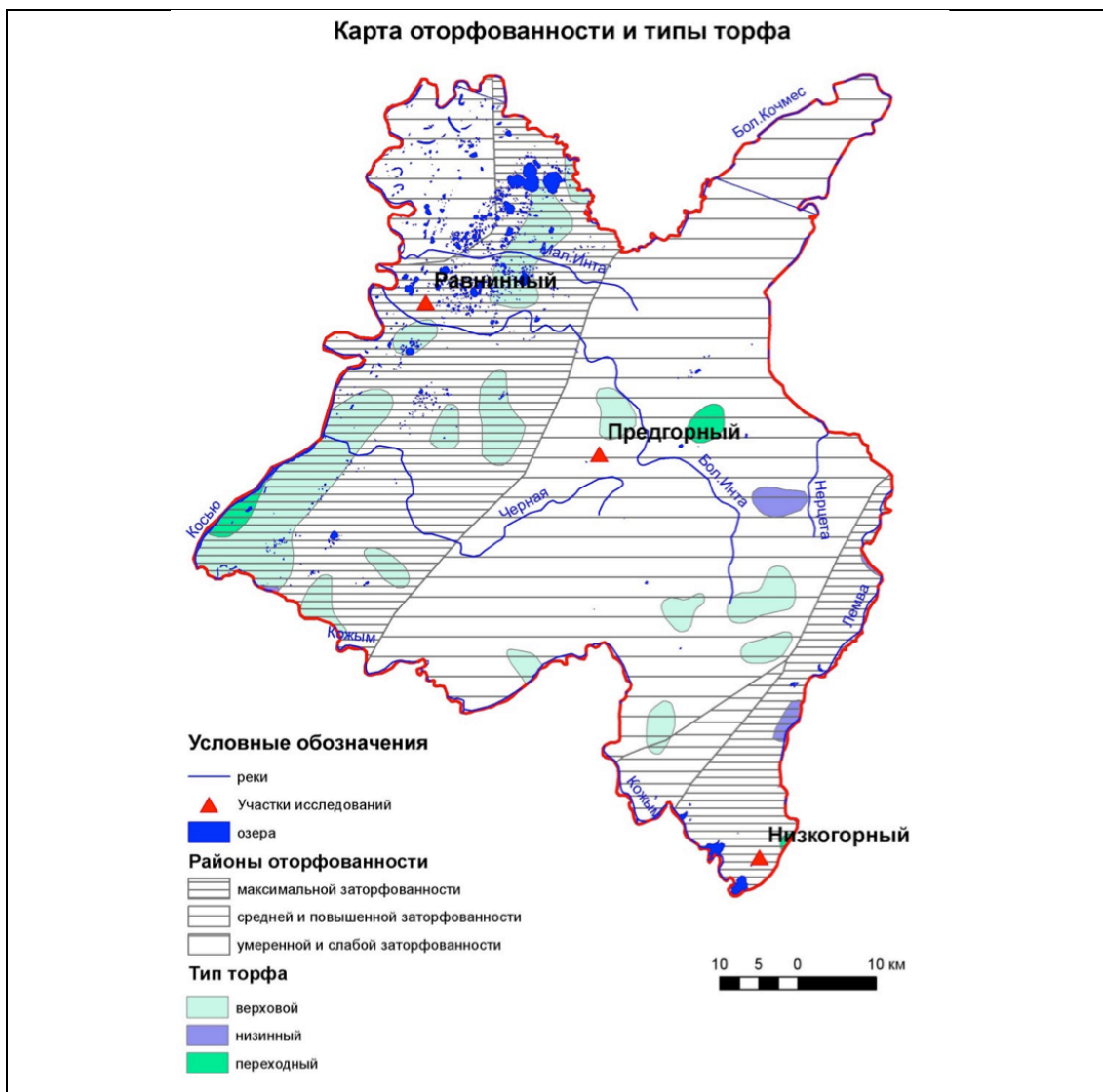


Figure 3. The three sites selected for installation of monitoring stations – for monitoring climatic conditions and greenhouse gas fluxes

- At each site, equipment for meteorological, temperature (including sub-surface – see Figure 4) and greenhouse gas (CO₂ and CH₄) flux monitoring was installed; plant associations in the pilot sites were characterised

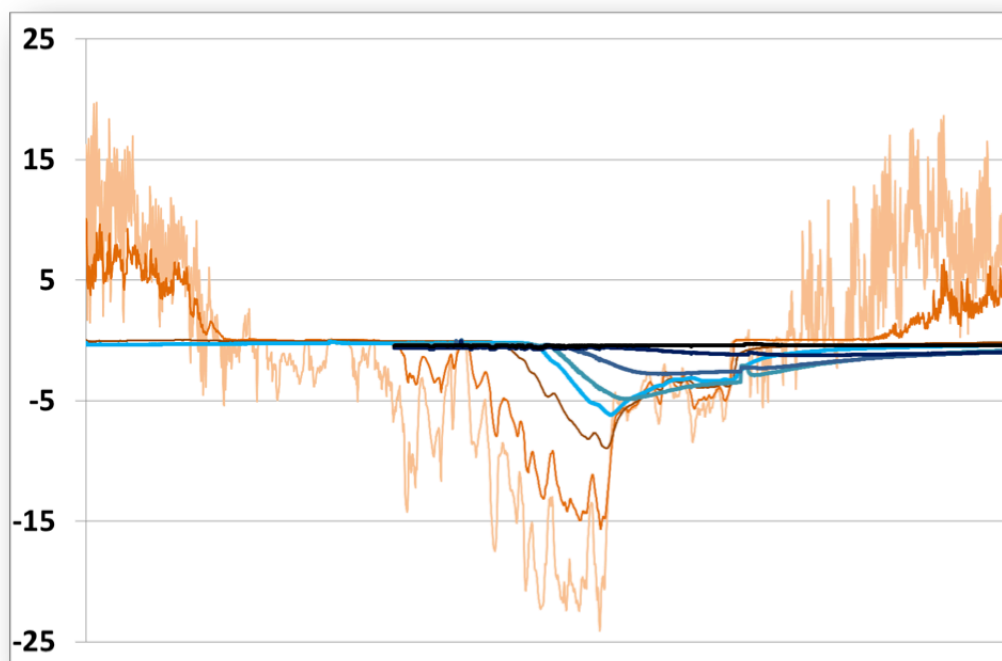


Figure 4. Data from the monitoring of temperatures at different heights at fixed monitoring posts. The orange-beige lines represent the monitoring points above ground, while the blue lines represent points below ground level

These results were analysed from the perspective of the three outcome-level targeted indicators (see Table 7).

