

**Report of the Russian Federation on implementing the provisions of the
Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty
2004-2005
(in compliance with Article 17)**

PROTOCOL

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

In order to implement control for observance of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Roshydromet designated observers for the activity of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area for 2005:

- Martyanov V. L. – Head of seasonal operations of the 50th RAE – for the period 01.01.2005 to 07.04.2005;
- Alekseyev L.S. – Head of the wintering team of the 50th RAE – for the period 07.04.2005 to 31.12.2005.

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

According to the Order of Roshydromet, responsible representatives of the Russian Federation in the Antarctic Treaty Area for 2005 were designated at all Russian Antarctic stations and aboard the research vessels:

- Ulyev V. A. – magnetologist of Mirny station of the 50th RAE – in the operation area of Mirny Observatory;
- Fomichev N. I. – Head of Vostok station of the 50th RAE - in the operation area of Vostok station;
- Bugayev M.V.– Head of Novolazarevskaya station of the 50th RAE - in the operation area of Novolazarevskaya station;
- Nazarov V. D. – Head of Progress station of the 50th RAE - in the operation area of Progress station;
- Levando K.K. – Head of Bellingshausen Base of the 50th RAE in the operation area of Bellingshausen Base;
- Il'in V.F. – Head of Druzhnaya-4 Base of the 50th RAE in the operation area of Druzhnaya-4 Field Base;
- Zaitsev V.N. – Captain's assistant on science of the R/V "Akademik Fedorov" of the 50th RAE in the operation area of the R/V "Akademik Fedorov";
- Danyarov A.B. – Head of sledge-caterpillar traverse of the 49th RAE – in the operation area of sledge-caterpillar traverses along the Mirny-Vostok route;
- Kutsuruba A.I. – Head of the team of the "Radok" field camp – in the operation area of the "Radok" field camp;
- Gandyukhin V.V. – Head of the cruise of the R/V "Akademik Aleksander Karpinsky" - in the operation area of the R/V "Akademik Aleksander Karpinsky".

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

The duties of responsible representatives include:

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

In particular, the responsible representatives of the Russian Federation in the Antarctic Treaty Area informed in their reports about:

- the flights of airplanes from Cape Town to the airfield of the Russian Novolazarevskaya station for delivering to Antarctica personnel of the expeditions of Russia, Germany and Scandinavian countries;
- the flight of VT-76 aircraft to Vostok station for personnel rotation via the Escudero (Chile), Halley (UK), Novolazarevskaya, Molodezhnaya and Progress stations;
- the presence in the Russian Bellingshausen station area of marine ships of the Russian ship owners, chartered by foreign companies;
- the presence of Russian citizens in the areas of the Russian stations.

The information received allows the Commission's Secretariat to order and control the activity of the Russian individual persons and legal entities in the Antarctic Treaty Area and draw their attention to the need of obtaining a national permit for activities in the Antarctic Treaty Area.

From 2004 to May 2005, the Commission issued 7 permits for implementing activity in the Antarctic Treaty Area:

2. Plans of actions in emergency

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

The plans of action in emergency for the Russian Antarctic stations are presented in the form of the approved instructions.

ANNEX 1

3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

Thus in order to obtain a permit for the activity of the Russian Antarctic Expedition up to 2007, in compliance with Article 1 of Annex 1, the EIA of the ongoing activities of the Russian Antarctic Expedition was performed (Russian Antarctic Expedition activities. EIA, 2000).

4. List of the Permits issued for the activity in Antarctica and the corresponding Initial Environmental Evaluations (IEE) performed from 2004 to May 2005.

No. of permit	To whom it was granted	Type of activity	Area (route)	Period of permit validity
022	SI AARI of Roshydromet	Airborne nature protection expedition for evacuation of AN-3T aircraft from the US Antarctic station Amundsen-Scott in the 50 th RAE	Area of Antarctica between McMurdo and Amundsen-Scott stations (South Pole area)	For the operation period of the 50 th RAE
023	OJSC “Far Eastern Shipping Company”	Icebreaking escort of transport vessels by the diesel-electric “Krasin” icebreaker	From 60 to 78°E, from 150 to 180° E and from 180°E to 160°W in the Ross Sea	20.01.2005 – 10.03.2005
024	SI AARI of Roshydromet	Aviation support for Vostok station	Punta-Arenas (Chile) – March airfield (The Chilean Antarctic station, King George Island) – airfield at Halley station (Great Britain) – airfield of Novolazarevskaya station (RF) – airfield at Molodezhnaya Base (RF) – airfield at Progress station (RF) – airfield at Vostok station (RF)	20.01.2005 – 20.03.2008
025	SI AARI of Roshydromet	Drilling of additional 50 m of deep borehole 5G-1 at Vostok station	Central Antarctica area, Russian Antarctic Vostok station	20.01.2005 – 20.03.2007
026	SI Far Eastern Research Hydrometeorological Institute of Roshydromet	Marine tourism onboard the M/S “Professor Khromov” (cruises with foreign tourists)	From 160 to 180°E and from 50 to 78°S (Ross Sea)	20.01.2005 – 02.10.2008

