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ISAR

MIDTERM EVALUATION
JUNE 16 - JULY 7, 1994



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ISAR Midterm Evaluation (Cooperative Agreement #CCN-0003-A-00-3048-00)

ERRATA:

The following paragraph should be inserted at the very bottom of p. 13, in Section III, "Impacts of Program":

- Media Interest indicators are examples of the funded organizations receiving coverage in local, national, and/or Western television, radio, or press.
- Government recognition is tangible evidence of government support of funded organizations, such as financial assistance, provision of free or subsidized office space, invitation to participate in government policy-making or on expert commissions.
- Environmental improvements include: cleaning of parks, public areas, bodies of water; reduction in radiation levels or toxic waste disposal; cessation of environmentally harmful activity.
- Public awareness and participation is evidence of the ability of funded organizations to attract new members and inspire communities to participate in organization activities including cleanups, letter-writing campaigns or public demonstrations, or group legal actions.
- Environmental policy changes are changes in government policy as evidenced by official decrees and documents as well as practical actions.
- NGO network building includes creation of new organizations, networking with Western and NIS organizations, assistance to or from indigenous NGOs.

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Evaluation report for ISAR/US A.I.D. Cooperative Grant #CCN-0003-A-00-3048-00

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Executive Summary

Given the challenges now facing the US government in its efforts to establish useful programs in the New Independent States (NIS), it is important to state at the outset of this evaluation one of its main conclusions: US A.I.D.'s sponsorship of NGO environmental initiatives in the NIS through the US organization ISAR is an effective application of US taxpayers' money. The majority of ISAR's subgrants are contributing both to democratic development and to ecological improvements in the NIS. ISAR's "Seeds of Democracy" project in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova, and its joint US-Russian programs, show what relatively small amounts of money — applied broadly yet carefully — can do to encourage social, environmental, and institutional change in the nations emerging from the shadow of Soviet totalitarianism. While there are institutional problems and management issues ISAR and A.I.D. must confront — and we will pinpoint a number in this report — they are exceptions to a general rule of solid achievement.

To reach the conclusions presented here, the team interviewed more than 30 Russian subgrantees from all over Russia, some 25 NGOs from the Western NIS, and a number of US-based organizations involved in joint US-NIS projects. The team also met at high levels of the Russian and Ukrainian governments, including with relevant Ministry officials. Further, the evaluators worked constructively with A.I.D. representatives in Russia and Ukraine, and discussed ISAR's efforts with Ambassador Miller in Kiev. Finally, we conducted lengthy reviews of staff procedures and spoke with ISAR's in-country advisors from the US and NIS who are responsible for project selection.

Seeds of Democracy — a program meeting US and NIS priorities

The "Seeds" Program gives grants ranging from \$500 to \$3000 to NGOs in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova which have shown promise in environmental activism and the ability to account for monies spent. In the judgment of the evaluators, the Seeds program is without question an effective vehicle for US aid, providing strict standards for financial and programmatic impacts are maintained. ISAR has established and maintained such standards in its cooperative agreement with A.I.D.. The evaluators saw no evidence of any diversion or misuse of funds by ISAR grantees, and read detailed financial reports — complete with receipts down to the last ruble — for a host of projects.

The dire environmental conditions in the NIS and the depth of public apathy towards any constructive projects have inspired, rather than enervated, some NIS NGOs. The groups now being funded through ISAR work on a range of environmental issues, from radiation monitoring, to biodiversity, to public education, to informing policymakers. Most of these NGOs have managed to show tangible impacts in the less than nine months that A.I.D. monies have been allocated by ISAR. What impacts have been shown? Local government has given legislative and practical support. ISAR grantees have participated in parliamentary hearings on the national level. The public, and particularly young

people, have shown a new eagerness to work on ecological projects. And the news media has again begun highlighting environmental and democratic initiatives. While not all the projects can claim such successes, early signs point to a program which will have both institutional and environmental impacts.

US-Russian Partnership Projects

ISAR's partnership grants, ranging in size from \$12,000 to \$75,000, minimize funds spent in the US and thereby help reinforce emerging environmental NGOs in Russia. By allowing no more than 15% of joint grants to be spent in the United States, ISAR has imposed dual accountability on its grantees — both Russian organizations and their US partners seek significant impacts on the Russian scene. These projects are somewhat more conventional in methodology (bringing together US and Russian organizations for seminars and joint research), but they have produced impacts similar to the Seeds grants. The cooperative grants are an important training ground for more effective, results-oriented multilateral cooperation than existed during the euphoria of the first US-Soviet contacts.

Two essential elements stand out in the Joint projects we assessed: (1) the professionalism and preparation of the partner organizations and (2) the high number of policy and environmental impacts they have achieved early in the program. In addition, ISAR has developed a unique dual-Board meeting strategy — the Russian board meets in Moscow and the US Board in Washington, with ISAR staff helping negotiate the actual voting between the different boards. The most delicate and potentially troubling issue facing the joint program — that of conflict of interest among its boards of advisors — arises because a small number of ISAR's project selection board members have also received ISAR grants. This issue has been dealt with in an open and honest way, and project voting is conducted with fairness and confidentiality, including recusal by relevant Board members. Nonetheless, the evaluators feel that to guarantee the continuing integrity of the program, ISAR should begin moving away from including potential grantees as members of its various boards.

Program Management

Adding to the effectiveness of the projects selected is the efficiency and professionalism of ISAR's staff and leadership. Attention to detail and a determined effort to discern local needs are the driving forces behind ISAR's project selection. The organization's young but experienced staff members — both US citizens and foreign nationals — have developed efficient systems for project oversight and reporting. In addition, the US, Western NIS, and Russian Boards of Advisors, composed of professional ecologists and environmental activists, have helped assure rigorous project screening. There are problems; for example, the concept of project impacts and their presentation to A.I.D. is not fully understood. However, ISAR staff, advisors, and grantees seem to have a good innate sense of the need to show results — and how to choose and run projects that will make a difference.

ISAR has a strict system of substantive and financial accounting which encourages discipline among its grantees and should be seen as a model for other such grant-making efforts in the NIS. Funds are distributed in fractions — a group may receive only 25%-30% of a total grant at a time, and have to account for its use before receiving the next allotment. The system of grants reporting thus gives ISAR

and A.I.D. an opportunity to judge how well a program is unfolding; an organization which succeeds with a smaller grant can apply for a larger one. On the other hand, there are problems with ISAR's own system of reporting to A.I.D. and the general public. The quarterly reports ISAR submits to A.I.D. focus too much on process and not enough on results. Fostering NGO cooperation — a key aspect of ISAR's larger institutional mission — is only one of the range of impacts A.I.D. seeks from its NIS environmental NGO grants.

ISAR's interaction with other A.I.D. programs

Regarding ISAR's relationship to other A.I.D. environmental and NGO programs in the NIS, it must be said that, due to US government funding dynamics, ISAR was obliged to develop and launch its A.I.D.-sponsored programs — particularly its partnership programs — in a very short time. Despite this haste, ISAR's programs have developed smoothly. Grant monies have been dispersed in short order and project impacts have quickly become apparent. In addition, the program structure has received wide praise and respect from indigenous NIS communities. In this context, there is certainly potential for greater coordination and cooperation between ISAR and the A.I.D. Environmental Policy and Technology program in supporting NGO development in specific NIS regions. However, we believe that the impetus for such cooperation should come from A.I.D. In any event, ISAR's program management and approach to local communities — including national review boards and knowledgeable local staff — should serve as a helpful example to A.I.D.'s growing NGO programs in the NIS.

ISAR's Grantmaking — Is More Thematic Unity Needed?

By leaving a certain amount of initiative to grant seekers, and not imposing overly restrictive grant categories on its Seeds of Democracy and joint programs, ISAR has concentrated on an essential aspect of its cooperative agreement with A.I.D.: the development of a democratic and environmental NGO infrastructure in the NIS. As the program develops, however, A.I.D. and ISAR may wish to move towards a more structured program — at least for a part of grants given — in order to be able to show results in urgent program areas. In addition, given that small NGOs in the NIS are growing in influence, experience, and size, A.I.D. should consider approving larger Seeds grants (in the neighborhood of \$10,000). After this point, however, NIS NGOs should be ready to move to other funding sources.

Sustainability of ISAR's programs

The reputation ISAR has garnered in the NIS as a dependable partner is based on hard work and considerable thought as to how successful programs can be run, and the inclusion of local experts and activists in the decision-making process. In a sense, then, the sustainability of ISAR's programs will be demonstrated by the sustainability of NIS NGOs. This community is growing and should eventually be self-sustaining. However, at the present time, local NIS funding is sporadic and even unexpected when it does occur. A.I.D. support for NGO environmental development is still an essential building block, particularly since major Western foundations have not yet shown themselves ready to devote significant support towards these programs.

ISAR is generally seen by environmental communities in the NIS as one of the few tangible signs of real US assistance. It is no exaggeration to say that ISAR has become an integral part of the post-Soviet environmental movement. While remaining a symbol of American commitment to democratic initiatives and environmental renewal, it has dedicated itself to learning about, understanding, and developing the NIS NGO landscape according to local needs. Its grants, in the main, reflect this dedication.

I. BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Cooperative Agreement number CCN-0003-A-00-3048 between the Agency of International Development (A.I.D.) and ISAR (formerly the Institute for Soviet-American Relations) is to provide technical assistance to build linkages between US and NIS environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and to encourage local environmental problem-solving by indigenous NGOs. The principle objective is to support environmental NGOs in participating in and strengthening both environmental public awareness and the democratic process throughout the NIS region.

The cooperative agreement, covering a two year period, was signed in May 1993. However, an amendment was made to the original grant as a result of the Clinton-Yeltsin November 1993 summit in Vancouver which provided additional funding to increase collaboration between US and Russian NGOs. The amendment was funded at one million dollars, bringing the total for the two year program to two million dollars. Funding was not actually released under the amended agreement until August 1993. However, in light of the fact that ISAR is in the process of requesting additional funding from A.I.D., both ISAR and A.I.D. requested that the midterm evaluation be conducted as early as possible.

The ISAR program has two major components: 1) providing seed grants and technical assistance to indigenous NGOs throughout the NIS and 2) creation and/or support of partnerships between US and Russian environmental organizations via a grant program.

The purpose of this midterm evaluation is to:

- 1) Assess and document the effectiveness and impact of the ISAR "Seeds of Democracy" program in strengthening the democratic process by providing institutional and financial assistance to environmental NGOs in the NIS.
- 2) Assess and document the effectiveness and impact of the ISAR cooperative grant program supporting US-Russian partnerships.
- 3) Evaluate ISAR program management and infrastructure.
- 4) Determine to what extent ISAR's program fits in with A.I.D. regional strategies, and recommend ways to coordinate ISAR activities with other USG activities.
- 5) Determine to what extent, if any, ISAR should be a more structured program with thematic goals.
- 6) Determine the degree of sustainability of the ISAR program
- 7) Develop recommendations for improved tracking of program impacts.
- 8) Make recommendations concerning future funding, including optimal breakdown between "Seeds" and "Partnership" grants.

A) Methodology

The members of the evaluation team are Mary Heslin and Edward Hodgman. Both are fluent Russian speakers, and have lived and worked in the former USSR for several years. Ms. Heslin, the team leader, has previously worked on three other A.I.D. evaluations in the former USSR, and has just returned from 18 months working in Moscow in the NGO sector. Mr. Hodgman, who has several years experience working with US arms control and environmental NGOs, helped establish the first international philanthropic organization in the USSR.

The scope of work for the evaluation was drafted by ISAR with input and approval from A.I.D. Washington and the field missions. It was agreed that the evaluation would focus on Russia and the Western NIS.

Prior to departure for the field, the team met with the ISAR Washington staff and A.I.D. officials. Additionally, they reviewed relevant documents including quarterly reports, the cooperative agreement and amendments, grant applications and other project related materials. US board members and grantees were interviewed in person and by phone.

The team spent 11 days in Russia and 8 days in Ukraine. Site visits were made in Moscow and Kiev, and also in the cities of Nizhniy Novgorod and Obninsk, Russia. Because the evaluation was timed to coincide with several environmental conferences, the team was able to meet with grantees from several other areas, including Tomsk, St. Petersburg and Chelyabinsk. In Ukraine, an ISAR board meeting created the opportunity for meetings with grant recipients from Belarus and Moldova, as well as from several Ukrainian regions.

During the course of the evaluation the team:

- 1) Interviewed 30 grant recipients from Russia and 25 grant recipients from the Western NIS, using a standardized interview format.
- 2) Attended a two-day advisory board meeting in Kiev at which \$50,000 in ISAR grants were approved.
- 3) Met with high-ranking government officials from Russia and Ukraine.
- 4) Met with all members of the Western NIS board of advisors, and most members of the Russian board.
- 5) Interviewed and debriefed local A.I.D. officials in Kiev and Moscow.
- 6) Met with all ISAR local staff members in Moscow, Kiev and Nizhniy Novgorod.