Table 7. The project's indicators, baseline and MTE status with further MTE comments.

Indicator	Baseline	MTE status and comments
Outcome 1: Strengthening protection of forests and permafrost ecosystems: strengthening of existing and creation of new PAs		
20,000 ha of new regional protected area created in the Chernorechenskaya area of the Komi Republic	Permafrost carbon pools underrepresented in the regional PA system, management capacities of existing PAs to conserve high-value natural forests and fragile permafrost ecosystems are limited	Partially achieved. The establishment of the “Chernorechenskyi” protected area has been included into the Strategic plan of PA system development of the Komi Republic, accepted by Komi Gorverment 27.05.2014. <i>However, no date has been specified for its establishment (i.e., it is not timebound). If possible, the PMU should negotiate for a mutually agreeable deadline (thereby making the indicator timebound) for the</i>

Indicator	Baseline	MTE status and comments
<p>Strengthened protected area management capacities of the largest existing forest-and permafrost protected area Yugyd Va National park (1.9 mln ha)</p>		<p><i>establishment of the protected area.</i></p> <p>Partially achieved. Equipment has been procured; management and business planning completed; training has been held.</p> <p><i>Using a modified Knowledge, Attitude & Practice (KAP) survey⁷, the uptake of the training should be assessed.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, this indicator could be tightened i) to demonstrate how “strengthening” is measured (e.g., specific quantifiable gains in the METT for Yugyd va National Park and/or specific areas of capacity development targeted) and ii) to indicate when it should be achieved.</i></p>
<p>Outcome 2: Piloting restoration of peat permafrost ecosystems: hydrological restoration, assisted revegetation</p>		
<p>180 ha of abandoned permafrost peatland ecosystem restored</p> <p>60 ha of permafrost peatland under ongoing industrial exploitation – agreements reached with companies on biodiversity and climate-friendly restoration after completion of their activity, in order to avoid permafrost melt</p>	<p>Abandoned permafrost ecosystems at various stages of degradation</p>	<p>Ongoing. Three sites have been selected for restoration. Protocols for monitoring restored sites have been developed.</p> <p><i>Assuming that baseline data were collected in 2014, if this component is to yield meaningful results, restoration work will have to be conducted as soon as possible and thereafter monitored. The experiment should include control sites.</i></p> <p><i>The indicators assume that the experimental restoration will be successful; as discussed elsewhere in the report, this may not turn out to be the case.</i></p> <p><i>The second indicator (“60ha of permafrost ...”) is very vague because all it is targeting is an “agreement” – again there is an assumption that this agreement will be fulfilled.</i></p>

⁷ See, for example, [http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/toolkit/steps/effects/resource-folder/Guideline%20for%20Conducting%20a%20KAP%20Study%20\(PDF\).pdf](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/toolkit/steps/effects/resource-folder/Guideline%20for%20Conducting%20a%20KAP%20Study%20(PDF).pdf) - but always being cognisant of the challenges and limitations of such surveys - see, for example, http://www.anthropologymatters.com/index.php/anth_matters/article/viewFile/31/55

Indicator	Baseline	MTE status and comments
		<i>Neither indicator is timebound.</i>
Outcome 3: Monitoring and research: exchanges between leading permafrost scientists, publication of results		
One method for restoring permafrost ecosystem demonstrated resulting in slowing down of permafrost thaw	Environmental features of permafrost peatlands in the Arctic are poorly understood. Lack of knowledge of the diversity, distribution patterns, and natural functions of the permafrost, on their biodiversity and gas regulation functions makes it difficult to plan restoration, conservation, and ecosystem management	Ongoing. These indicators are obviously dependent on the progress of the second component (above). However, monitoring sites have been established and data are being collected, and presentations at various conferences have been made. <i>There is also an emphasis on a positive result – however, because the work is experimental, even negative results would be informative and should be published. There is a further assumption that if one method fails, others will be tested: this is unlikely to be the case. The indicators are not timebound.</i>
Three articles in leading international journals on the subject of permafrost ecosystems relationship with climate change		

Overall, in presentation of the results of the project, there is a little muddling among the three outcomes of the project, with some things arguably attributed to the wrong outcome (thematically and, presumably, financially). For example, the development of a handbook for integrated peatland monitoring and the development of a system for the classification of peatland was attributed to Outcome 1 (Expanding and strengthening protection of forest and permafrost ecosystem) and not Outcome 3 (Monitoring and research: exchanges between leading permafrost scientists, publication of results). This extends also to aspects of Outcome 2.

In summary, then, despite the under-delivery (or underspend) that is evident from the Project Finances, the project has been very active and taking significant steps forward.

In contrast to the steps that have been undertaken in the north (i.e., in the Komi Republic and NAO), progress in the Steppe Project has been extremely slow and limited. There has been an emphasis on the *easy* aspects of the work: the research – including mapping – and monitoring. However, the *difficult* aspects – restoration work and the establishment of the protected areas – are significantly lagging. As evidence for this, in all reporting to date, there is a strong emphasis on Outcome One – while Outcomes Two and Three are largely ignored.

Nonetheless, the site for the rewetting and restoration (the Berkazan-Kamish peatland – an area of approximately 600ha) has been selected. This site is three times the size of the targeted area but, as with the permafrost project, the restoration work will have to commence as soon as possible if this will yield meaningful results from the monitoring that will be necessary to determine the success (or otherwise).

Further comments on the protected areas component of the Steppe project have been made above (see the Section on the Project Risk Profile).

Table 8. The three intended outputs of the project with their annual targets, the annual status, means of verification and MTE comments.