027	SI Far Eastern Research Hydrometeorological Institute of Roshydromet	Marine tourism onboard the M/S “Akademik Shokalsky” (cruises with foreign tourists)	From 40 to 80°W and from 50 to 70°S (Scotia Sea, Antarctic Peninsula area)	20.01.2005 – 02.10.2008
028	Charitable health improving foundation “Adventure Club”	Cruising voyage onboard the yacht “Apostol Andrey” around Antarctica	South Georgia Island – South Sandwich Islands – farther eastward along 60°S. Calls to Progress (RF), Dumont-d’Urville (France) and Bellingshausen (RF) stations. Exit to the north along the 60 th parallel in the area of the South Sandwich Islands.	20.01.2005 – 01.05.2006

5. Monitoring

In compliance with Article 5, Annex 1, monitoring of key environmental parameters is being carried out for assessing and checking the impact of implemented activity. During the 50th RAE season, a large volume of microbiological, lichenological and ornithological studies was carried out at the coastal stations. An analysis of the data obtained allows us to assess the degree of anthropogenic impact on the environment in these areas. Studies of the mutual influence of neighboring colonies of birds and people at the microbial exchange level were conducted in the area of the Russian Antarctic stations and practical recommendations were elaborated in order to exclude or mitigate the negative consequences of such mutual influence and preserve the integrity of the Antarctic ecosystem.

ANNEX II

6. Exchange of information on flora and fauna

In compliance with Article 6, Annex 2:

- a) From 1995, no takings of animals or plants by RAE were undertaken;
- b) During the 50th RAE season, collection of data on the numbers and biology of birds and mammals in the Fildes Peninsula area (King George Island, South Shetland Islands) and investigation of influence of the Antarctic stations on the populations of sea birds in order to work out recommendations for their protection for the study area were continued. In addition, study of interannual peculiarities of the large-scale distribution of sea birds along the meridional Atlantic transect (from King George Island to Bay of Biscay) were continued in connection with the geographical zonality and oceanographic and food factors. Russian nature protection and zoological investigations in the areas of the largest anthropogenic impact allowed assessing the influence of the Antarctic stations on the bio-diversity of high vertebrates and the state of natural complexes in general and revealing the main factors of the population dynamics. The obtained natural materials have supplemented the database and can serve as a basis for the development of the area management plan and elaboration of recommendations for the sustainable development of activity of the Antarctic stations and expeditions in the Fildes Peninsula area.

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

During the period of validity of the Procedure for issuance of permits for activity in Antarctica (from December 1999), no permits related to flora and fauna were requested and issued.

ANNEX III

8. Preparation of the Waste Management Plans

All Russian marine ships that have a Permit for activity in the Antarctic (including the research expedition vessels “Akademik Fedorov” and “Akademik Aleksandr Karpinsky” also have the SHIPBOARD GARBAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN), corresponding to the requirements of MARPOL 73/78.

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

9. Introduction of the Waste Management Plans

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

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

10. Inventory of past activities

The creation of the database on the areas of past RAE activity is at the preparation stage. In accordance with the programs of nature protection investigations, inventory of the wastes of past and present activity are being constantly carried out at the stations. In the course of the 49th RAE and the 50th RAE season, such work was undertaken at Mirny, Progress, Bellingshausen, Novolazarevskaya and Vostok stations. In addition during the Mirny-Vostok traverse, inventory of the objects in direct proximity to the route was made (containers left, vehicles, structures and facilities at Pionerskaya, Vostok-1 and Komsomol'skaya stations) and a large volume of photo-materials was collected.

11. Waste disposal

During the 50th RAE season, a complex of work was performed to eliminate the open waste storage sites in the airfield area of Novolazarevskaya station. The wastes were prepared for transportation from the Antarctic Treaty Area. Such nature protection measures were undertaken during the reporting period at the other stations of the Russian Antarctic Expedition.

In compliance with Article 3, Annex 3, the burnable refuse not removed from the Antarctic Treaty Area is subjected to thermal treatment in the incinerators IN-50 (at Novolazarevskaya (Figure 1) and Progress (Figure 2) stations).



