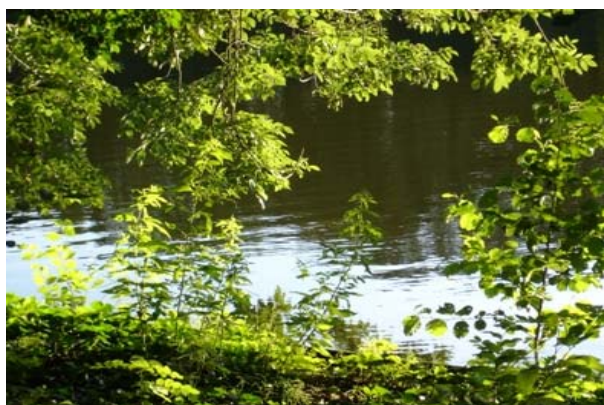


PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

February 2009

Introduction of Sustainability Criteria into the Russian Financial Sector



Investing sustainably – so we can enjoy natural rivers and landscapes (picture: B. Peglau)

Background

Initiatives to integrate environmental and social standards into the financial sector have formed worldwide during the last 10 years. For example, under the umbrella of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) the [Equator Principles](#) were launched, which evaluate the ecological and social impact of investments on the basis of 15 criteria. The Equator Principles target public as well as private financial institutions.

The growth of the Russian economy is mostly based on the exploitation of mineral resources such as oil, gas and metals. If investments and loans for such activities are based on sustainability criteria, then this helps to establish and improve environmental goals and social standards.

Project

The goal of the project is to introduce environmental and social standards in the Russian financial sector. To this end, it aims to raise

awareness of ecological and social issues within the Russian banking sector and to transfer relevant knowledge. The project foresees the following activities:

- Authoring a study on the Russian banking sector which will be complemented with contributions from international financial institutions;
- Organisation and implementation of a workshop for Russian experts informing about sustainable financial management;
- Compilation of guidelines and technical materials on sustainable financial management and their adjustment to the Russian banking sector;
- Briefings and consultations with Russian banks and documentation of the results in a report;
- Realisation of another workshop with participation of internationally operating banks and institutions which have committed to sustainability criteria.

In the project, opportunities will be sought to enter into discussions with big Russian (state-owned) banks aimed at raising more awareness among them for the importance of international environmental and social standards in the Russian financial sector.

- Funding: Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Environment Ministry
- Project identification: 380 01 191
- Region: Russian Federation
- Duration: 11/2008 - 05/2009
- Project management: Umweltbundesamt
- Project partners: WWF Germanv & Russia