B) The current political situation in Russia and the Western NIS: Implications for NGOs

The Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is presently enjoying a period of relative political calm — at least in comparison to the chaotic and destructive atmosphere of the winter months. Despite the continuing presence of radical nationalists and persistent former Communists, the Russian Duma is proving, thus far, to be a less volatile parliament than its predecessor Supreme Soviet. In addition, President Yeltsin's still-imposing presence on the international stage (including a charismatic if unexpected performance at the recent G-7 meeting in Naples) is being matched by a relatively respectable position at home, most likely because inflation has dropped to a rate of 10% per month. Still, staggering economic and infrastructure problems persist, and economic production continues to fall. It is likely that this period of relative stability will fade as winter approaches.

In the meantime, however, the absence of an urgent economic crisis allows both publics and governments in the Russian Federation to pay more attention to environmental problems, creating a somewhat more favorable situation for Russian "green NGOs." Recent polls show that public interest in environmental problems is still high, and this allows Russian NGOs a chance to build a base for future efforts and recruit members.

The relative economic stability does not, however, mean many new indigenous funding sources for NGO environmental initiatives. The grants given by A.I.D. through ISAR, by one Russian expert's calculations, equal from 10-20% of the entire Russian Federation budget for environmental programs, and only in rare cases can banks or businesses be found in today's Russia which are interested in serious philanthropy. A few exceptions exist and have been described in this report.

Cooperation among Russian environmental NGOs is quite strong at present. The "umbrella" work of the Socio-Ecological Union (SEU), an association for green groups, has contributed to a stronger and more unified network in Russia than elsewhere in the NIS. This network makes it possible for dozens of organizations to find out about grants opportunities from A.I.D.-supported organizations as well as the major Western foundations working in Russia. Many NGOs interviewed for this evaluation found out about the ISAR "Seeds of Democracy" program due to an SEU letter campaign. SEU is the largest environmental organization in Russia, and its size has led many to believe that it has a monopoly on environmental activism in Russia; however, since membership carries no obligations and there is no "party line" pressed by SEU on its members, this reputation seems unfounded — and may have emerged from official sources envious of the SEU's effectiveness. Nor is SEU the only coordinating group on the Russian scene; the Biodiversity Conservation Center (BCC) and the Center for Independent Ecological Programs (CIEP) contribute to a forceful and expanding environmental movement in the Russian Federation.

The Western NIS: Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova

The evaluation team was in Ukraine ten days before the Kravchuk-Kuchma election, and it was widely felt in Kiev that Kravchuk would win. The recent election of Kuchma is fraught with implications for Ukraine's future. As Embassy officials in Kiev explained (prior to the election), the tensions between

East and West Ukraine could only grow with a Kuchma win; while Eastern Ukrainians overestimate Kuchma's interest in some unification with Russia, suspicion towards his motivations remains high and could produce a violent popular reaction in the West. Political tensions in the highly industrialized and heavily Russian East also remain high, and Kuchma's election could lead to unreasonable expectations on the part of ethnic Russians in Ukraine.

This East-West political tug-of-war does not find precise reflection in the complex world of Ukrainian environmental politics. Environmental apathy has grown recently in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, particularly in the regions most affected by Chernobyl. Hearing for months and years on end that their food, water, soil and air are contaminated by radiation has led many citizens of the Western NIS to a state of denial. Western Ukraine, in particular, has "lost the ecological initiative" it previously held to the East, according to some NGO leaders in Kiev.

In addition, the overall economic situation in Ukraine remains serious, with inflation much higher than in Russia and greater shortages of everyday goods. This leads to a more desperate situation for Ukrainian environmentalists as individuals and as professionals. Academic institutes have lost most of their budgets and many scientists (as in Russia) have been pushed into commercial enterprise.

With all these dire circumstances, however, there is another important reality to bear in mind: Ukrainian independence. The determination of Ukrainian government officials, the NGO community, and many Ukrainian citizens to shape a distinct Ukrainian culture means that the state of nature in their country retains relevance in the public mind — and in the dedicated, often unrewarded work of NGOs — despite more immediate economic difficulties.

In Belarus, rapprochement with Russia does not provoke the same reactions that it does in Ukraine, though the road to stability in this nation of 10 million may be more unpredictable following the recent election of Vladimir Lukashenko as president. Apathy has dampened the environmental movement, and a nationalism diluted by dependence on Russia means less political activity overall. There is some activism in Minsk, however.

In Moldova the formation of an environmental NGO community appears to be even more distant, due in large part to the enmity between Russian and Romanian-speaking citizens of Moldova, a tension which is mirrored in the environmental community.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS

A) Program Description

ISAR provides technical assistance in the form of provision of information on environmental problems and organizations, assistance with electronic mail networking, contact building between US and NIS individuals and groups, and assistance in grant writing and program development. Grant money is disbursed in three ways:

- Seed grants

Seed grants are issued under ISAR's "Sowing the Seeds of Democracy Project," which is patterned after the German Marshall Fund's successful Environmental Partnership for Eastern Europe. Grants ranging from \$500 to \$3000 are given directly to local NIS organizations.

- Partnership Grants

"Partnership", or "Joint project" grants support new and ongoing partnerships between Russian and American environmental NGOs. Grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$75,000.

- Discretionary grants

Discretionary grants are small grants, up to \$500, which are authorized at the discretion of local ISAR staff.

Grant Requirements

Recipients of Seed grants are required to demonstrate that they

- 1) are non-governmental, non-commercial entities which are not oriented primarily towards scientific research.
- 2) have a record of previous achievement in the environmental sector.
- 3) have previously received and accounted for funds.
- 4) are the appropriate entity for the proposed project.

The projects themselves must:

- 1) have an environmental focus.
- 2) be defined clearly.
- 3) have accurate and reasonable budgets.
- 4) be able to produce positive, measurable results.

The above criteria also apply to applicants for the partnership grants. However, applicants under this program must additionally demonstrate why cooperation is essential for meeting project goals and how

they propose to sustain future long term cooperation, as well as developing project plans and budgets jointly.

Seed grant proposals undergo preliminary review by local ISAR staff. Those meeting the minimum requirements in terms of program content and financial accountability are then referred to local advisory boards whose members are drawn from the local environmental sector. Joint projects are reviewed by a US advisory board and a Russian advisory board. Only projects which are approved by both boards are funded.

In Russia during the first nine months of the cooperative agreement ISAR authorized 102 Seed grants totalling \$181,781, approved 19 Joint projects for a total amount of \$740,000, and issued 24 Discretionary grants totalling \$10,124. At the time of the evaluation team's arrival in Russia towards the end of June, only five seed grant projects and 8 discretionary grant projects had been totally completed. An additional 32 seed grant recipients had submitted their mid-project report.

The Seed grants were based on an applicant pool of 437 organizations requesting financing for 676 projects. 319 of the project applications were formally considered by the advisory board and ISAR administration, and 145 received financing. Two thirds of these grants were between \$1000-\$2000. For the joint projects, 46 applications were received and considered.

Geographical breakdown for grant recipients is as follows:

	Seeds	Joint
Central Region	36.9%	76.9%
Southern Russia and Northern Caucuses	1.9%	
Urals	7.8%	7.7%
Volga-Vyatksii Region	19.4%	
Eastern Siberia	3.9%	7.7%
Far East	2.9%	7.7%
North West	6.8%	
North East	5.8%	
Lower Volga	5.8%	
Other	1%	

Sectoral breakdown is as follows:

	Seeds	Joint
Biodiversity and Protection of Nature Reserves	18.4%	15.8%
Mass media and information	25.2%	
Organizational support	7.8%	10.5%
Technology and waste management	2.9%	
Education	16.5%	21.1%
Monitoring and pollution	9.7%	15.8%
Legislation/legal practice	2.9%	
Research	5.8%	15.8%
Other	10.7%	21.1%

B) Outputs

Specific outputs from the Seeds grants include the following:

- o Two All-Russian NGO conferences with international participation
- o Computer equipment supplied to NGOs, including 20 computers, 5 copiers, 10 printers, 26 modems, a scanner, a video recorder, other equipment
- o Connection of three organizations to E-mail, payment of fees for 19 projects
- o Organization of 4 information centers and three press centers
- o Publication of 3 electronic bulletins, assistance to two ecological newspapers
- o Three ecological textbooks, two videofilms
- o Organization of nature preserves (14 projects)
- o Seven children's expeditions, 2 museums, three children's clubs
- o Community projects (including 3 recycling projects), legal projects, etc.
- o Purchase of one milk cow

In the Western sector, geographic and sectoral diversity of ISAR grants is more limited than in Russia. 27 Seed grants totalling approximately \$50,000 had been issued by the time of the evaluation team's arrival in Kiev, 20 to organizations in the Ukraine, three to organizations in Belarus, two to organizations in Moldova, and two to organizations in the Crimea. Of these, nine of the grants were for publications, nine were for support of organizations or ecological movements, and 6 were for youth ecological camps or educational projects. Additionally, 32 organizations received a total of 51 discretionary grants totalling \$12,000, 10 e-mail accounts were subsidized, and 9 groups received modems and e-mail training.

C) Country specific constraints

The ISAR program in the Western NIS is unquestionably proceeding at a slower pace than in Russia. This is based on several factors: 1) ISAR did not have the extensive experience and contact base in the Western NIS that it had in Russia; 2) the NGO sector in Russia, relatively undeveloped by Western standards, is highly sophisticated in comparison to that existing in the Western NIS; 3) Western organizations in general have been slower to start NGO training programs and similar operations in this region; 4) communication between organizations is significantly more difficult due to inferior infrastructure and the paucity of computer technology.

The NGO communities in the Western NIS are so small and poorly developed that the ISAR office in Kiev is to a large extent required to be everything to everybody. In contrast, a more efficient (albeit informal) division of labor already exists among Western and Russian NGOs in Moscow, including the MacArthur Foundation, IREX, and the Eurasia Foundation from the US side, and the Socio-Ecological Union, the Biodiversity Conservation Center, and the Center for Independent Ecological Programs from the Russian side.

ISAR has responded to the situation in the Western NIS sector by starting with smaller grants than in the Russian program, and identifying specific opportunities to increase their outreach. In one instance, ISAR is establishing a publishing center to take advantage of economies of scale in publication of the various journals and monographs they now support (which, incidentally, will give ISAR better ability to track related expenses).

The Russian environmental NGO sector has reached the stage of development where it is naturally setting its own priorities. ISAR grants reflect these priorities, and no attempt has been made to externally influence them. In the Western NIS, however, many proposals submitted are clearly tailored in accordance with local perceptions, or misperceptions, of what ISAR will fund—resulting in a preponderance of “children’s camp” proposals during the last board review round. In this case it may be appropriate for ISAR to work proactively, perhaps through a quota system, to change the breakdown of grants to more appropriately reflect real local needs.

D) ISAR within the larger A.I.D. context

ISAR actively cooperates with other US and Western grantmaking and environmental organizations, and frequently refers “graduates” from its small grants programs to other funding sources. However,

although ISAR has made itself available as an information and contact resource for other A.I.D. and USG environmental programs in Russia, it has striven to maintain its independence and autonomy. The relationship between ISAR and the Environmental Policy and Technology Project (CH2M Hill), for example, is informal at best, and both organizations appear to prefer this situation. Any integration of ISAR into larger US A.I.D. programs such as EPT will have to be on the initiative of US A.I.D.. The evaluators consider that the best way of doing this would be simply to tie a portion of any increased funding to work in specific environmental sectors or geographic areas that fit A.I.D. priorities. Ideally, this would allow ISAR to remain managerially independent of the consortium while still contributing to larger USA.I.D. goals.

E) Financial Accountability

It was the evaluation team's observation that over the past several years the NGO environmental sector in Russia has itself become cleaner—many of those who were involved in it for political gain have moved directly into politics, and those who were involved in it for personal gain have found easier ways to make money. In Russia, the team was uniformly impressed by the sincerity and commitment of the grantees they interviewed. In the Ukraine, however, where Western money and money making opportunities are scarcer, we saw the potential for (and in one case evidence of) organizations putting together grant proposals whose main purpose is to provide income for the organizations' members.

The team reviewed financial documents for both the Russian and Western NIS programs and found no evidence of misuse of funds by grantees. ISAR's proposal writing and financial reporting requirements are so stringent—money is disbursed in stages, upon receipt of proper documentation for previous expenses and evidence of program progress—as to discourage anyone who is not truly dedicated from applying for a grant. However, the local staff and advisory board members are always on the lookout for inflated personnel costs or other overstated expenditures, and either reject such proposals or require their modification. Additionally, ISAR has already made an internal decision to actively increase the number and frequency of site visits to potential and current grantees. This is particularly necessary in the Western NIS sector.

ISAR's strategy of starting small and then giving organizations more money as they prove themselves is extremely labor intensive. However, it pays off not just in terms of financial accountability from the US perspective, but in terms of budgetary and fiscal training for the NGO that has to meet ISAR's strict requirements.

III. IMPACT OF PROGRAM

The evaluation team drew its impact criteria from face to face meetings at A.I.D. in Washington and at the Moscow and Kiev missions, and from the Draft in Progress document dated June 9, 1994, dealing with ways to evaluate the EPT program's NGO component.