Intended Outputs	Output Targets by year	Status	Means of Verification	MTE Comments
Output 1: Expanding and strengthening protection of forest and permafrost ecosystem	Year 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodology for classification and mapping of peatlands on permafrost developed and appraised. Feasibility assessment for creation of a new regional zakaznik in the permafrost area performed Capacity assessment of the strengthen capacities of the Yugyd Va National Park performed, capacity gaps and needs identified Climate mitigation and adaptation plans developed for the target protected areas 	Year 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First stage of developing and appraising methodology for classification and mapping of peatlands on permafrost completed by under contract to RAS Institute Forestry Based on surveys (including an analysis of the diversity of the plant communities in the undisturbed forest and wetland ecosystems as well as socio-economic assessment), a 22,893ha was selected for the establishment of a regional zakaznik (in the Chyornaya River basin). Further soil and vegetation surveys were carried out in the Bolshezemelskaya Tundra. An all-terrain vehicle procured to build capacity of Yugyd va National Park – specifically in the Inta (northern) area of the park Developing climate mitigation and adaptation sections to the business plan for Yugyd va National Park Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating awareness (specifically through the production of booklets and developing a separate section of the website dedicated to the project⁸) regarding the ClimaEast project and its objectives Worked to create awareness among municipal administrations and local population of non-monetary value of undisturbed ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published and approved management plan for Yugyd va National Park Permafrost maps (to be finalized in early 2015; see also Figure 2) Awareness raising publications and project website Vehicle in field Map of proposed protected area Annual report of Institute Biology APR ClimaEast Workshop and conference presentations Adopted Strategic Plan for the protected area system of the Komi Republic 	The targets for 2013 were satisfactorily achieved. The capacity assessment for Yugyd va National Park was carried out under the UNDP-GEF project (as part of the process to develop the management plan for the Park). However, the ClimaEast project provided actual material to develop capacity specifically targeting the northern area of the park (the permafrost areas).
	Year 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of existing and potential threats for permafrost ecosystems performed Technical & staff capacities of the Yugyd 	Year 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threat analysis is complete leading to three-pronged approach to maintaining permafrost ecosystems: i) a planning framework for economic development, ii) a planning framework for conservation (including protected areas), and iii) a monitoring system for permafrost areas 	Strategic plan of PA system development of the Komi Republic, accepted by Komi Government 27.05.2014. Reports.	The targets for 2014 were broadly achieved; however, there is no indicative date for the establishment of the “Chernorechenskyi” protected area: the project team should negotiate a mutually agreeable deadline

⁸ See http://undp-komi.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=19&Itemid=69

Intended Outputs	Output Targets by year	Status	Means of Verification	MTE Comments
	<p>Va National Park strengthened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means provided for implementation of PA climate mitigation and adaptation plans, including fire surveillance and prevention equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Capacity developed in previous year with procurement of all-terrain vehicle.] Additional fire surveillance and prevention equipment procured. Government inspectors from PAs trained. A number of measures designed to reduce threats, and mitigating and adapting to climate change (both at a broad environmental level as well as at the level of the PA system) were proposed. <p>Additionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping and surveying of permafrost peatlands in the Komi Republic and NAO continued. Creation of new PA “Chernorechenskiy” included into the Strategic plan of PA system development of the Komi Republic, accepted by Komi Gorverment 27.05.2014 Convening a workshop on “Landscape indications of geocryological conditions in the northeast of Europe” 		for the establishment of the protected area.
	<p>Year 2015 Programmes developed to engage local and indigenous communities into forest fire prevention measures, conservation and adaptation activities</p> <p>Year 2016 Creation of a new regional zakaznik in the permafrost area of the Komi Republic finalized</p>	The general permafrost map for Komi Republic and NAO to be completed in early 2015		
Output 2: Piloting restoration of peat permafrost ecosystems: hydrological restoration, assisted revegetation	<p>Year 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration methodologies developed by experts Selection of restoration sites reconfirmed Feasibility study (incl. 	<p>Year 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of ecological restoration within Artic environments and preparation of provisional guidelines for carrying out restoration Conceptual model for carrying out ecological restoration of peatlands developed and presented in 	Reports, publications and presentations at conferences	Progress was satisfactory in 2013 – with one caveat: the predesign survey (including topography, permafrost, carbon storage, hydrology, technical and engineering characteristics)

Intended Outputs	Output Targets by year	Status	Means of Verification	MTE Comments
	<p>fieldwork) for each of the pilot sites performed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory gap analysis for restoration performed Community outreach ensured Necessary land use permissions obtained 	<p>a number of workshops and seminars (e.g., during the conference EuroArctic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the federal and regional legislation to determine the scope for economic incentives for restoration within the voluntary carbon market; gaps in legislation identified and communicated, with recommendations to relevant bodies Three pilot sites for restoration reconfirmed Baseline surveys, including plant associations, within each site Design of engineering work for restoration of the pilot sites Developing framework for the monitoring of the restored and control sites Community outreach carried out (e.g., in meetings in the Zapolyarny district administration and with the representatives of Yasavey – the local organization of the indigenous people) Local communities included during field surveys Land user agreements secured (including with Nenets State Nature Reserve, CH-Invest company; Rusvietpetro company); one agreement outstanding 		had been postponed during planning from 2013 to 2014.
	<p>Year 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical plans for restoration designed Equipment & machinery required for restoration procured Restoration works initiated 	<p>Year 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed review of previous restoration experiences – leading to development of “working” guidelines for restoration work Continued analysis of legal situation with proposals for legislative amendments submitted Further consultations held to secure support for restoration of one of the sites (Kumzha) Contracts awarded for restoration works in the three sites. Monitoring equipment procured and site analysis continued 	Reports.	Satisfactory progress – with the caveat that restoration works were not specifically initiated in 2014, as planned. This means that restoration will only commence in 2015, leaving little time to monitor the success (or otherwise) of the restoration work.
	<p>Year 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of restoration activities ensured 	The restoration works will start in year 2015		