Figure 1. *Incinerator module at Novolazarevskaya station*



Figure 2. *Incinerator IN-50 at Progress station*

During the 49th RAE season, a facility for electro-chemical treatment and disinfection of sewage waters was introduced into operation (Figure 3).



Figure 3. *Facility for treatment of sewage waters at Progress station*

ANNEX V

11. Revision of the Management Plan for Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 7 “Haswell Island”

The RAE has prepared and submitted a revised Management Plan for the Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 127 “Haswell Island” for consideration at the VIII Session of the Committee for Environmental Protection of the XXVIII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (Stockholm, 2005).

This area was initially designated as the Site of Special Scientific Interest № 7 “Haswell Island” (SSSI No. 7) under Recommendation VIII-4 (1975) as proposed by the Soviet Union. In compliance with Resolution 1 (1998) Russia was made responsible for revision of the management plan for SSSI No. 7 “Haswell Island” (in compliance with Resolution V (1996) – Antarctic specially protected area No.127 “Haswell Island”, ASPA No. 127). During the Antarctic summer seasons 1999/2000 and 2003/2004, work on stock-taking and mapping of avi-fauna was performed and the boundaries of location of the

nesting colony of Emperor penguins in the fast ice area adjoining Haswell Island were specified and taking this into account, the ASPA boundaries were delineated (Figure 4).

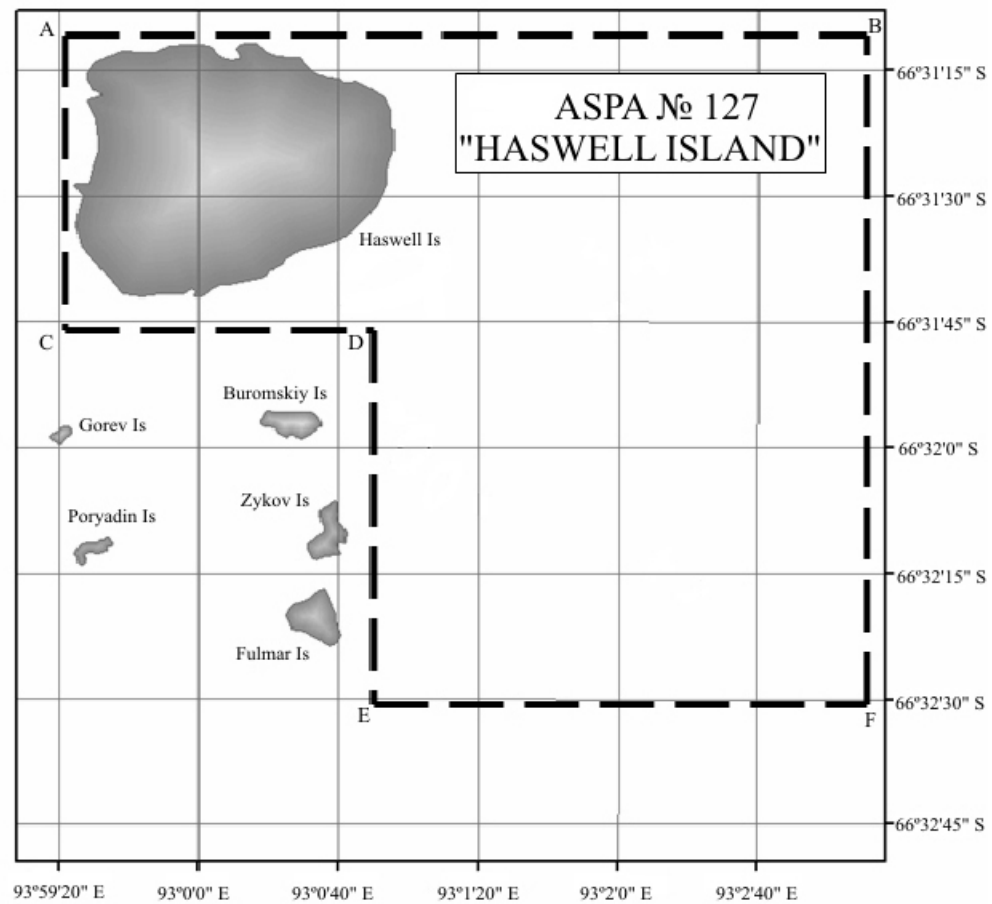


Figure 4. *Boundaries of ASPA No. 127 “Haswell Island”*

Current studies have testified that this region being the grounds for nesting of almost all bird species of East Antarctica is valuable for fundamental science and monitoring of man impact on the environment and confirmed the presence of initially determined values and their correspondence to Annex V to the Protocol on Environmental Protection.