We inquired about the following impact indicators: Media interest; Governmental recognition — relationships and tangible support; Public awareness and participation; Environmental improvements; Environmental policy changes; and NGO network building.

Baseline indicators in what is still a very new environmental NGO community can be hard to determine; however, the following generalizations can be made. In most cases, in both Russia and the Western sector, the Seeds grants were given to emerging organizations or on the basis of a well-executed discretionary grant. In Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova the NGO environmental scene is still so rudimentary that the projects ISAR has chosen (with a few outstanding exceptions) might well be considered a baseline for future success. In the area of cooperative grants, however, the Russian and US organizations chosen had to demonstrate considerable success in their program area; this explains their relatively high impact rates in media attention, governmental recognition (100% success rate including such achievements as national hearings and local legislation) and public awareness.

A.I.D. funding to the ISAR Seeds Program in Russia and cooperative US-Russian projects began in December 1993; Seeds grants in the Western NIS began in April 1993. This relatively short time period (particularly for Ukrainian, Moldovan, and Belarus projects) should be kept in mind when assessing impacts achieved.

1. IMPACTS INDICATORS WITH PERCENTAGES PER PROGRAM

Russian programs

Seeds of Democracy: (17 projects evaluated)

1. **Media interest** — 7 of 17 projects (41%) showed impacts in this area
2. **Government** — 12 of 17 projects (71%) showed impacts in this area
3. **Public awareness** — 10 of 17 projects (59%)
4. **Environmental improvements** — 7 of 17 projects (41%)
5. **Environmental policy** — 7 of 17 projects (41%)
6. **NGO network building** — 6 of 17 projects (35%)

US Russian Partnership program: (11 projects evaluated)

1. **Media interest** — 9 of 11 projects (82%) showed impacts in this area
2. **Government support** — 11 of 11 projects (100%)
3. **Public awareness** — 8 of 11 projects (73%)
4. **Environmental improvements** — 2 of 11 projects (18%)
5. **Environmental policy** — 6 of 11 projects (55%)
6. **NGO network building** — 8 of 11 projects (73%)

Western NIS

Seeds of Democracy: (17 projects evaluated)

(At present there are no joint project grants in the Western NIS)

1. **Media interest** — 11 of 25 projects (44%) showed impacts in this area
2. **Government support** — 8 of 25 projects (32%)

3. **Public awareness** — 15 of 25 projects (60%)
4. **Environmental improvements** — 5 of 25 projects (20%)
5. **Environmental policy** — 6 of 25 projects (24%)
6. **NGO network building** — 14 of 25 projects (56%)

2. SAMPLE PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS WITH IMPACT INDICATORS

Following are projects with varying impact rates from both Russia and the Western NIS. A listing of all projects evaluated in this format is in Appendix 5. Where a category could not be measured as an impact either the category is omitted or a comment is noted to explain the stage of progress.

Seeds program

1. UNION OF SALVATION FROM CHERNOBYL (Kiev, Ukraine)

Evgeni Karbetskii

Project has established network of radiation monitoring volunteers all over Ukraine, with 180 specialists trained to use dosimeters and over 700 associated volunteers in all. 57 independent monitoring statements now working. Measure radiation in soil, water, food products. Volunteers receiving equipment undergo 3-day training course and must present results regularly to Union of Salvation. Project authors attempting to “force the government to respect its own laws.”

ISAR grant: \$2,000.

Media interest — YES. Articles in local and national press throughout Ukraine.

Government — YES. June 30, 1994: Ministry of Agriculture contacted all its local offices mandating their support of the Union of Salvation and the transfer of all radiation testing equipment in their inventories to the Union for its training courses. April 5, 1994: Ministry of Education ordered all its local offices to make space available in local schools for training sessions and to pay teachers additional wages for running radiation measurement training sessions with their students. One local volunteer sent a detailed report on the radiation problem in his oblast (county) and the local administration hired him as head government radiation tester of the oblast.

Public awareness — YES. Numerous local contacts. Some training participants have walked 5-7 km to participate in sessions.

Environmental policy — YES. Submitted draft bill to Ukrainian parliament introducing tax incentives and penalties for Ukrainian industrial polluters.

NGO network building — YES. Cooperation with nationwide network of Zeleniy Svit organization.

Note: additional support from Dutch foundation “Milieu-Kontakt”.

2. UNION FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY (Saratov, Russia)

Vladimir Petrenko

Effort to fight the hazardous and unlawful storage and destruction of banned chemical weapons without environmental precautions near large civilian population in Volga region. ISAR grant: \$2,000

Media interest — YES. Articles in national press and English-language Moscow Times.

Government — YES. Pressure of Petrenko’s group resulted in removal by Yeltsin of top national chemical weapons official who allowed illegal destruction of hazardous materials near civilian areas in violation of 1993 government decree. Group also has written numerous letters about violations to the

Russian Federation Procurator General, Duma members, and other high officials.

Public awareness — YES. To reach the public about this problem, Petrenko and colleagues registered a candidate for local elections and thus were able to speak to large groups of people about the dangers of chemical wastes and improper disposal at nearby military base. Candidate won in two of sixteen districts.

Environmental — YES. Slowed open air burning of chemical weapons.

Environmental policy — YES. Asserted legal precedent.

3. KAMSKO-BALDINSKII NATURE PRESERVE (Nizhnii Novgorod, Russia)

Sergei and Angela Bakka

Seeks to establish large nature preserve near Nizhnii Novgorod with assistance of local level officials. ISAR grant: \$1,900.

Media interest — YES. Local newspaper articles and radio interviews.

Government — YES. City and Oblast level officials have passed law declaring nature preserve (final approval needed at national executive level).

Public awareness — YES. Local lumber companies agreed at 6/94 meeting to work with public officials and DRONT in planning logging in areas around nature preserve.

Environmental — YES. Full ecological mapping (topography, animal and plant populations) done and published for entire preserve area.

Environmental policy — YES. Angela Bakka is Deputy Chairperson of Public Committee for Nature Protection under Nizhnii Novgorod Governor Nemtsov's supervision.

NGO network building — YES. Cooperation with other Nizhnii Novgorod environmental NGOs to receive biodiversity data.

4. NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL CENTER (Kiev, Ukraine)

Vadim Dyukanov

A "think tank" for Ukrainian environmental issues, the EcoCenter tries to educate public officials and scientists around Ukraine about environmental problems through translation and distribution of top international environmental articles. ISAR Grant: \$1,600

Government — YES. Ecology committees of national and local parliaments receive publications and are asked to respond as to their information needs.

Environmental policy — YES. Effort to link NGO and governmental communities through across-the-board educational effort. Also significant for effort to keep academic scientists involved in policy debates. Problems: Narrow project. Unambitious in terms of subscribers (initial list contains only 30 groups) — though they are at a high level.

5. "BAMBI" CHILDREN'S ECOLOGICAL TEAM (Obninsk, Russia)

Olga Konovalova

Student teams study ecology and clean up city parks, ponds, downtown areas, etc. Unique example of public-private partnership as city government pays Bambi student representatives minimum wage for cleanup work. ISAR funds group's museum/classroom and office. ISAR grant: \$2,000.

Government — YES. Local government pays minimum wage for student cleanup efforts. Results of student monitoring around local nuclear plant accepted by local government. City gave order to stop tree cutting near local springs which supply city water following student cleanup project.

Public awareness — YES. Local biologists assist students in planning major cleanup projects.
Environmental — YES. Marked (visible) improvement in city parks and waterways.
Environmental policy — YES. City/NGO cooperation.

JOINT U.S.-RUSSIAN PROJECTS

1. NIZHNII NOVGOROD SEMINAR ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS LABORATORIES
Dront (Nizhnii Novgorod)
Tri-Valley CAREs (Livermore, CA)
With participation from Center for Citizen Initiatives (San Francisco)
ISAR grant: \$24,900.

Media interest — YES. Seminar covered on Nizhnii television and by local newspapers. Interview of US and Russian NGO participants on local TV.

Government — YES. Brought together officials from Russian weapons plant Arzamas 16 and Chelyabinsk with scientists from Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Deputy Governor of region met delegation as well as Deputy Administration Head of Arzamas-16 met delegation.

Public awareness — YES. US: Tri-Valley CAREs newsletter describing joint work and seminar reaches 1100 member families and 250 US officials, media outlets, and NGOs.

Environmental policy — YES. First time Russian officials from these weapons labs have met with American scientists and NGO representatives. Conversion video from Arzamas-16 featuring non-military production shown for first time to international audience.

NGO network building — YES. Seminar brought together nuclear watchdog NGOs from 3 US states and several Russian cities where nuclear weapons laboratories are located.

Note: Other monies leveraged by CCI for travel of US participants.

2. CHILD HEALTH IN ECOLOGICAL DISASTER AREAS
Center for Independent Ecological Programs (Moscow)
Institute of World Affairs (Washington, D.C.)
Olga Ievleva, Vladimir Lupandin

Uniting American and Russian scientists and NGOs to work on problem of ecological disaster areas and resulting severe child illnesses and disabilities, including the problem of "yellow children" thought to arise from Russian missile program fuel wastes. Joint assessment of health problems proposals for medical and environmental solutions. Seminars held in Petrozavodsk, Russia. October 1994 Moscow conference planned. ISAR grant: \$74,950.

Media interest — YES. National newspapers and magazines including top circulation magazine "Rabotnitsa".

Government — YES. CIEP staff medical specialist hired as expert consultant to International Affairs Committee of Federal Assembly (upper house of Russian parliament); local officials at sites of medical projects (Petrozavodsk) helping with conference organization.

Public awareness — YES. Youth organizations in Petrozavodsk helping with medical assessments.

NGO network building — YES. NGOs from all over Russia (at sites of chemical and nuclear waste problems) to participate in October conference.

3. ELECTRONIC MAIL IMPACTS

As the regular comments of ISAR grantees, Board members, and outside experts to the evaluating team made clear, the expansion of electronic mail is an essential part of supporting NIS environmental NGOs. Distributing equipment, technical and financial support for expanding electronic mail use has formed a considerable part of ISAR's Seeds grants and some of its cooperative grants. Over the past year ISAR has given out 26 modems in discretionary and cooperative grants: 19 in the Western NIS and 7 in Russia. ISAR has subsidized e-mail costs for 22 organizations in the Western NIS and now supports e-mail communications of all 19 cooperative sub-grantees in Russia. Finally, Seeds grant monies have been used by 36 organizations throughout Russia to purchase modems and/or subsidized e-mail accounts on their own initiative.

The practical need for e-mail in the NIS cannot be overstated. Telephone lines in most cities outside Moscow (and in some parts of Moscow itself) are so poor that one often cannot make a simple local call, let alone contact a colleague in another city or overseas; in addition, long distance calling costs have become prohibitively expensive. This makes e-mail an ideal alternative, as it allows low-cost transfer of high amounts of information, including the creation of electronic newspapers, 2 of which ISAR has now supported.

A highly effective ISAR cooperative grant — the Far Eastern Russian Telecom Initiative — shows how useful e-mail can be in building NGO cooperation. In this project, run by the Sacred Earth Network, five promising environmental NGOs from Eastern Siberia and the Pacific Coast were given modems and low-priced IBM computers. The organizations receiving grants work on the following issues: mining pollution, responsible forestry, saving the endangered Amur leopard, protecting bird migrations, and ecotourism. Most of these groups now communicate regularly by e-mail; in the case of the Amur leopard, the grantee uses a radio modem to communicate from the remote habitat of the leopard.

4. INDIRECT IMPACTS

1. NGO networking. Both formally and informally, ISAR's offices pull interested NGOs into a larger network of support. The constant flow of grantseekers in ISAR's offices, combined with the regular visits of domestic grantees reporting on their progress and the common presence of American and other international program partners make the ISAR offices a center for formal and informal training and networking. ISAR also provides information about other potential funding sources.

2. Confidence in American grantmaking. ISAR is seen by many organizations in the NIS as one which, though forcing groups to compete and offering small amounts of money, is a visible and practical supporter of the NIS NGO community. Some of the American private foundations working in the NIS are seen as taking too long to deliver or being unresponsive to grantseekers' inquiries.

3. Grant-writing workshops. ISAR local offices around NIS have held numerous training sessions on grantwriting. Many participants have written grant proposals for other Western foundations as a result.

IV. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The evaluation team concurred with a comment by a US A.I.D. official in Moscow that a grant “couldn’t be better administered.” The ISAR offices in Moscow, Washington and Kiev smoothly handle an enormous work flow, and were not noticeably discomposed by the presence and information demands of the evaluation team. The Moscow office, in particular, has been computerized to an impressive extent—all data requested by the evaluators was pulled up promptly and in whichever format requested. ISAR had already completed a self-evaluation of its grant-making process (which will shortly be translated into English) which was of great utility to the evaluation team. Unfortunately, however, the report had not addressed the issue of impact. This in fact was the major deficiency noted by the evaluation team—that the staff had been focused so thoroughly and so long on the grant making and support process that they were not effectively reporting on and measuring impacts.