Intended Outputs	Output Targets by year	Status	Means of Verification	MTE Comments
	Year 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration completed Effectiveness of restoration for biodiversity and carbon mitigation assessed and monitored Lessons learned collected, result dissemination activities performed Rehabilitated lands transferred for use of local deer herders 			
Output 3: Monitoring and research: exchanges between leading permafrost scientists, publication of results	Year 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated peatland monitoring programme developed Detailed fieldwork plan developed Field monitoring equipment procured, monitoring sites duly equipped 	Year 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring programme successfully developed Monitoring sites were equipped and the monitoring of various parameters commenced; the procurement of other monitoring equipment procured. The sites were in Inta District in the Komi Republic 	Installed equipment Annual report of Institute of Biology Publication of conference [Pastukhov A. et al., Permafrost peatlands in southern limit of the East-European cryolithozone // Proceedings of International conference «ELS 2014 - The Earth living skin: Soil, Life and Climate Change». Bari, Italy, 2014; Kaverin D. et al. Permafrost-affected soils of peat circles (the Northeast European Russia) // Proceedings of International conference «ELS 2014 - The Earth living skin: Soil, Life and Climate Change». Bari, Italy, 2014]	Satisfactory progress – with the caveat that there was an emphasis on the Komi Republic. The project must ensure that the work in the NAO continues at a good pace (even while acknowledging the extraordinarily challenging circumstances of the work there). The procurement of some of the equipment was also delayed.
	Year 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of GHG emissions for three peatland permafrost types (including those under 	Year 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurements made of GHG (CO₂ and CH₄) emissions from, and moisture and temperature fluctuations within permafrost peatland in Komi using automated stations; other equipment procured 	Reports	Progress appears to be satisfactory. Details of how the third component (shifting forest species) needs to be given and this

Intended Outputs	Output Targets by year	Status	Means of Verification	MTE Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restoration) initiated • Baseline carbon storage & emission data collected at the selected monitoring sites • Study on replacement of spruce forest species with deciduous species in forest tundra; shifting altitude and latitude of forest boundaries implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature fluctuations monitored at sites in the NAO • Training completed for students who carried out peatland monitoring • Samples from peatland and forest soils, and mineral soils analysed to determine carbon storage • Further soil samples collected • Shifting of Siberian pine forest in Ural Mountains was investigated 		component should not be overlooked.
	<p>Year 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of GHG emissions for three peatland permafrost types (including those under restoration) continued • Detailed studies of carbon stocks in intact in permafrost zones (including gas exchange in soils, vegetation and bedding) continued <p>Year 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of GHG emissions at three peatland permafrost types (including those under restoration) continued • Impact assessment of climate change on the flora endemics finalized • Results of study on replacement of spruce forest species with deciduous species in forest tundra; shifting altitude and latitude of 			

Intended Outputs	Output Targets by year	Status	Means of Verification	MTE Comments
	forest boundaries obtained <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lessons learned collected, result dissemination activities performed			

Relevance

The project appears to be relevant to all stakeholders – both internationally (EU, UNDP), nationally (various stakeholders within the Russian Federation at a federal level and in other areas within the federation) but also locally (within the regions targeted by the projects as well as local communities), and important given the nature and level of the threats. There are many learning processes that will be derived from the results of the project – such that the results and processes will be important across many sectors – and for both researchers and practitioners.

Effectiveness & Efficiency

In terms of efficiency, the project has been built on the back of two other projects – the UNDP-GEF Komi PAS project and the UNDP-BMU-ICI project. There are significant synergies among the three projects. In addition, because the ClimaEast project is being implemented on the back of these two other projects, it draws off the existing management capacities, professional networks and implementation instruments; in this way, the project is achieving considerable efficiencies. While the UNDP-GEF project was still ongoing, there were also significant savings on project management costs.

While there are questions regarding the under-delivery (or underspend) within the project, progress appears to be satisfactory. This is the case in spite of a *very* limited functional field season in these northern areas: the working field season is between 45 and 60 days per year!

Country ownership

The majority of the work is being carried out either by consultants or by academic institutions under contract. That being said, there is a relatively strong sense of ownership among the implementation team all of whom are from local organisations.

Linkages need to be retained with the recently established PA Centre in the Komi Republic.

Mainstreaming

In principle, one of the principal objectives of the project is learning with the aim of replicating experiences and good practices. Indeed, the third component is set up on this basis alone. Given that the project is attempting to restore permafrost peatlands for the first time, this may have important implications for elsewhere in Russia and elsewhere in the world. Already there is communication and participation in various conferences and workshops.

As yet, however, the project has not attained sufficient results to finalise guidelines or manuals for replication of the practices and the results that have been attained so far are only preliminary in nature.

Sustainability

At this point in the project's lifetime, it is too early to comment extensively about the likelihood (or otherwise) of sustainability of the project's results and processes. There are various aspects of sustainability that will, ultimately, be of concern. These include:

- Maintenance of the equipment in the field such that long-term datasets regarding the meteorological, greenhouse gas fluxes and temperature data can continue to be

collected. This will require institutional ownership (by the right institution) and funding

- If/when the protected areas are established (as they should be under component one), the protected areas will have to have appropriate institutional housing, resource allocation (both human and financial) and other forms of capacity to ensure their sustainability
- It is unlikely that the results from the restoration experiments will be conclusive by the end of the project; it is imperative, therefore, that the project team and the UNDP-CO finds a mechanism to ensure that the restored sites continue to be monitored once the project is complete and, critically, that the results are reported. As indicated above, the results should be reported even if they are negative.

The project will have to start, even at this point, to consider these aspects and to ensure that there is sufficient institutional ownership of each of these components to ensure their long-term sustainability. As recommended in the monitoring mission of 2013, the projects should draw up sustainability plans. It is critically important that *all the institutions implicated for long-term sustainability of the project's processes and impacts participate in the development of the sustainability plans.*

Impact

To date, the project has had limited *impact*. However, if it continues at the pace at which it has been going over the past eighteen months, it is likely to have significant impacts – i) in expanding the protected area systems of the Komi Republic and the NAO – with the associated biodiversity, ecosystems and ecological processes (although, as indicated below, this is the one area in which actually achieving the protected area expansion in the remaining will be challenging), ii) in the expansion of knowledge of restoring permafrost peatlands, and of the ecological and biogeochemical processes of permafrost peatlands, and iii) in building capacity. However, the inertia must be maintained for these impacts to be attained.

Conclusions, Recommendations & Lessons

The conclusion is that the project is on a good track to achieve its objectives – at least in the Komi Republic and the NAO – and can be rated as **satisfactory**. Here there has been steady progress on all components despite the fact that the project is significantly underspent. As long as the momentum is maintained, the project should achieve the majority of its outcomes and, at its closure, be rated highly satisfactory.

However, there are two significant caveats. First, drawing off the experience of the UNDP-GEF project, establishing protected areas is a *lengthy* and complicated process. The project (with UNDP-CO) must ensure that sufficient emphasis is placed on the establishment of the protected areas – otherwise this component of the project will not be complete. Irrespective of the fact that the establishment of the “Chernorechenskyi” *zakaznik* has been included into the Strategic Plan of PAs development of the Komi Republic, because establishment processes are costly and time-consuming, the project should do whatever it can before it closes to ensure that when the time comes for the legal establishment everything is already prepared. In other words, all documentation must be prepared – including the legal documentation, descriptions, etc and, as necessary, the initial capital equipment procured.

