

Assessing and dealing with environmental impacts in the Russian Federation



Wildlife crossing, a green bridge for wild animals at a motorway near Dresden (Germany). Measures to re-link natural areas (Photo: P. Schauer, IÖR)

Background

Developing and adapting instruments for environmental planning is a priority of the German-Russian intergovernmental agreement on environmental protection and nature conservation of 1992. In the context of this cooperation a German-Russian compendium was developed to assess environmental impacts of construction projects (ecological expert opinion as part of the application) and implement an ecological assessment (concluding review procedure).

Although interventions in nature and landscape, i.e. unavoidable environmental impacts of projects, were compensated for in Russia, guidelines published in 2008 showed that these compensations were almost exclusively in the form of payments to the competent authorities. There is also often a lack of expertise and efficient methods to determine the compensation required and the respective measures.

Project

The aim of the advisory assistance project was to convey German and international approaches to compensation to everybody involved with the ecological aspects of construction projects in Russia. The environmental impact assessment (IEA) and the German nature conservation-based impact mitigation offer a wide range of methods. German and Russian project partners developed recommendations to improve Russian instruments and optimise their practical application in new Russian guidelines.

The focus is on interventions affecting biodiversity. For this purpose, the project partners also presented German and international methodical working aids and guidelines. They tried out various methods for different case studies in Russia. The guidelines aim to set technical standards which are to be taken into greater account for the implementation of projects in Russia. The guidelines were translated into English so they can also be used in UNECE countries and countries in transition.

- Target country/region: Russian Federation
- Duration: 12/2010 - 05/2013
- Beneficiary: Institute for Geography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Irkutsk; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation, Moscow
- Implementing organisations: Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development; HHP Hage+Hoppenstadt Partner
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