Another issue identified by the team and several of the ISAR staffers and board members with whom they spoke is a potential conflict of interest situation arising from board composition. Currently, many of the members of the US and NIS boards which approve the ISAR grants are themselves recipients of ISAR grants. This issue has been dealt with in an honest and open way, and project voting is conducted with fairness and confidentiality, including recusal by board members. Although the evaluators recognize the circumstances that have led to this situation (in the Western NIS, for example, the pool of potential board members is so small that to exclude potential grantees might drastically lower board quality) they nonetheless feel that to guarantee the continuing integrity of the program, ISAR should begin to move away from including potential grantees as members of its various boards.

While many A.I.D. funded organizations in Moscow are still in limbo in regards to local registration and banking operations, ISAR has successfully registered itself and opened both ruble and dollar accounts. Also, ISAR is one of the first A.I.D. funded organizations in Moscow to appoint a Russian national to the top management position.

The key factors in ISAR’s successful management appear to be:

1. The ability to hire talented local staff and work them to their full potential.
2. American staff who have Russian or other local language ability and relevant NIS work experience.
3. Staff (local and American) and local board members who have real input into ISAR policies and program directions.
4. The fact that ISAR does not have a “cookie cutter” approach to its programs — an enormous amount of effort goes into tailoring each program to best fit local needs.
5. ISAR accesses accumulated NGO experience in the sector, and doesn’t waste time reinventing the wheel. (For example, ISAR went straight to the Eurasia Foundation to benefit from their experience with subgrantee monitoring and audit requirements.)

Conclusions and recommendations

The evaluation team is convinced that ISAR is meeting its program goals in a timely and cost effective manner and that ISAR’s work is an effective application of US A.I.D. funds. ISAR is following closely the terms of its cooperative agreement — strengthening democratic institutions, increasing environmental public awareness and building linkages between US and Russian environmental NGOs. In

addition, despite a few problems, ISAR is basically a well-managed, financially efficient organization. Both of its basic program elements — the Seeds of Democracy grants and the US-Russian partnership program — are meeting their goals and should be maintained.

Whether ISAR should begin to organize along more specific environmental themes depends on US A.I.D. requirements. Currently ISAR is responding to local initiative, and supporting democratic institutions as they arise without seeking to influence their direction or push them into a grant category. This appears to us to be an ideal way to build democracy, and should only be changed if US A.I.D. makes a conscious decision to choose specific environmental outcomes over institution building. Should A.I.D. choose to integrate ISAR into its environmental strategy for the Russian Federation, we strongly suggest that it be done in such a way as not to compromise ISAR's proven ability to manage its programs. For example, a portion of any additional funding could be earmarked for support of activity in a given sector (for example, water pollution monitoring), or for work with NGOs in a specific geographic area, and ISAR would seek partners and screen proposals according to its own standards.

Given the increasing sophistication of the Russian NGO sector and ISAR's proven success at tracking smaller grants, we believe that raising the maximum seed grant level to \$10,000 would make sense in some cases. One option would be to raise the grant ceiling in line with US A.I.D. thematic priorities while maintaining smaller grant levels for start-up organizations.

Regional cooperation — among the Newly Independent States and among regions of individual states — is an important potential policy direction which emerged from our discussions with policymakers and grantees. Issues of transboundary pollution and conservation projects may be an important avenue for cooperation within the NIS, and ISAR networks could be useful for this purpose.

Recommendations for ISAR

ISAR should move away from potential conflicts of interest in its expert Board. Every national board for project selection has several members who have received or competed at meetings for ISAR grants. While such conflicts may have arisen naturally during the recruiting process, and may be the result of a limited selection pool, every effort should now be made to end this practice.

ISAR needs to change its reporting format to USA.I.D. to demonstrate impact rather than provide a narrative on ISAR activities.

West NIS Board of Directors and Offices:

1. Belarus and Moldova should have one more Board member each and at least one new member should be a trained ecologist.
2. As present application distribution shows, more information about ISAR's grants must reach Moldova and Belarus. To achieve this, and to encourage local activism, ISAR should establish new information centers in different cities of the Western NIS at the initiative of Board members. These centers could take various forms and may depend on the interest of an individual Board member. They should probably not receive a majority of administrative support from ISAR's budget in order to

encourage local financing. However, this kind of Board member initiative is a positive sign of commitment to ISAR's efforts — and to a longer-term native environmental NGO community — and should be encouraged even if it may complicate ISAR's management in the short run.

ISAR's Western NIS office management and structure:

1. Local staff should be given additional responsibilities and should play an active role in site visits around Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova.
2. Staff composition should better reflect the 3-nation makeup of the Western NIS program sector. If ISAR is not planning to open offices in Moldova or Belarus, it would make sense to have either staffers or at least interns from those countries to provide broader international representation.
3. Some grantees complained that ISAR's piece-by-piece allocation of grants wasted money and time for grantees who continually had to come to Kiev to receive their next installment. Since wiring funds is still impossible in Ukraine, however, this is a necessity for the near future. We recommend that ISAR either (1) establish a small travel fund for grantees receiving grant installments or (2) allocate a small amount of each grant given to a non-Kiev NGO for such travel.

SCOPE OF WORK

ISAR MID-TERM EVALUATION

#CCN-00003-A-00-3048-00

I. BACKGROUND

Over the past four decades, environmental conditions in the former Soviet Union [herein referred to as the New Independent States (NIS)] have steadily deteriorated. Power generating facilities and industries with inadequate environmental controls have released vast quantities of pollutants into air, water, and soils, impairing human, ecological, and economic health. Energy intensive and inefficient economic programs have led to the unsustainable use of important natural resources. Governmental capacities to implement and enforce environmental laws and regulations have been hampered by overly centralized environmental bureaucracies and a lack of political will to protect the environment.

The people of the NIS lived under a highly centralized system in which most decisions were made at the central government level. While local authorities under Communism were tasked with carrying out certain responsibilities, they lacked discretionary authority. Though mitigated somewhat by the power of local Communist Party officials, the central government determined both the priorities and the methods for carrying out programs. Local governments were merely implementers of central government policies and programs. Citizens were not given power to make decisions about the services that affected their daily living conditions, i.e., environmental concerns, municipal services, housing, etc.

As power and responsibilities are decentralized, these local governments are becoming responsible for the tasks of government that most directly affect citizens. It is at this local level that the fruits (or failures) of democracy are most visible, and therefore, most critical. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) began supporting this transition in 1992 with development of assistance projects to promote public involvement in the decision-making process by supporting citizens groups and non-governmental organizations.

II. INTRODUCTION

In 1992, the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENR) of the Task Force for the New Independent States (NIS) began providing assistance in the NIS. The program of support for environmental nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) run by ISAR: A Clearinghouse on Grassroots Cooperation in Eurasia was developed in response to USAID's strong commitment to encouraging grassroots efforts to promote environmental protection. In line with the citizen participation objectives of the NIS, USAID and ISAR entered into a cooperative agreement.

Therefore, in 1993, with funding from USAID and in coalition with a number of NGOs from the U.S. and the NIS, ISAR undertook a grant-making and technical assistance program in the NIS. The program has two components: (1) providing seed grants and technical assistance to indigenous NGOs throughout the NIS and (2) promoting joint activities between citizens of the U.S. and NIS and supporting partnerships between U.S. and Russian environmental groups.

The cooperative agreement was signed on May 4, 1993 for a two-year period. The ISAR program is now entering its second year of project implementation. In July 1995, the cooperative agreement will be amended to provide additional funding and extend the life of project until June 30, 1996. ISAR now seeks a mid-term evaluation of this project to provide guidance to ISAR management and USAID to optimize the second half of the project.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

A. Purpose

The contractor will provide an objective, formal, external mid-term assessment of the assistance provided under the ISAR Cooperative Agreement (No. CCN-00003-A-00-3048-00).

B. Issues for the Strategic Evaluation

The Contractor's overriding objectives are (1) to assess and document the effectiveness and impact of the ISAR program in strengthening the democratic process by providing institutional and financial assistance to environmental NGOs in the NIS; (2) to assess and document the effectiveness and impact of ISAR's cooperative grant program that supports partnership efforts between US and Russian environmental NGOs; (3) to evaluate ISAR's program management and infrastructure and assess the success of the project relative to its objectives; (4) to evaluate how the ISAR program fits into the various US AID regional assistance strategies and recommend ways to coordinate ISAR activities with other USG activities; (5) to determine if, and the degree to which, ISAR should be a more structured program with thematic goals; (6) to determine the degree of sustainability of the ISAR program; and (7) to determine if grant size should be increased. Regarding the above objectives, the contractor should not only assess whether the ISAR program is meeting its objectives, but in each instance where the evaluation is negative, the contractor shall recommend specific, realistic methods to improve achievement of objectives.

C. Team Composition

The Contractor will propose a team consisting of two people. Both team members should possess superior written and verbal communication skills, as well as experience with issues related to environment and natural resources and grass

roots organizations. Overseas experience, preferably in the NIS, is required. The team leader is required to have experience participating in previous USAID evaluations and/or project design activities. The team will work together and report to ISAR Executive Director Eliza Klose.

The following expertise is required:

- (1) a contractor with in-country management and USAID evaluation experience, as well as Russian language, who will serve as the team leader
- (2) a contractor with community participation/NGO experience in the NIS, Russian language ability and experience evaluating grants projects.

D. Methodology

(1) Prior to departure, the Contractors shall review background documents, including

- project authorizations and proposal
- cooperative agreement, amendments
- quarterly reports
- materials developed for/during the implementation of the cooperative agreement, including grant announcements, program descriptions, grant contracts, in Russian and in English, and impact indicators discussion documents. In addition, once in the field, Contractor should review grantee narrative reports, Russian and English, reporting forms developed for staff and project participants as well as relevant review board documents.

(2) Conduct interviews and hold briefings with ISAR and USAID (ENR) staff in Washington, USAID officials in the field and in-country staff, grantees and board members, US and NIS

Briefings will be held with the Contractor to ensure pre-field evaluation exchanges with ISAR, USAID/W officials; and to provide an opportunity for team-building.

(3) During the field work, the Contractor shall conduct an extensive field program review in Russia and Ukraine, including meetings with U.S. Embassy and USAID Mission officials, meetings with host country staff, grantees and review boards and meetings with other donor representatives and NGOs active in Russia and the Western Sector.

A list of contacts in the U.S., Russia and Ukraine is in Attachment A.

(4) Contractor will discuss the field interview results with the USAID Mission Directors in each country prior to departure.

E. Schedule

The evaluation will start in June 1994. The entire assignment will take place over a two-month period, which will include approximately one week conducting interviews and holding briefings in the U. S. deciding whom to contact in the host countries and, with ISAR's help, scheduling appointments for these meetings, and for collection and review of documents, team building and pre-field interviews with ISAR, USG officials and grantees in the U.S.; approximately two weeks each in Russia and Ukraine for field project review; two weeks in Washington for debriefing, draft report preparation and oral presentation; and one week after receipt of ISAR and USAID feedback for final report preparation and oral presentation. (Please note: the team leader should be prepared to spend additional time in Washington preparing for oral briefings.)

F. Logistical Support

Logistical support will be provided by the Contractor, including travel, transportation, secretarial and office support, scheduling appointments, interpretation and translation, report printing and communication, as appropriate.

G. Work Week

A six day work week is authorized but only after advance approval from USAID. There will be no premium pay.

H. Deliverables

1. Prior to departure, Contractor will submit a draft work plan to ISAR for concurrence and a draft report outline to ISAR for concurrence.
2. The Contractor shall produce a draft report and final report which
 - (i) identifies successful activities or accomplishments stemming from ISAR's program to date;
 - (ii) calls attention to problem areas;
 - (iii) recommends types of activities that should be continued or expanded;
 - (iv) identifies types of activities that should be discontinued or postponed and

(v) recommends new initiatives or complementary assistance to be undertaken in the future to ensure impact on project objectives.

3. The Contractor shall also provide oral debriefings to the AID field missions in Russia and Ukraine before departure from each country and to USAID/W and ISAR upon return to Washington.

The goal is to better match program service delivery with country-specific assistance needs at this point. In addition, the Contractor will assess the extent of in-country and U.S. coordination of activities. The Contractor shall propose mechanisms for streamlining these communications and improving coordination where needed. The Contractor's objective is to ensure that maximum benefit will be derived from the expenditure of future U.S. resources in this sector and each country. Specific questions to be addressed by the evaluation team are included in Attachment B.

Within seven calendar days after return from the field, the Contractor will orally present findings to ISAR and USAID/W staff. The Contractor will prepare draft summary findings and conclusions. A draft final report will be submitted not later than 14 calendar days following the team's return to the U.S. for ISAR and USAID review. The Contractor will also make a preliminary oral presentation to ISAR and USAID. ISAR's and USAID's comments will be given to the Contractor within approximately 14 calendar days following receipt of the draft final report. Within ten calendar days, the Contractor will then prepare and submit a final report that responds to USAID's and the grantee's comments. The Contractor will make a final oral presentation to ISAR and USAID. Fifty copies (49 bound and one loose leaf) of the draft final report and the final report, not to exceed 25 pages (including an Executive Summary of findings and conclusions not to exceed three pages) will be submitted by the Contractor to ENI/EUR/PDP/PA for distribution. The draft and final reports will be presented in hard copy and on a diskette in Word Perfect 5.1 format. Additional material may be submitted in Annexes, as appropriate; e.g., bibliography of documents analyzed, list of agencies and persons interviewed, and list of sites visited.