Second, the restoration process is not only about carry out the work but the post-restoration monitoring is almost as important. Therefore, the restoration should go

ahead as soon as possible. In addition, as indicated above, the project and the UNDP-CO need to ensure that there is sufficient institutional ownership that the monitoring will continue long after the project closes and that the results (whether positive or negative) are reported.

Finally, if the project continues to underspend its budget, there could be an argument to request a no-cost extension of the project particularly to continue to usher these two aspects forward.

In contrast to the permafrost project, the progress in the Steppe Project is significantly lagging. Two concerns have been expressed above about the permafrost project: the Steppe project is significantly further behind than the permafrost project and so such concerns are even more significant.

Actions to follow up or reinforce initial benefits from the project, and corrective actions to improve project performance

The following recommendations can be made at this stage of the project:

- As mentioned above, if the project continues to underspend on its budgets and it has not fully achieved its objectives (particularly for component one – the establishment of protected areas, and component two – monitoring the experimental restoration), the project team and PSC should consider requesting a no-cost extension (depending on funding reserves remaining). The decision for this should be taken no later than July 2015 – and should depend on i) the status of the restoration processes and ii) the degree to which the protected area establishment process has advanced (beyond just inclusion into the Komi Republic’s commitment to expand the protected area system).
- As discussed in section “Project Finance” above, it is recommended that a) the project management costs are clearly defined and are analysed retroactively for 2013 and 2014 and b) some form of budgeting and reporting of project management expenses is carried out in the remaining part of the project (even if it is indeed that these costs are included in the different components). This will aid analysis of the cost effectiveness of the project and project management.
- In order to improve the likelihood of sustainability, the project should retain linkages with and involve, in as profound a way as possible, the organisations with the mandates for protected area management. For example, in the Komi Republic, this would be the recently established PA Centre.
- In contrast to the progress in the northern parts of the project (i.e., those taking place in the Komi Republic and the NAO), the progress in the Steppe Project has been slower – particularly for those aspects dealing with the establishment of the protected areas and restoration. Because of his extensive experience over the past six years in dealing with protected area establishment and protected area systems, it is recommended that the Project Manager of the Komi/NAO project assist the executors of the southern project in this aspect of the project.

Thus, the Project Manager may provide all backstopping to the project executors and, where possible, take over responsibility for these aspects of the project. This will impose a significant travelling commitment on the Project Manager.

One alternative to this would be to hire someone to deal specifically with this aspect in the south. This person would then be permanently in place in the region in which the project is attempting to establish a protected area. S/he would then work directly with the authorities to go through the process of establishing the

protected area, writing the TOR for feasibility studies, legal aspects, etc. until the task was complete.

- The project will, potentially, have significant implications for the oil and gas industries: i) for restoration of permafrost peatland and forest sites once their reserves become depleted and ii) for offsetting damage to sites – and offsetting could either be in the form of restoring damaged areas or protecting pristine sites. However, this will (probably) require amendment to the legislation (specifically regarding the oil and gas companies' requirements). If there is sufficient funding in the final year of the project, it may be useful to engage a lawyer to examine the law and determine the feasibility of making amendments to the law in order to make this obligatory for oil and gas companies that have been working in these sensitive areas.

Lessons learned (including lessons that might improve design and implementation)

At this point in the project's implementation, there are relatively few lessons to be learned but those to date include:

- While obvious, it is worth mentioning that this project has benefitted from being implemented by an experienced and well-connected team. This has not only added to cost effectiveness but also, significantly, to how efficient and effective they have been in implementing the project to date. Where it is possible to piggyback synergistic projects such as these, it makes sense to do so.
- The above point stands in stark contrast to the Steppe project that, although it has benefitted from exceptionally knowledgeable executors, these people are also exceptionally busy. Having dedicated project executors and managers helps ensure timely delivery of project components.
- Second, securing agreements (e.g., for establishing protected areas or restoring peatlands) is a time consuming process and this should not be underestimated when designing projects. Sufficient time and resources need to be committed to these processes; projects should only be developed where there is significant political will from all stakeholders actually to fulfil the goals and objectives of such projects.

Annex I: Terms of Reference

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full and medium-sized UNDP support GEF financed projects are required to undergo a terminal evaluation upon completion of implementation. These terms of reference (TOR) sets out the expectations for a Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the **“Strengthening the Protected Area System of the Komi Republic to Conserve Virgin Forest Biodiversity in the Pechora River Headwaters Region”** Project (PIMS 2496).

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The project was designed to improve the representation of the Scandinavian and Russian taiga and Ural montane forest tundra in the federal, regional and local system of protected areas in Russia and in particular in the Komi Republic being a key repository of biodiversity of these ecosystems. The project supports restructuring of the PA system in Komi Republic by seeking to enhance the systemic and institutional capacities so manage the redesigned system and to diversify income streams to ensure the PA System is more financially sustainable.

In addition to the GEF intervention, in early 2010, with funding from the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the German government, UNDP launched a project targeting the boreal forests of Komi as carbon stocks which are at major risk from forest fires. The project was designed to build the capacity of local stakeholders and improves infrastructure at targeted protected areas in the Komi Republic enabling them to effectively mitigate human and climate change risks, develop, implement and monitor effectively climate change adaptation measures. Total budget for the ICI-funded project “carbon” component made up EUR 2,999,230 (USD 4,175,118.58), the component is operationally completed as of September 30, 2013.

In 2013, an agreement was reached with the European Union via the ClimaEast initiative to support yet another component of the project aimed at the conservation and restoration of ecosystems in the permafrost. The main objective of the component is to develop and demonstrate effective approaches to conservation and restoration of forests with large reserves of carbon and swamps in permafrost conditions in the Russian North, optimization of their management in a changing climate. The component was initiated in connection with the growth of international understanding of the relationship of climate and permafrost. It is implemented in the Republic of Komi and the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Implementation of the new component is designed for 4 years (2013-2016). Total funding amounts to USD 3,246,750.00 (EUR 2.5 million), as well UNDP administration fee of 7% (USD 227,272.50). The Clima East Pilot in Russia is part of a larger EU Clima East Pilot project which involves other countries in the Europe and CIS region on issues of peatlands restoration (Belarus, Russia South and Ukraine) and pastures management (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova).

