

The Russian government's changing attitude to environmental issues

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Overview

- Organisational trends
- Environmental policy and legislation
- Russia's international environmental agenda
- State – ENGO relations
- Issues emerging from the seminar series

Organisational change

- 1996 – *Minnekologiya* downgraded to *Goskomekologiya* (Ministry for Natural Resources (MPR) established)
- 2000 – *Goskomekologiya* (and Forestry Service) abolished. Functions transferred to MPR
- 2004
 - Formation of the *Federal Service for Inspection in the Sphere of Natural Resource Use* under MPR
 - Formation of the *Federal Service for Ecological, Technological and Nuclear Surveillance* under the Russian government
 - Both services have responsibilities for the State Ecological Expertise
- 2005 – Authority for the State Ecological Expertise at the regional level to be devolved to the federal subjects from 2007

Policy and legislation

- Lack of policy coherence despite recent initiatives such as the Ecological Doctrine
- Financial shortfalls
- Legislative fluidity and confusion e.g. Forestry

Russia on the international stage

- Positive engagement with the Rio process (rhetoric)
- Signatory to Kyoto (wider political motives?)
- Projection of a 'green' image
- Emphasis by MPR on 'harmonization' (e.g. legal, data etc.), active participation in international discussion, development of an international market for 'ecological services' ...

State – ENGO relations

- Remain strained
- State suspicion over ENGO activities in some instances
- State concern that ENGO activities are undermining Russia's strategic economic aims