Based on the results from the completed evaluation and all other pertinent data, the Contractor will prepare a Project Evaluation Summary. The summary will include action decisions approved, evaluation abstract, purpose of activity, purpose of evaluation and methodology used, findings and conclusions, and recommendations. The format will be specified by ISAR and USAID. The summary will be submitted at the time of final report submission and will be presented both in hard copy and on a diskette as above.

CONTACTS

ISAR

1. Eliza Klose, Executive Director
2. Kate Watters, Environmental Programs Director
3. Ann Rubin, Task Manager, Moscow
4. Mila Bogdan, Task Manager, Moscow
5. Jonathan Spaulding, Task Manager Western Sector
6. ISAR Cooperation Project Board Members, US

USAID/W:

1. Lori Freer, ENI/EEU/ENR, Project Officer
2. Ronald Greenberg, ENI/EEU/ENR, Division Chief
3. CJ Rushin-Bell, ENI/EEU/ENR Natural Resources Officer
4. Dennis Long, ENI/EEU/ENR, Environment Protection Officer
5. Jim Holderbaum, EPT consortium, DC

RUSSIA:

1. Jim Norris, Mission Director, USAID/Moscow
2. Jack LeSar, Environment/Health, USAID/Moscow
3. Michelle Brown, USAID/Moscow
4. ISAR Grantees
5. ISAR Board Members, Russia
6. Jerry Knapp, EPT consortium

Western Sector:

1. Terry McMahon, Mission Director, USAID/Kiev
2. Jim Osborn, USAID/Kiev
3. Janelle Daane, USAID/Kiev
4. Ties van Kempen, EPT consortium
5. ISAR Grantees
6. ISAR Board Members, Western Sector

Other Donors:

1. Tom Kelly, NIS Program Director, World Learning
2. J. P. Myers, W. Alton Jones Foundation
3. Jim Cashel, Eurasia Foundation
4. Lois De Backer, Charles Steward Mott Foundation

QUESTIONS

A. ISAR Management/Grants Administration/USAID Management

1. Is the project administered effectively? To what extent are field staff included in the decision-making process? To that effect:

—do field staff possess the necessary experience and qualifications to undertake all aspects of the program, including administering grants, providing technical assistance, monitoring and evaluating on-going activities, etc.

—is the number of field staff adequate to handle project responsibilities? Is there an appropriate balance between expat and local staff? Are salary levels adequate to attract and retain experienced staff?

—do the field offices work effectively with each other and the DC office? How are communications and cooperation among the offices maintained?

—how well are local staff integrated into the program and encouraged to take initiative in administering it?

—how are decisions about policy, grants and finances made in ISAR? Is that decision making process effective?

—how does ISAR conduct its strategic planning? Are retreats held often enough, with the right people, and are results implemented?

2. How effective is ISAR in grants administration? Have field staff and grantees been satisfied with the administrative process? Proportionately, how much of the grant money should be distributed outside national and regional capitals? What steps have been taken to reach potential beneficiaries beyond the capital cities? What problems have arisen? What steps have been taken to resolve these problems?

3. How effectively has ISAR dealt with the unsettled judicial, financial and banking conditions in the NIS in the administration of its grant program? Have the US AID missions been helpful in regard to these issues and are there ways in which the USG could help ISAR and other US NGOs working in the NIS by encouraging governments in the region to improve conditions for nonprofit NGO activities?

4. What are the ISAR requirements for subgrantee reporting? How accurate and complete are subgrantee narrative and financial reports?

5. How efficient is ISAR in submitting quarterly progress reports, including financial data and annual reports?

6. Is the percentage of resources devoted to management costs appropriate for the scope and nature of this project? Please explain.

7. Management for Results. Is the management of the project really geared toward qualitative impacts (i.e., providing the necessary assistance to follow-through on the "foundation laying" aspects of work initiated by ISAR?) How does the management team ensure that appropriate actions are taken to provide follow-up?

8. What is the relationship between USAID/W, USAID missions, and the ISAR management team? Is the relationship conducive to timely and effective project implementation? What is the relationship between ISAR field staff and the AID missions?

9. What role do the USAID Missions play in the management of project? Describe the management relationship between ISAR, USAID/W and the Missions. What problems have arisen as a result of this management triage?

B. Outputs/Impacts

1. What have been the general and component-specific quantitative outputs (i.e., numbers of grants given, number of proposals submitted, number of NGOs linked by computer network, number of activists involved in conferences, etc)?.

2. What have been the general qualitative impacts? Summarize the data on these indicators and discuss situations where a) results are notably strong or weak, b) data are not available to make a judgement, and c) indicators are especially meaningful or inappropriate. Some issues for each aspect of the program include

Small grants and technical assistance:

—What types of technical assistance does ISAR provide? Which of these has been particularly effective?

—How have NGOs used the environmental e-mail network? How has the network helped them do their jobs? Have new relationships with other NGOs been formed as a result of the network? Now that the network is in place, are there ways in which this program could encourage its wider, more effective use?

—How is the small grants review process conducted? Is it perceived as transparent and equitable? Does the make-up of the board adequately represent the NGO movement? What role does it play in developing grant criteria and program strategy? How do board decisions and the grants themselves influence the direction of the movement as a whole?

—Has the small grants program had an impact on the development of citizen participation in environmental protection? What activities and resultant impacts have occurred as a result of the grants program (i.e., implementation of local clean-up projects, educational materials, public awareness campaigns, etc.)? Can these programs continue after US funding ends, in other words, is their impact sustainable ?

—Are there significant differences between the way the program operates in Russia and the Western Sector? If yes, what are they and what do they indicate about the state of the green movement in each region?

—Have grants to NGOs had any impact on policy development at the local, regional, and/or national level?

—How efficient and effective is the program in putting U.S. funding to work on the ground in the NIS in ways that have meaning for citizens of the NIS? How widespread is local awareness of the program, the US government's participation in it and its impacts?

Cooperative Grants Project

—How does the cooperative grants review process differ from the small grants process? Do the Russian and American boards adequately represent the NGO movement in each country? How successful is the parallel board process at selecting good projects? What is the impact of the joint decision making process?

—How effectively has the Environmental Cooperation Project strengthened existing partnerships and helped to initiate new partnerships between US and Russian NGOs? How representative are the program beneficiaries of the nongovernmental environmental movement in both countries?

—What types of activities and impacts have resulted from and what sector issues been addressed by the U.S./NIS partnerships? How important is the partnership aspect of these projects to their success and sustainability?

—How effective is the NGO partnership grant-making model in building public support for USAID assistance programs in the United States?

C. Monitoring/Evaluation

1. What process is used by ISAR to monitor the progress and fiscal integrity of grantees (both short-term and long-term)?

2. Who is responsible for project monitoring and evaluation and is that process conducted effectively?

3. How does the project track and coordinate activities? Is there an effective clearinghouse or database which lists, tracks, and cross-correlates the growing number of grantees in the program?

4. Is communication with grantees (especially those in the NIS) effective?

D. Coordination with other USAID Programs and Foreign Donors

1. Does the ISAR program respond to overall assistance needs in each country? Has ISAR effectively supported the overall USG strategic objectives for NIS? Has ISAR effectively offered programs to meet the country-specific strategies for Russia and Ukraine?

2. Has ISAR effectively cooperated with other ENI/ENR contractors (CH2M Hill, George Davis Assoc., HIID), other USG programs (Peace Corps) and other major donors (US foundations, OECD, the German Marshall Fund)?

3. Has ISAR effectively cooperated with other international NGOs in the NIS (Eurasia Foundation, IREX, United Way, VOCA and World Learning),

4. Has ISAR been successful at leveraging additional donor funding?

5. To what extent have ISAR spinoff activities been funded by other donors?

Appendix 2.

Methodology

The members of the evaluation team are Mary Heslin and Edward Hodgman. Both are fluent Russian speakers, and have lived and worked in the former USSR for several years. Ms. Heslin, the team leader, has previously worked on three other A.I.D. evaluations in the former USSR, and has just returned from 18 months working in Moscow in the NGO sector. Mr. Hodgman, who has several years experience working with US arms control and environmental NGOs, helped establish the first international philanthropic organization in the USSR.

The scope of work for the evaluation was drafted by ISAR with input and approval from A.I.D. Washington and the field missions. It was agreed that the evaluation would focus on Russia and the Western NIS.

Prior to departure for the field, the team met with the ISAR Washington staff and A.I.D. officials. Additionally they reviewed relevant documents including quarterly reports, cooperative agreements and amendments, grant applications and other project related materials. US board members and grantees were interviewed in person and by phone.

The team spent 11 days in Russia and 8 days in Ukraine. Site visits were made in Moscow and Kiev, and also in the cities of Nizhniy Novgorod and Obninsk, Russia. Because the evaluation was timed to coincide with several environmental conferences, the team was able to meet with grantees from several other areas, including Tomsk, St. Petersburg and Chelyabinsk. In Ukraine, an ISAR board meeting created the opportunity for meetings with grant recipients from Belarus and Moldova, as well as from several Ukrainian regions.

During the course of the evaluation the team:

- a) Interviewed 30 grant recipients from Russia and 25 grant recipients from the Western NIS, using a standardized interview format.
- b) Attended a two day advisory board meeting in Kiev at which \$50,000 in ISAR grants were approved.
- c) Met with high-ranking government officials from Russia and Ukraine
- d) Met with all members of the Western NIS board of advisors, and most members of the Russian board.
- e) Interviewed and Debriefed local A.I.D. officials in Kiev and Moscow
- f) Met with all ISAR local staff members in Moscow, Kiev and Nizhniy Novgorod

Appendix 3.

Persons interviewed/Sites visited

ISAR

1. Eliza Klose, Executive Director
2. Kate Watters, Environmental Programs Director
3. Mila Bogdan, Task Manager, Moscow
4. Jonathan Spaulding, Task Manager Western Sector
5. Jennifer Adibi, Nizhniy Novgorod
6. Mary Carpenter, Moscow
7. Local Staff Members, Kiev office
8. Local Staff Members, Moscow office

ISAR US Board of Advisors

1. Nancy Lubin
2. Fran Macy, Center for Citizen Initiatives
3. Gary Cook, Earth Island Institute

A.I.D. Washington

1. Lori Freer, ENI/EEUD/ENR, Project Officer
2. Ronald Greenburg, ENI/EEUD/ENR, Division Chief
3. Catherine Balsis, ENI/PCS/PAC, Evaluation Officer
4. Debbie Prindle, ENI/PCS/PAC, Chief
5. Alexi Panehal, ENI/PCS/PAC, Deputy Chief
6. Janelle Daane, ENI/EEUD/ENR, AAAS fellow

A.I.D. Russia/Ukraine

1. Michelle Brown, USAID/Moscow
2. Fred Bonner, USAID/Moscow
3. Alison Sartanov, USAID/Moscow
4. Jim Osborne. USAID/Ukraine

Russian Grantees (* site visits)

1. Boris Starostin, "Lyubutka", St. Petersburg region
2. Mikhail Krendlin, Vladimir Zakharov, Military Sites Nature Preserves, Friends of the Moscow Nature Preserve
3. *Elena Sedletskaya, Children's Ecological Club, Moscow
4. Vera Mishchenko and Olga Razbash, Ecojuris Environmental NGO Law Firm, Moscow
5. Vladimir Petrenko, Union for Chemical Safety, Volga Region
6. *Nikolai Grishin, Center for Ecological Projects, Moscow
7. *Azkhath Kayumov, DRONT, Nizhniy Novgorod
8. *Sergie Fomichev, Third Path, Nizhniy Novgorod
9. *Rainbow Keepers, Nizhniy Novgorod
10. *Sergei and Angela Bakka, Kamsko-Baldinskii Nature Preserve, Biodiversity Network, Nizhniy Novgorod
11. Natalya Miroshkina, Gatchina, St. Petersburg
12. Ilya Belov, Homeland for Cranes, Moscow region

13. *Maria Cherkassova, Center for Independent Ecological Projects (CIEP), Moscow
14. *Lydia Popova, Nuclear Energy and Energy Policy Center, Moscow
15. *Olga Ivleva, Vladimir Lupandin, Child Health in Ecological Disaster Areas, Moscow
16. Olga Anzigitova, International Crane Foundation Biodiversity Project
17. *Vadim Kalinin, Ecological Education Association, Obninsk
18. *Olga Konovalova, "Bambi" Children's Ecological Team, Obninsk
19. Natalya Mironova, Center for Nuclear Security, Chelyabinsk
20. Oleg Cherp, Independent Monitoring Network, Moscow
21. Marina Khotulyuova, Nuclear Ecology, Tomsk
22. *Yevgeniy Simonov, Biodiversity Conservation Center, Moscow
23. Natalya Kirpichova, Independent Monitoring of Moscow's Small Rivers
24. Nadezhda Domanova, Grant Writing Simulation Project, Moscow