As the project is multi-donor funded and includes not only the GEF, but also German ICI and EU funded components which are complementary and share the same implementation approach and modality, the TE will be focused on the assessment of the GEF-funded intervention but also give an opinion of project efficiency, overall impact and sustainability of results for the extended programme and not only the GEF-funded outcomes. This overall TE for the GEF project is timed at the mid-term for the EU Clima East project and thus recommendations related to the EU contribution of the intervention should take this into account (i.e. recommendations as part of an MTE can include suggestion on improvements in further project management and effectiveness).

The TE will be conducted according to the guidance, rules and procedures established by UNDP and GEF as reflected in the UNDP Evaluation Guidance for GEF Financed Projects, and as agreed in the EU-UNDP Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA).

The objectives of the evaluation (from the UNDP-GEF project and German ICI perspective) are to assess the achievement of project results, and to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. The objectives for the MTE part of the EU Clima East component is to assess progress towards the

achievement of the Clima East Pilot project objective, identify and document lessons learned (including lessons that might improve design and implementation), and to make recommendations regarding specific actions that might be taken to improve the project. The evaluation will play a critical role in the future implementation of the project by providing advice on: (i) how to strengthen the adaptive management and monitoring function of the project; (ii) how to ensure accountability for the achievement of the EU Clima East Pilot project objective; and (iii) how to enhance organizational and development learning, including among the other peatlands projects under the Clima East.

EVALUATION APPROACH AND METHOD

An overall approach and method⁹ for conducting project terminal and mid-term evaluations of UNDP supported GEF financed projects has developed over time. The evaluator is expected to frame the evaluation effort using the criteria of **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact**, as defined and explained in the UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed Projects. A set of questions covering each of these criteria have been drafted and are included with this TOR. The evaluator is expected to amend, complete and submit this matrix as part of an evaluation inception report, and shall include it as an annex to the final report.

The evaluation must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful. The evaluator is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with government counterparts, in particular the GEF operational focal point, UNDP Country Office, project team, UNDP GEF Technical Adviser based in the region, EU Clima East Pilot Project Regional Coordinator and key stakeholders. The evaluator is expected to conduct a field mission to Moscow and Syktyvkar (Komi Republic), including pilot project sites in Komi Republic, such as Pechoro-Ilychsky Nature Reserve and Yugyd-va National Park. Interviews will be held with the following organizations and individuals at a minimum: Federal Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Nature Protection Agency of Komi Republic, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Komi Republic, Komi Forest Committee, Pechoro-Ilychsky Nature Reserve and Yugyd-va National Park, the Republican Center for the Support to Protected Areas and Natural Resource Management (Regional PA Directorate), RAS Ural Branch Science Centre Institute of Biology, RAS Forest Institute, GazpromTransgas Ukhta Ltd., and/or other major private sector stakeholders.

The evaluator will review all relevant sources of information, such as the project document, project reports – including Annual APR/PIR, project budget revisions, midterm review, progress reports, GEF focal area tracking tools, project files, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the evaluator considers useful for this evidence-based assessment. A list of documents that were reviewed is included in Annex V.

EVALUATION CRITERIA & RATINGS

An assessment of project performance will be carried out, based against expectations set out in the Project Logical Framework/Results Framework which provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. The expectations of the EU Clima East project are set out in Outcome 4 of the Project Logical Framework/Results Framework and within the Project Description (see Annex A.2.) The evaluation will at a minimum cover the criteria of: **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact**. Ratings must be provided on the following performance criteria. The completed table must be included in the evaluation executive summary.

Evaluation Ratings:			
1. Monitoring and Evaluation	<i>rating</i>	2. IA& EA Execution	<i>rating</i>
M&E design at entry		Quality of UNDP Implementation	
M&E Plan Implementation		Quality of Execution - Executing Agency	
Overall quality of M&E		Overall quality of Implementation / Execution	
3. Assessment of Outcomes	<i>rating</i>	4. Sustainability	<i>rating</i>

⁹ For additional information on methods, see the [Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results](#), Chapter 7, pg. 163

Relevance		Financial resources:	
Effectiveness		Socio-political:	
Efficiency		Institutional framework and governance:	
Overall Project Outcome Rating		Environmental :	
		Overall likelihood of sustainability:	

Ratings for the criteria in the Table above will be deemed the same for the UNDP/GEF project and the EU Clima East Pilot, unless otherwise noted in the Table. It is anticipated that ratings on sustainability may differ due to the remaining time remaining in case of the latter project, and the evaluator shall note any such disparities in the Table, using footnotes or comments as deemed necessary by him/her.

PROJECT FINANCE / COFINANCE

The Evaluation will assess the key financial aspects of the project, including the extent of co-financing planned and realized. Project cost and funding data will be required, including annual expenditures. Variances between planned and actual expenditures will need to be assessed and explained. Results from recent financial audits, as available, should be taken into consideration. The evaluator(s) will receive assistance from the Country Office (CO) and Project Team to obtain financial data in order to complete the co-financing table below, which will be included in the terminal evaluation report.

MAINSTREAMING

UNDP supported GEF financed projects are key components in UNDP country programming, as well as regional and global programmes. The evaluation will assess the extent to which the project was successfully mainstreamed with other UNDP priorities, including poverty alleviation, improved governance, the prevention and recovery from natural disasters, and gender.

IMPACT

The evaluators will assess the extent to which the project is achieving impacts or progressing towards the achievement of impacts. Key findings that should be brought out in the evaluations include whether the project has demonstrated: a) verifiable improvements in ecological status, b) verifiable reductions in stress on ecological systems, and/or c) demonstrated progress towards these impact achievements.¹⁰

CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS

The evaluation report must include a chapter providing a set of **conclusions, recommendations** and **lessons**.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this evaluation resides with the UNDP Project Support Office (PSO) in the Russian Federation. The UNDP PSO will contract the evaluators and ensure the timely provision of per diems and travel arrangements within the country for the evaluation team. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the Evaluators team to set up stakeholder interviews, arrange field visits, coordinate with the Government etc.

EVALUATION TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the evaluation will be up to two months; within this time period, up to 32 days working days are expected to be distributed according to the following plan:

Activity	Time allocation
Preparation	4 days
Evaluation Mission	14 days (incl.travel)

¹⁰ A useful tool for gauging progress to impact is the Review of Outcomes to Impacts (ROtI) method developed by the GEF Evaluation Office: [ROTI Handbook 2009](#)

Draft Evaluation Report	10 days
Final Report	4 days

EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

The evaluator is expected to deliver the following:

Deliverable	Content	Responsibilities
Inception Report	Evaluator provides clarifications on timing and method	Evaluator submits to UNDP CO
Presentation	Initial Findings	To project management, UNDP CO
Draft Final Report	Full report, (per annexed template) with annexes	Sent to CO, reviewed by RTA, EU Clima East Regional Coordinator, PCU, GEF OFPs
Final Report*	Revised report	Sent to CO for uploading to UNDP ERC.

Annex II: Itinerary of Mission to Russia

Date	Activity
Aug 30	International Consultant, Arrival in Moscow
Aug 31	Meeting with Irina Bredneva, UNDP Program Specialist at UNDP Support Office Russia Travel to Syktyvkar
01 Sept	Presentations by Project Team in Institute of Biology, Syktyvkar Meeting with the Vice-Head of the Komi Republic Meeting with Ruslan Bolshakov, manager for peat ecosystem rehabilitation Meeting with Yuri Lisin, Minister of Natural Resources And Environmental Protection of Komi at Ministry of Natural Resources And Environmental Protection of Komi Meeting with Aleksander Popov, Head of Komi Department of the Nature Protection Agency, National Director of the project Meeting at the Republican Center for the Support to Protected Areas and Natural Resource Management Meeting at the Forest Committee of the Republic of Komi with Ruslan Ulyanov, Head of the Forest Committee of the Republic of Komi and Vladimir Drobakhin, Director of the Komi Regional Forest Fire Centre Transfer to Ukhta
02 Sept	Meeting with Andrei Melnichuk, Head of economic component Visits to pilot projects / site infrastructure of the Pechora-Illych <i>zapovednik</i> Visit to elk farm. Overnight at Pechora-Illych <i>zapovednik</i> 's hotel in Yaksha Conclusion of meeting with Andrei Melnichuk, Head of economic component
03 Sept	Meeting in offices of Pechora-Illych <i>zapovednik</i> , including meetings with <i>zapovednik</i> staff members and with Konstantin Satsyuk, Director of the non-commercial partnership Union of Protected Areas of Komi Travel to Ukhta
04 Sept	Field visits to protected area south of Ukhta and Institute of Biology's field station near village of Lyali. Meetings with field station staff members; visit Lyalski zakaznik; visit to Belyi zakaznik (to see meteorological and gas flux installation) Travel to Syktyvkar

05 Sept	<p>Presentation by the Institute of Biology in Syktyvkar</p> <p>Meetings with project consultants</p> <p>Meeting with Project Manager</p> <p>Meeting with representatives of various environmental NGOs</p>
06 Sept	<p>Field visits to various sites to the south of Syktyvkar, including water natural monument “Kazhim water reservoir”, Kargortsky nature landscape</p>
07 Sept	<p>Field visit with various members of staff of the Institute of Biology to see various habitats to the east of Syktyvkar</p>
08 Sept	<p>Travel from Syktyvkar to Vuktyl</p> <p>Meeting with Head of Vuktyl rayon</p> <p>Meeting with Director of Yugyd va National Park</p> <p>Transfer to Podcherye village</p>
09 Sept	<p>Further meeting with Andrei Melnichuk, Head of economic component</p> <p>Field visit to various sites in the Yugyd va National Park, including infrastructure developed by project</p> <p>Overnight at one of the field posts/tourist sites</p>
10 Sept	<p>Meeting with Senior State Inspector for Yugyd va National Park</p> <p>Further field visit to various sites in the Yugyd va National Park</p> <p>Return to Ukhta via the geological zakaznik Kamenka Rocks</p>
11 Sept	<p>Meeting with Gazprom Transgas Ukhta</p> <p>Meeting with Project Manager</p> <p>Flight to Moscow</p>
12 Sept	<p>Meeting with Irina Bredneva, UNDP Program Specialist</p> <p>Meeting with Andrei Sirin, Director of Forestry Institute</p> <p>International Consultant departs from Moscow</p>

Annex III: List of persons interviewed

Person	Position & Institutional Affiliation/Position
Irina Bredneva	UNDP Program Specialist
Aleksander Popov	Head of Komi Department of the Nature Protection Agency and National Director of the project
Yuri Lisin	Minister of Natural Resources And Environmental Protection of Komi
Aleksandr Yermakov	Director of the PA Center
Roman Polshvedkin	First Deputy of Minister of Natural Resources And Environmental Protection of Komi (former Director of the PA Center)
Ruslan Ulyanov	Head of the Forest Committee of the Republic of Komi
Vladimir Drobakhin	Director of the Komi Regional Forest Fire Centre
Vasily Ponomarev	Project Manager
Olga Makoyeva	Head of institutional component
Andrei Melnichuk	Head of economic component
Ruslan Bolshakov	manager for peat ecosystem rehabilitation in the Nenetsky Autonomous Region
Svetlana Zagirova	monitoring expert and Head of the carbon component
Margarita Moiseyeva	awareness raising and media relations
Andrei Yeshchenko	helicopter poaching prevention expert
Anastasiya Tentyukova	project assistant
Dominika Kudriavtseva	Director of Pechora-Illych reserve
Konstantin Satsyuk	Director of the non-commercial partnership Union of Protected Areas of Komi
Kapitolina Bobkova	Chief Academic Advisor of the carbon component
Aleksei Fedorkov	expert on adaptation to climate change
Oleg Mikhailov	Researcher at Biology Institute - Komi Research Center of the Urals Subsidiary of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Svetlana Degteva	Director of the Biology Institute - Komi Research Center of the Urals Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Olga Konakova	Deputy Minister for Economic Development of Komi Republic
Tamara Dmitrieva	head of laboratory of Institute for Social- Economic and Energy Issues of the North- Komi Research Center of the Urals Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Sergei Gabov	Head of the Interregional Civic Movement Komi Voityr
Valentina Semyashkina	Member of the Public Pechora Rescue Committee and Civic