Russian Board of Advisors

1. Nikolai Marfenin, Professor of Biology, Moscow State University
2. Vitaliy Chelyshev, Editor, "Spaseniye" (Salvation)
3. Askhat Kayumov, Director, DRONT
4. Yevgeniy Simonov, Director, Biodiversity Conservation Center
5. Oleg Cherp, Consultant to Board of Advisors
6. Svyatoslav Zabelin, Director, Coordination and Information Center, Socio-Ecological Union

Western Sector Grantees (* site visits)

1. Petro Fochuk, Yuri Masikevich, Bukovina National Ecocenter, Western Ukraine
2. Andre Dumbreveau, Natura, Kishinev, Moldova
3. *Taras Logginov, Compass Club and Forest SOS, Kiev
4. Svetlana Kravchenko, Ecopravo, L'viv
5. Svetlana Koroleva, Valerii Lobko, Next Stop-New Life, Minsk, Belarus
6. Oleg Listopad, Zeleniy Svit newspaper, Kiev
7. Oleg Emmanuelov, Blue Crab South, Crimea
8. *Boris Vasil'kovskii, Ecopravo Environmental Law, Kiev
9. *Ana Siomina, Tamara Malkova, MAMA-86, Kiev
10. *Vadim Dukanov, National Ecological Center, Kiev
11. *Natasha Vas'ko, Ecodefense, Kiev
12. *Andrei Glazovoi, Ecomission, Kiev
13. Viktor Khazan, Zeleniy Svit, Dniepropetrovsk
14. *Viktoria Glazova, Svetlana Malvoroda, Child and Environment, Kiev
15. Aleksandr Ilchenko, ARKA literary journal
16. *Lesia Kalashnik, Unicorn, Kiev
17. Yevgeniy Korbetskii, Valeriy Simenov, Mikhail Makhin, Aleksandr Samarskiy, Union of Salvation, Kiev
18. *Ludmila Babina, Vladimir Avramenko, Dipart 21st Century, Kiev

19. *Igor Kiril'chuk and colleagues, Zeleniy Svit Central Office, Kiev

US Grantees

1. Bill Pfeiffer and Susan Cutting, Sacred Earth Network
2. Marylia Kelley and Erin Barry, Tri Valley Cares
3. Fran Macy, Center for Citizen Initiative

Western NIS Board Members

1. Pavlo Zhovnirenko, Zeleniy Svit, Ukraine
2. Svetlana Korolyova, Next Stop-New Life, Belarus
3. Valerii Lobko, Advisor to Board on Belarus -
4. Oleg Emmanuelov, Blue Crab South, Crimea
5. Viktor Khazan, Zeleniy Svit, Dniepropetrovsk
6. Svetlana Kravchenko, Ecopravo, L'viv
7. Andrei Dumbreveau, Deputy Chair of Moldovan Environmental Movement
8. Yuri Masikevich, National Ecocenter, Ukraine

Government officials

1. US Ambassador William Miller, Kiev
2. Andriy Demidenko, Ukrainian Ministry of Environmental Protection, Director of Environmental Relations
3. Alexei Yablokov, Russian Federation National Security Council, Head of Department of Environmental Security
4. Nikolai Rybalskii, Deputy Minister of Ecology, Russian Federation
5. Evgenii Samotyossov, Ministry of Ecology, Head of Section for Press Relations and Non-Governmental Organizations, Russian Federation

Other

1. Kate Hanlon, CH2M Hill, EPT
2. Katya Greshnova, World Learning
3. K. Carley, Eurasia Foundation
4. Dorinda Elliot, Newsweek Bureau Chief, Moscow
5. Condoleeza Rice, Provost, Stanford College

Reference documents consulted

1. Final report -- Central and East European Environmental Impact Indicators Study submitted to US A.I.D. by International Resources Group, Ltd.
2. Proceedings: Joint U.S.-USSR NGO Conference on the Environment, March 14-19, 1991, compiled by Ann Rubin and Joseph Cook, edited by Eliza Klose with Ann Lubin

Project documents consulted

1. Sacred Earth Network Environmental Telecommunications Project Far East Initiative: System Grant Recipients, Spring 1994
2. Open letter to Head of Government Administration of Moscow Oblast from May 24 1994 -- printed in "Narodnaya Gazeta" -- regarding the establishment of a nature preserve outside Moscow.
3. Moscow Children's Ecological Center -- summary of activities
4. "ECOJURIS" -- Women Lawyers for Environment and Development
Summary of activities
5. Moscow Times article June 2, 1994: "Chemical Arms Waste: Getting Under the Skin" Re: Union for Chemical Safety project (Petrenko)
6. Moscow Times article April 8, 1994 "Yeltsin Fires Top Chemical Weapons Official" Re: Union for Chemical Safety project (Petrenko)
7. Letter to ISAR Project Author Nikolai Grishin 2/11/94 from Ministry of Ecology asking Grishin's Center for Ecological Projects to conduct public hearings on environmental impact statements.
8. Letter to ISAR Project Author Nikolai Grishin 6/8/94 from Ministry of Ecology with thanks re: public hearings on environmental impact statements.
9. "Third Way" -- ISAR-supported newspaper (English version)

10. Regional Biodiversity Conservation Plan -- Nizhnii Novgorod
Compiled by ISAR-supported Ecological Center "Dront"
11. "Economic Reforms and Nature Preservation" -- analysis of changes in Russian Federation land and forestry legislation. Written by the Biodiversity Conservation Center and Nizhnii Novgorod Ecological Center "Dront".
12. Center for Independent Ecological Programs -- (Moscow) summary of programs
13. Center for Independent Ecological Programs -- Invitation to 10/94 Moscow Conference on "Child Health in Regions of Ecological Disaster".
14. Newspaper article "The Road to Hell is Paved with Good Intentions" -- from "Nabat" newspaper -- regarding PCB contamination in Russia.
15. Newsletter of Ecological Education Association (Obninsk) -- ISAR-supported organizations.
16. Ecological Education Association (Obninsk) and Colorado River Watch Foundation -- "Pretest for Russian-Texas Student Exchange Program" with answers from one Russian student
17. "Results of a Joint Water Quality Study of the Protva River, Russia: Conducted by Students from Obninsk College, Kaluga Region, Russia and Students from the Colorado River Watch Network, Texas, USA" -- June 1994.
18. Socio-Ecological Union: Structure and Activity. General Information. Moscow 1994.
19. Washington Post article May 31, 1994 -- "Russia's Nature Reserves Imperiled".
20. "Responses to Poll on Western Funding of Russian Environmental NGOs in the Volga Region" -- compiled by ISAR staffer Jennifer Adibi January 1994.
21. "How to Ask for Money from Charitable Foundations For Non-commercial Projects" published by Biodiversity Conservation Center and Socio-Ecological Union 1994.
22. Textbook for Ecological Education of Elementary Grades: Kiev, 1994 Published by "Child and Environment" -- ISAR funded project.
23. World Information Service on Energy (WISE) bulletin -- Ukrainian language version

24. "Analysis of Financed Projects and their Impact on Government Politics and the Formation of Public Opinion." Written by ISAR Moscow staff, June 1994.
25. Letter of support from Ministry of Agriculture of Ukraine regarding "Union of Salvation" radiation monitoring project.
26. Letter of support from Ministry of Education of Ukraine regarding "Union of Salvation" radiation monitoring project.
27. "Citizen's Watch": Tri-Valley CAREs newsletter regarding work of U.S. nuclear laboratories. Tri-Valley CAREs received ISAR funding for joint work with citizen's groups in NIS on nuclear production safety issues.

Seeds of Democracy and Cooperative Projects: Impact Indicators

The evaluation team drew its impact criteria from face to face meetings at AID in Washington and at the Moscow and Kiev missions, and from the Draft in Progress document dated June 9, 1994, dealing with ways to evaluate the EPT program's NGO component.

We inquired about the following impact indicators: Media interest; Governmental recognition -- relationships and tangible support; Public awareness and participation; Environmental improvements; Environmental policy changes; and NGO network building.

AID funding to the ISAR Seeds Program in Russia and cooperative U.S.-Russian projects began in December 1993. AID funding to the ISAR Seeds program in the Western NIS began in April 1993. This relatively short time period (particularly for Ukrainian, Moldovan, and Belarus projects) should be kept in mind when assessing impacts achieved.

Where a category could not be measured as an impact either the category is omitted or a comment explains the stage of progress.

Russian Seeds Grants

1. 6/21 "LYUBUTKA" (St. Petersburg)

Boris Starostin

Abandoned village near Petersburg turned into small farming community for teenagers with disciplinary/substance abuse problems. ISAR grant: \$2,240.

Media interest -- YES. 3 hours TV coverage on Russian TV. 20 publications in local, national, U.S. papers.

Government -- YES. Support on county level, opposition from local politicians and collective farm chairman seeking to appropriate project land.

Public awareness -- YES. Increasing numbers of participants each year, students and teenagers abandoning substance abuse and becoming staff members.

Environmental -- YES. Forest cleaned, increased farm milk production 4x, orchard renovated and made more productive.

2. 6/21 MILITARY SITES NATURE PRESERVES (Moscow)

Mikhail Krendlin

Vladimir Zakharov

Creation of nature preserves on former rocket launching sites. Project authors propose to establish limited U.S.e hunting and forestry projects while preserving protected status of these large green zones outside Moscow.

ISAR grant: \$1,751.

Media awareness -- YES. 2 articles in local newspapers.

Government -- YES. Local government accepts the idea of creating nature preserves and has halted timber removal from these areas.

Public awareness -- YES. Strong public support for creating nature preserves and Army officials support this use

Environmental -- YES. Ecological mapping of entire area completed (1990).

Environmental policy -- Projected: transition of military base land to environmentally protected limited use status.

3. 6/21 FRIENDS OF THE MOSCOW NATURE PRESERVE (Moscow)

Mikhail Krendlin

Vladimir Zakharov

Creation of nature preserves in wetlands area outside Moscow which is home to numerous endangered plant and animal species and stopping point for crane migration. ISAR grant: \$2,500.

Media awareness -- YES. Open letter from NGO published in local newspaper

Government -- YES. District government has already given OK for establishment of nature preserve status

Public awareness -- YES. Some local popular support.

Environmental -- YES. Ecological mapping of entire area to be completed by Sept. 1994

NGO awareness -- YES. Cooperation with International Crane Foundation (U.S.), Biodiversity Conservation Center (Moscow), letter of support from Sister City organization (U.S.)

4. 6/21 CHILDREN'S ECOLOGICAL CLUB (Moscow)

Elena Sedletskaya

Publishing an environmental coloring book (25,000 copies) for use in club and in Moscow schools. Book not yet published. ISAR grant: \$2,500.

Note: rec. grant after 2x refusals for poor project proposal (received comments and instruction from ISAR Moscow staff). Grant leveraged to help receive additional donations from Moscow banks and businesses.

5. 6/22 UNION FOR CHEMICAL SAFETY (Saratov)

Vladimir Petrenko

Effort to fight the hazardous and unlawful storage and destruction of banned chemical weapons without environmental precautions near large civilian population in Volga region. ISAR grants: \$2,000.

Media interest -- YES. Articles in national press and English-language Moscow Times.

Government -- YES. Pressure of Petrenko's group resulted in REMOVAL BY YELTSIN OF TOP NATIONAL CHEMICAL WEAPONS OFFICIAL who allowed illegal transport of hazardous materials through civilian areas in violation of 1993 government decree. Group also has written numerous letters to about violations to Russian Federation Procurator General, Duma members, other high officials.

Public awareness -- YES. In order to communicate to the public about this problem Petrenko and colleagues registered a candidate for local elections and thus were able to speak to large groups of people about the dangers of chemical wastes and improper disposal at nearby military base. Candidate won majority of votes in two of sixteen districts (did not get elected).

Environmental -- YES. Slowed open air burning of chemical weapons

Environmental policy -- YES. Asserted legal precedent

6. 6/22 CENTER FOR ECOLOGICAL PROJECTS (Moscow)

Nikolai Grishin

To encourage widespread use of environmental impact statements on local and national levels of Russian Federation. ISAR grant: \$2,000.

Government -- YES. Ministry of Ecology approached CEP in Spring 1994 about instituting environmental impact statements and CEP held public hearings to provide information to the ministry.

Environmental policy -- YES. Hearings reflect RF Government interest in establishing accountability for large industrial projects. Also approach to ENTREPRENEURS through seminar planned for Autumn entitled "Environmental Impact Statements, Entrepreneurship, and the Public."

NGO awareness -- YES. As a result of the public hearings CEP attracted the interest of 35 Russian environmental and scientific NGOs who will take part in the planned seminar.

7. 6/23 DRONT -- Nizhnii Novgorod NGO Umbrella Group

Azkhat Kayumov, Executive Director

DRONT (Russian for the dodo bird) is the leading environmental organization in Nizhnii Novgorod and is respected throughout Russia. Has own environmental research/policy projects and also acts as a non-membership umbrella organization for the region. ISAR grants given to DRONT member organizations (see below).

Media interest -- YES. DRONT publishes ecological newspaper "Bereginya" which is distributed to environmental organizations around NIS.

Government -- YES. After working at DRONT, Kayumov became chairman of the Public Board on Environmental Problems under Nizhnii Novgorod's governor.