	Movement of Komi Izhem Residents “Izvatas”
Lyubov Chalysheva	head of Center of Education for Sustainable Development of Komi- Komi State Teacher-Training University
Yuri Pautov	Director of the Komi Regional Non-commercial Fund Silver Taiga
Svetlana Plyusnina	Head of the Ecology and Education Center Snegir
Tatyana Fomicheva	Director of the National Park
Natalya Shalagina	Chief government inspector
Tatyana Pystina	Expert of the UNDP/GEF PA project
Olga Kirsanova	Researcher, Pechora-Illych <i>zapovednik</i>
Andrei Satsuk	Elk Farm, Pechora-Illych <i>zapovednik</i>
Alexei Mosin	Deputy Director for ecological education, Pechora-Illych <i>zapovednik</i>
Andrei Zverev	Deputy Director of Pechora-Illych <i>zapovednik</i> – Head of Security
Anna Grechanaya	Pechora-Illych <i>zapovednik</i> , protection and security department
Sergei Kochanov	Head of laboratory for the ecology of terrestrial vertebrate species (Biology Institute, Komi Research Center of the Urals Subsidiary of the Russian Academy of Sciences)
Sergei Uretskiy	Main Ecologist of GazpromTransgas Ukhta
Andrei Sirin	Director of Forestry Institute

Annex IV: Members of the Project Steering Committee

Voting members

Alexander Popov, Head, Federal service for supervision of nature management in the Republic of Komi (Komi department of Russian nature management service).
National Project Director, Chairman of the Steering Committee

Vsevolod Stepanitsky, Deputy Director, Department of State policy in the field of Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation

Natalya Olofinskaya, Head, UNDP Project Support Office in the Russian Federation

Yury Lisin, Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Komi

Vladimir Korneev, Project Manager, EU Delegation to Russia

Alexander Makarenko, Head, The Committee on Natural Resources, Nature Management and Ecology, State Council of the Republic of Komi

Vladimir Bezumov, Head of the Administrative Department, Administration of the Naryan-Mar

Ludmila Rocheva, Head of the Department, Department of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug

Konstantin Ponomarev, Head, Federal service for supervision of nature management in the Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug

Lyudmila Kabantseva, Head, External Relations and Protocol Department of the Administration of the Head of the Republic of Komi and Government of the Republic of Komi

Ruslan Ulyanov, Head, Forest Committee of the Republic of Komi

Sergey Derevyanko, Chief, Administration of Municipality of the district of Vuktyl

Ivan Rozhitsin, Chief, Administration of Municipality of the district of Priluzsky

Ilya Sidorin, Chief, Administration of Municipality of the district of Troitsko-Pechorsk

Valentina Semyashkina, Chairman, "Pechora Rescue Committee"

Svetlana Plyusnina, Director, Ecological Education Center "Snegir"

Victor Nikolaev, Chief, Administration of Municipality of the district of Pechora

Observer members

Tatyana Fomichyova, Director, National Park "Yugyd va"

Dominika Kudryavtseva, Director, Pechora-Ilych Reserve

Valery Illarionov, Head, The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance in the Republic of Komi (Rosselkhoznadzor)

Michael Bazhukov, Director, Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs Union of the Republic of Komi

Sergey Gabov, Head, Inter-regional social movement «Komi voityr»

Dmitry Polshvedkin, Head, Territorial Informational Fund by natural resources and environmental protection of the Republic of Komi

Roman Polshvedkin, First Deputy of Minister, Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental protection of the Republic of Komi

Sergei Uretskiy, head of the Department of Environmental Protection, Gazprom transgaz Uhta

Svetlana Degteva, Director, Institute of Biology (Komi Scientific Centre, Ural Branch, Russian Academy of Science)

Alexander Borovinskikh, All-Russian public organization "Russian Ecological Union"

Valentina Zhideleva, Director, Syktyvkar Forest Institute

Annex VI: Framework questions used

1. What is the achievement, so far, of which you are most proud?
2. If you could go back in time, what would you change or do differently?
3. If you could go back in time, which activities would you definitely do again?
4. If the project had an extra USD 500k and an extra two years, what else would you consider doing?
5. What are you doing to ensure take up/replication of the concept and processes in other areas of the country?
6. What are the effects of inflation or changes in the exchange rates to the budgeting and/or expenditure?
7. Please give examples of how you are ensuring cost effectiveness?
8. Please provide all information on cofinance to date, including both cash and in-kind expenditure and a summary of the items on which the co-finance has been spent.
9. What is your role/relationship with the project?
10. What are you doing to ensure sustainability of the project's processes and impacts?
11. This (xxx) success seems very good: what did you do to achieve it?
12. Who are the partners (i.e., people actively working to the same goals) on the project?
13. Who would you say *owns* the project?
14. Who are the stakeholders in the project (i.e., people that are involved in the project, either actively or passively or will be affected by the project in some way)?
15. Who prepares the TOR for all contracting?
16. Who signs the contracts?
17. Imagine this scenario: if the Minister phones you up and says that he needs to make a brief report on the project to the President and he needs 5 bullets on the following subjects:
 - Key successes
 - what would you advise the next door country to do if they were to implement a similar project
 - what works and why
 - what does not work and why
 - key challenges
18. Is the project having any useful (but unplanned) spin-offs?
19. Is the project having any detrimental or negative (but unplanned or unintended) impacts?
20. This is a UNDP project – what advantages or disadvantages does this bring? What if it was a World Bank project instead – what difference would that bring?
21. If you were to re-write the Project Document, what would you change?
22. Who are the project's champions?
23. Standard issues:
 - Project Manager Forum
 - Procurement rules and efficiencies
 - UNDP training/support
 - Financial audits

- Cofinance information
 - Communication strategy?
 - Monitoring awareness/knowledge
 - Backing up data and digital information
 - Team functionality
 - Staff turn over
 - If training is provided, how is training is now being used in job?
 - How including gender and/or indigenous peoples issues?
 - Need to provide all information, including equipment, inputs, infrastructure, tracking tool data.
 - If there was a delay, what was the reason?
24. How is the project aligned to the national development plan, region-level development plans and the UNDAF?
25. Is the project trying to increase awareness? If so, among which target groups? How is the project monitoring changes in awareness and attitude? How has any changes in attitude and awareness affected project implementation, and how is it being used in the daily, professional lives of the target groups?