Public awareness -- YES. DRONT is largest and best-known environmental organization in the city.

NGO awareness -- YES. Received duplicator from Eurasia Foundation. Assisting Peace Corps in finding environmental problems to work on. Netherlands foundation "Milieu-Kontakt" has assisted DRONT Volga River program.

8. 6/23 THIRD PATH Newspaper (Nizhnii Novgorod)

Sergei Fomichev

Publication of bimonthly environmental magazine featuring news on environmental NGOs and projects from around the NIS. Circulation 1000.

ISAR grant: \$3,000.

Media interest -- YES.. Third Path articles reprinted in U.S., Holland, Ukraine, Russia. Published in Russian with occasional English-language special editions. Cited in U.S. and EEur green newspapers. Correspondents in UK and Canada.

Government -- YES.. Fomichev participated in March 1994 Duma hearings on chemical weapons. Also attended December 1993 meeting with Vice President Gore.

Public awareness -- YES. Increased circulation to individual subscribers.

NGO awareness -- YES. Grant has enabled increased circulation of newspaper to Russian and EEur NGOs.

9. 6/23 RAINBOW KEEPERS (Nizhnii Novgorod)

Organization conducts public campaigns in different parts of CIS. First effort involves photographing site for de-activization of nuclear weapons. Too early to comment on possible impacts. ISAR grant: \$500.

10. 6/23 KAMSKO-BALDINSKII NATURE PRESERVE (Nizhnii Novgorod)

Sergei and Angela Bakka

Seeks to establish large nature preserve near Nizhnii Novgorod with assistance of local level officials. ISAR grant: \$1,940.

Media interest -- YES. Local newspaper articles and radio interviews

Government -- YES. City and Oblast level officials have passed law declaring nature preserve (final approval needed at national executive level)

Public awareness -- YES. Local lumber companies agreed at 6/15/94 meeting to work with public officials and DRONT in planning logging in areas around nature preserve.

Environmental -- YES. Full ecological mapping (topography, animal and plant populations) done and published for entire preserve area.

Environmental policy -- YES. Angela Bakka is Deputy Chairperson of Public Committee for Nature Protection under Nizhnii Novgorod Governor Nemtsov's supervision.

11. 6/23 BIODIVERSITY NETWORK (Nizhnii Novgorod)

Sergei and Angela Bakka

Establishing a biodiversity map of the entire area around Nizhnii Novgorod with the help of local citizens and NGOs. Identifying threatened species for policy action. ISAR grant: \$1,900.

Government -- YES. City and Oblast government staff have asked to receive copies of Biodiversity Map upon its completion.

Public awareness -- YES. 100 scientists, local volunteers, and NGOs have received detailed questionnaire and requests to assist in assembling data for Biodiversity Map.

Environmental -- YES.

NGO awareness -- YES. (See Public Awareness). Also: Creating special computer program for data base and mapping of biodiversity data; program to be distributed to participating organizations and individuals.

12. 6/24 "CLEAN IZHORA RIVER" POLLUTION MONITORING NETWORK -- GATCHINA-ST. PETERSBURG

Stella Miroshkina

NGO network for radiation and chemical pollution monitoring surrounding Gatchina (outside St. Petersburg). Seven such monitoring points have been established as well as a dedicated line to Moscow Physical-Technical Institute which is compiling and analyzing the results. ISAR grant: \$2,500.

Government -- YES. Russian government nuclear regulatory agency (GosAtomNadzor) co-sponsored March (?) conference on regional monitoring network with project authors and challenged the Ministry of Ecology to take part as well.

Public awareness -- YES. Local citizens have volunteered to assist.

Environmental policy -- YES. Monitoring methods to be registered with relevant ministries in order to institute a "licensing approach" to NGO environmental monitoring.

NGO awareness -- YES. Involvement of Moscow and St. Petersburg NGOs in monitoring effort.

Note: Russian firm near St. Petersburg offered financial support for the March conference.

13. 6/24 CTR FOR INDEPENDENT ECOLOGICAL PROJECTS (CIEP) (Moscow)

A Partner Organization of the Socio-Ecological Union

Maria Cherkassova, Director

The CIEP is a small, independent umbrella organization which uses professional ecologists as its primary staffers. Its founders are from the ranks of the earliest environmental activists in the former Soviet Union. Its basic goal is to do professional monitoring, research, and public education projects and communicate the results to the press and the broader public. It presently has five main directions: chemical pollution, radiation problems, natural and cultural heritage, assessment projects, and ecological education. Together with ISAR's support, the CIEP has financial assistance from numerous American foundations and cooperation with a range of environmental NGOs. The program puts a special stress on PUBLICATIONS because of the immense information hunger in the former Soviet Union and encouraged the evaluators to stress to AID the need for research and popular publications in all environmental areas.

See Joint Projects summary for information about CIEP programs.

14. 6/25 "BAMBI" CHILDREN'S ECOLOGICAL TEAM (Obninsk)

Olga Konovalova

Student teams study ecology and clean up city parks, ponds, downtown areas, etc. Unique example of public-private partnership as city government pays Bambi student representatives minimum wage for cleanup work. ISAR funds group's museum/classroom and office. ISAR grant: \$2,000.

Government -- YES. Local government pays minimum wage for student cleanup efforts. Results of student monitoring around local nuclear plant accepted by local government. City gave order to stop tree cutting near local springs which supply city water following student cleanup project.

Public awareness -- YES. Local biologists assist students in planning major cleanup projects.

Environmental -- YES. Marked (visible) improvement in city parks and waterways.

Environmental policy -- YES. City/NGO cooperation.

15. 6/27 NUCLEAR ECOLOGY (Tomsk, Siberia)

Marina Khotulyova

Project to test soil, air, water for radiation poisoning following Tomsk nuclear accident in April 1993. ISAR grant U.S.ed to support staff work of scientists both reworking previously-gathered data and gathering new measurements. (ISAR previously gave discretionary grants to support initial analysis which resulted in urgent decision to evacuate populations near the accident site).
ISAR grant: \$1,800.

Government -- YES. Results of ISAR-supported analysis given to local government April 1994 in order to receive confirmation. Funds paid for consulting by staffers of the Russian Federation Nuclear Regulatory Agency (using expertise the government was leaving unemployed).

Environmental -- YES. Second round of tests show that levels of radiation remain high and that plutonium was still present in samples (grantee reported standard government response that no plutonium had been released). Detailed measurements of plutonium and strontium by NGO accepted by city and Min. Ecology officials.

Environmental policy -- YES. Appeal for government confirmation of an NGO-conducted environmental test.

16. 6/28 INDEPENDENT MONITORING OF MOSCOW'S SMALL RIVERS

Natalya Kirpichova (Moscow)

Pilot project measuring chemical levels in Moscow's rivers with Chermyanka River as first site. Based on early work in heavily polluted area of Moscow which showed that only 10 (ten) of 500 school children tested had normal levels of cadmium, strontium, and beryllium. Effort to convince local (rajon) level government to accept NGO's test results. Project started June 1994. ISAR grant: \$2,000.

Environmental policy -- YES. Cornerstone of project is getting local government to take part in the monitoring work "so that they won't reject our results and will support the project."

Quote: "This help [from ISAR] is very important because no one in our country will work on these questions among the government bureaucrats. We need to put pressure on the government to work on these questions -- to shame them into working on these questions themselves."

17. 6/28 GRANT-WRITING SIMULATION PROJECT (Moscow)

Biodiversity Conservation Center

Nadezhda Domanova

Cooperative project with Biodiversity Conservation Center (see Joint Projects #11) to hold several simulation games for Russian NGOs. Project will publish a booklet on grant-writing and on preparing for the simulation and first simulation planned for September 1994. ISAR grant: \$1,850.

U.S.-Russian Partnership Grants

1. 6/22 ECOJURIS (Moscow-San Francisco)
With: Pacific Environment and Resources Center
Vera Mishchenko and Ol'ga Razbash
Establishing women's public interest law firm dedicated to environmental action. Only law strictly environmental law group in Moscow at present.
Staff of 8. ISAR grant: \$73,621.

Media interest -- YES. Moscow newspapers and nationwide Rossiiskaya Gazeta articles regarding Northern Thermal Electric Power Station case, plus interviews on Russian nationwide TV. Radio interviews. Articles in ecological newspaper "Salvation".

Government -- YES. Set legal precedent with RF Supreme Court decision that lower courts must not refuse to hear environmental complaints brought by citizens.

Public awareness -- YES. ISAR grant for office has greatly increased citizen visits and inquiries about environmental violations. Letters and visits from other Russian cities. 183 co-defendants (local citizens) involved in EcoJuris case against chemical plant in Butovo district of Moscow. Decision by Irkutsk lawyers to establish similar organization.

Environmental -- YES. Temporary stoppage of construction of Northern Thermal Electric Power Station because of EcoJuris case.

Environmental policy -- YES. Establishing use of precedent.

NGO awareness -- YES. Cooperation and sharing of materials with similar NGO firms in Ukraine (EcoPravo).

Note: Other foundation support received from Milieu Contact (Holland) and Jackson Foundation (U.S.)

2. 6/23 JOINT SEMINAR ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS LABORATORIES
DRONT (Russia) and TRI-VALLEY CAREs (U.S.):
Nizhnii Novgorod Seminar June 1994. With support of ISAR and Center for Citizen Initiatives (U.S.). ISAR grant: \$24,900.

Media interest -- YES. Seminar covered on Nizhnii television and by local newspapers. Interview of U.S. and Russian NGO participants on local TV.

Government -- YES. Brought together officials from Russian weapons plant Arzamas 16 and Chelyabinsk with scientists from Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Deputy Governor of region met delegation as well as Deputy Administration Head of Arzamas-16 met delegation.

Public awareness -- YES. U.S.: Tri-Valley CAREs newsletter describing joint work and seminar reaches 1100 member families and 250 U.S. officials, media outlets, and NGOs.

Environmental policy -- YES. First time Russian officials from these weapons labs have met with American scientists and NGO representatives. Conversion video from Arzamas 16 featuring non-military production shown for first time to international audience.

NGO awareness -- YES. Seminar brought together nuclear watchdog NGOs from 3 U.S. states and several Russian cities where nuclear weapons laboratories are located.

Note: Other monies leveraged by CCI for travel of U.S. participants.

3. 6/23 CENTER FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY (Chelyabinsk)

Natalya Mironova

Devoted to monitoring and public education health risks associated with nuclear weapons generation plant at Chelyabinsk. Project has received three seed grants and one large joint grant for cooperation with Hanford Education Action League. ISAR grant: \$64,650

1. Strength of the Law, or the Law of Strength? (legal defense effort)
2. Muslyumovskii Syndrome (medical effects of radiation)
3. Knowledge is Survival (radiation monitoring project)

Joint Project: Chelyabinsk Environmental Clearinghouse

Media interest -- YES. Mironova writes monthly op-ed pieces for 23 Russian newspapers. May 1994 article published in "closed" newspaper of Chelyabinsk on "Nuclear Power and the Law -- Are They Compatible?" and June 1994 article (on???) in nationwide Rossiiskaya Gazeta.

Government -- YES. Mironova participated in March 1993 (check date) Duma hearings on chemical and nuclear waste disposal.

Public awareness -- YES. "Knowledge is Survival" conducts radiation testing of milk and food products with public participation.

Environmental -- YES. Medical testing of newborns in Chelyabinsk region for radiation-related birth defects begun June 1994.

4. 6/24 HOMELAND FOR CRANES

Volunteers for the Protection of Nature (Moscow)

International Crane Foundation (Baraboo, WI)

Ilya Belov, Moscow State University

Part of joint effort of a number of ISAR-sponsored organizations to create a nature preserve near Moscow at a migration stopover of cranes; this group's efforts are specifically aimed at persuading policymakers and local communities to endorse the territory's special status. International Crane Foundation gives scientific and technical expertise. ISAR grant: \$12,000.

Media interest -- YES. Local press has written consistently about the project, most recently in March 1994

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Government -- YES. Local government provided low-priced leased land for a project headquarters/community center

Public awareness -- YES. 300 citizens in areas around proposed reserve signed letter to local authorities demanding end to construction of summer homes there. Construction has been stopped. Project reps have spoken widely at local schools and community organizations to publicize the project.

NGO awareness -- YES. Participation of International Crane Foundation; travel by Moscow project rep. to U.S. for study of ICF work. Also cooperation with another ISAR-sponsored crane project in Russian Far East.

5. 6/24 RUSSIAN FAR EAST TELECOM INITIATIVE
Bill Pfeiffer and Susan Cutting, Sacred Earth Network
Range of Russian grantees

Effort to strengthen telecommunications links for environmental NGOs in Russian Far East. Seven organizations have thus far received modems and inexpensive computers, including groups working on saving the Siberian tiger, protecting the less well-known Amur leopard, guarding Far Eastern forests, and encouraging ecotourism as an alternative to extensive land development.

Government -- YES. One of projects has received in-kind support from the State Marine Inspection organization for work on the Sea of Okhotsk.

NGO awareness -- YES. Project aimed primarily at linking environmental organizations working across Russia; each organization receiving a modem also receives the SEN Directory of environmental E-mail U.S.ers and a newsletter linking 260 green e-mail users.

6. 6/24 CIEP -- NUCLEAR ENERGY AND ENERGY POLICY CTR (Moscow)
CENTER FOR CITIZEN INITIATIVES (San Francisco)

Lydia Popova
Fran Macy

This program is aimed at education of the public and policymakers and at direct lobbying on a range of nuclear issues. The Center conducts research and lobbying on all the main nuclear weapons plants and nuclear power plants considered dangerous (Chernobyl, Krasnoyarsk, Tomsk, Chelyabinsk). It places particular focus on plutonium. ISAR funds will support September conference at Krasnoyarsk. ISAR grant: \$74,980.

Government -- YES. Publishing "citizen's guides" about the nuclear plants and weapons factories at Krasnoyarsk, Tomsk, and Chelyabinsk in order to educate local leaders and the public in those

JA

areas (the plants themselves release little or no information). Krasnoyarsk conference is being partly funded by the local government there.

Public awareness -- YES. In addition to the Citizen's Guides, the program publishes a regular bulletin on nuclear safety issues (supported by the Ploughshares Fund).

Environmental policy -- YES. Particular focus on plutonium and its storage as a result of nuclear weapons programs.

NGO awareness -- YES. September conference on nuclear safety at the above-named plants will be conducted in cooperation with the Center for Citizens' Initiatives (San Francisco).

7. 6/24 CIEP -- CHILD HEALTH IN ECOLOGICAL DISASTER AREAS

Olga Ievleva

Vladimir Lupandin

Joint project with Inst. of World Affairs (Washington, D.C.)

Uniting American and Russian scientists and NGOs to work on problem of ecological disaster areas and resulting severe child illnesses and disabilities, including the problem of "yellow children" thought to arise from Russian missile program fuel wastes. Joint assessment of health problems proposals for medical and environmental solutions. Seminars held in Petrozavodsk, Russia. October 1994 Moscow conference planned. ISAR grant: \$74,950.

Media interest -- YES. National newspapers and magazines including top circulation magazine "Rabotnitsa".

Government -- YES. CIEP staff medical specialist assigned as expert consultant to International Affairs Committee of Federal Assembly (upper house of Russian parliament); local officials at sites of joint medical projects (Petrozavodsk) helping with organization of conferences.

Public awareness -- YES. Youth organizations in Petrozavodsk helping with medical assessments.

NGO awareness -- YES. NGOs from all over Russia (at sites of chemical and nuclear waste problems) to participate in October conference.

8. 6/24 CRANE CONSERVATION NATURE RESERVE

Center for Independent Ecological Programs (Moscow)

Int. Crane Foundation (Baraboo, WI)

Olga Anzigitova

Working to create wildlife reserve in Northwestern Siberia (Tyumen') for cranes and meeting the needs of indigenous peoples. Establishing camp for biological observation and tracking of cranes. ISAR Grant: \$25,000.

Media interest -- YES. Regular articles in local press

Government -- YES. Tyumen' oblast support including payment for helicopter flights. Russian team includes Moscow Zoo and Institute for Nature Preservation staff.

Public awareness -- YES. Cooperation with indigenous peoples

NGO awareness -- YES. Portion of grant has allowed Russian specialists to work onsite with scientists in India.

9. 6/25 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Ecological Education Association (Obninsk)

Brukner Nature Center (Troy, OH)

Vadim Kalinin

Youth water-monitoring network and teacher training for ecological education. In cooperation with U.S. NGOs including Brukner Nature Center (Ohio). Joint seminars April and June 1994. Publishing the only journal on ecological education in Russia. ISAR grant: \$25,000.

Media interest -- YES. Publishing own journal. Local press.

Government -- YES. City administration has offered own information on water quality; local Ministry of Ecology has helped finance some monitoring efforts. All county and district level divisions of Ministry of Ecology receive journal. Academy of Ecological Sciences has agreed to distribute their draft textbook.

Public awareness -- Over 1000 total organizations receive journal. Three city schools have instituted long-term ecological education curriculum and participate in water monitoring program.

Environmental policy -- YES. City has agreed to accept youth monitoring results as legitimate measure of water quality.

Note: U.S. participants in June seminar supported by USIA.

Quote: "ISAR projects are essential for our support -- we cannot be dependent on business, government, etc."

10. 6/27 INDEPENDENT MONITORING NETWORK

Druzhina Network (Russia)/ECOLOGIA (U.S.)

Oleg Cherp (Russia)

Randy Kritkausky (U.S.)

NGO water monitoring project in Volga and Northern Russia. U.S.-Russian group to select seven Russian NGOs for participation, train them to use UK-produced equipment, and encourage implementation of the results on the local level. Project is effort to apply water monitoring techniques used by U.S. partner in NIS. ISAR grant: \$74,600.

Media interest -- YES. Two grantees will be journalists in order to ensure distribution of information

Government -- YES. Officials of Ministry for Fuel and Energy have offered support for the project. Russian Academy of Sciences and State Committee on Hydrometeorology have expressed interest in using the results to establish their own monitoring network.

Environmental policy -- YES. Officially certifying equipment with Ministry of Ecology in order to encourage official use of results.

NGO awareness -- YES. Requirement that NGO grantees cooperate with one other NGO in conducting monitoring. Groups not selected as monitors will still receive results of monitoring in order to encourage data distribution.

Note: Cherp encouraged ISAR and AID to sponsor cooperation among environmentalists ("transboundary environmental cooperation" projects) of various NIS states because this can have enormous political effect without being directly political or "intergovernmental" in character.

11. 6/27 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTER/THE NATURE
CONSERVANCY

Evgenii Simonov et al

The Center supports a number of its own projects, several of which are funded by ISAR, and also provides training and networking support for environmental NGOs around Russia and the NIS. Basic thrust is nature conservation. Joint project is for an exchange of experts from five Russian regions with The Nature Conservancy planned for September and October -- training and education for Russian conservation specialists.

ISAR grant: \$75,000.

Media interest -- YES. 15 newspaper articles in local and national press since January 1994.

Government -- YES. BCC has assisted in writing conservation laws on the local level for its various projects supported by ISAR.

Environmental policy -- Aimed at new conservation policies.

NGO awareness -- YES. BCC wrote and published "How to Ask for Money," a guide to the principles of philanthropy and the mechanics of grant writing, copies of which have been distributed to nearly all those who apply to ISAR's Seeds program. 8,000 copies of a 15,000 copy run.

Western NIS Seeds of Democracy Projects: Impact Indicators

1. 7/1 BUKOVINA NATIONAL ECOCENTER (Chernovtsy, W. Ukraine)
Petro Fochuk
Yuri Masikevich (Member, Board of Advisors)

Establishment of summer ecological camp in Carpathian mountains for training of top area high school students in botany, chemistry, radiation biology, and basic nature skills. Grant amount: \$1,965.

Media awareness -- YES. Local newspapers and Ukrainian-American press

Public awareness -- YES. Application process announced over local radio and suitable applications rose from 30 to 100.

Environmental policy -- YES. Effort to "develop ecological cadres" for work in local ecological institutes and NGOs.

Note: Financial leveraging. Local bank gave funds to cover additional influx of 70 more student participants.

2. 7/1 COMPASS CLUB and FOREST-S.O.S. (Kiev, Ukraine)

Taras Logginov

Children's ecological club with attractively designed Kiev clubhouse (which provided site for Board of Advisors meeting) which sponsors summer camp on island on the Dniepr River. ISAR grants (Seeds and discretionary): \$3,200.

Media interest -- YES. Ukraine TV broadcast nationwide 30 minute program on tree-replanting efforts.

Public awareness -- YES. Children from all over Kiev participate

Environmental -- YES. Tree planting.

NGO network building -- YES. Cooperation with other ISAR-sponsored NGOs.

3. 7/1 "NATURA" (Kishinev, Moldova)

Andrey Dumbrevenu (also Board member)

Journal on environmental issues. Already issued one edition of the journal, with second ready to be published. Estimated circulation 5,000. The journal has been published since 1990, but has recently experienced a financial crisis which the grant is getting them through. ISAR grant: \$2,000

Media interest -- YES. Media project.

Government -- Effect not measurable at this point, although the journal is distributed to all government agencies and key policy makers.

Public awareness -- YES. Distributed free of charge to schools, ecological organizations.

4. 7/2 ECOPRAVO -- L'VIV (L'viv, Ukraine)

Svetlana Kravchenko

Provides pro bono consulting services for local NGOs. The group, 5 members, has just completed gathering and is preparing to publish

environmental impact information on a thermal electric power station which is responsible for 70 percent of the ash and sulfur pollution in the region. Other activities include lobbying to save Lviv University's botanical garden from a land development project and preparing to sue a local plant for lead pollution. Group highly influenced by trip of one member to California (sponsored by PERC -- ISAR grantee in different area) to study environmental enforcement. ISAR grant: \$2,000.

Media interest -- Are planning media campaign for fall.

Government -- Cooperative relationship with local government.

Environmental policy -- Not yet. Lawsuits have not yet been submitted.

NGO network building -- YES. Help local NGOs to get registered.

5. 7/2 Next Stop - New Life (Minsk, Belarus)

Svetlana Koroleva

Valerii Lobko

Community center for environmental projects, raising environmental awareness, and also work on social issues such as drug abuse. Funds given to establish center, hold Nuclear Issues seminar and print and distribute brochures and environmental publications, ISAR materials. ISAR grant: \$2,110.

Media interest -- YES. Articles, radio and TV programs

Government -- YES. Minsk city government has given Next Stop a building in the center of Minsk "as a result of ISAR's support". Following April 94 nuclear power issues seminar the Belarus Parliament Comm. on Ecology came to Next Stop to discuss cooperation.

Public awareness -- YES. Distribution of publications on nuclear issues and free open discussions.

NGO network building -- YES. Working with very small NGO community in Minsk on general NGO development issues.

6. 7/2 BLUE CRAB SOUTH Youth Project (Republic of Crimea)

Oleg Emmanuelov

Member, ISAR Board of Advisors

Blue Crab is a long-running youth project featuring (1) "Green Patrols," or local student groups working for appropriate use of park lands and educating campers and vacationers, and (2) Summer Ecological Expeditions to clean up parks and public areas, replanting eroded lands, and planting trees. ISAR grant: \$2,000.

Media interest -- YES. Articles in Simferopol and Crimea-wide press

Government -- YES. Supreme Soviet Envir. Committee members visited summer expeditions and have observed efforts of Green Patrols.

Public awareness -- YES. Direct interventions by project members in public parks, efforts to educate public about appropriate use of fragile Crimean lands

Environmental policy -- YES. Direct NGO interaction with government. Patrols and summer expeditions help government inspectors and rangers, work with government forestry officials

7. 7/2

ZELENIY SVIT, Dnipropetrovsk

Viktor Khazan (also member, Board of Advisors)

Coordinates environmental programs in three Ukraine oblasts. Trying to provide objective information and activize citizens. Programs include "Youth Movement," "Medical Ecology," "Education," and "Information." ISAR grant: \$2,800.

Media interest -- YES. Radio and newspaper coverage of activities, specifically mentioning ISAR.

Public awareness -- YES. Successful school-based programs.

NGO network building -- YES. Part of Zeleniy Svit network for distribution of environmental information.

8. 7/5

ECOPRAVO Environmental Law NGO (Kiev, Ukraine)

Boris Vasil'kovskii

EcoPravo offers legal consultations to citizens concerned about possible environmental violations in Ukraine. Also presses Ukrainian government to conduct environmental impact studies or live up to its own legislation on environmental issues. Main cases: defense of citizens in Chernobyl "zone" and efforts to rechannel construction of Odessa oil terminal, which was conceived and begun with no environmental impact statement. EcoPravo Ukraine has used its ISAR grant to establish an office for receiving citizens, plus e-mail. ISAR grant: \$1163 plus \$250 discretionary.

Media interest -- Many inquiries from the press but EcoPravo Ukraine as a rule does not release information about its efforts until it actually files a suit or a formal complaint.

Government -- YES. EcoPravo's monthly newsletter on environmental law goes to 200 government organizations and NGOs. Ministry of Ecology has offered statements of support for their work.

Public awareness -- YES. Growing number of Kiev residents coming in for consultations or to report problems.

Environmental policy -- YES. Introducing independent NGO legal presence into governmental environmental planning process.

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NGO network building -- YES. Distributed questionnaires to 22 green NGOs which responded as to their needs in terms of legal support/information.

Note: Support to EcoPravo from other foundations including Dutch "Milieu-Kontakt" and offers of cooperation from U.S. Environmental Law Institute. Also participation in NET program.

9. 7/5 MAMA-86 (Kiev, Ukraine)

Anna Siomina

Mama-86 is an environmental organization bringing together mothers concerned about environmental problems and children for work on these problems. Though it has several interesting elements, Mama 86's program did not emerge as a coherent whole from our discussions. ISAR grants (Seeds and discretionary): \$2425.

Public awareness -- YES. Children assist in writing and distributing "Green Dossier," the only young people's newspaper devoted to ecology in Ukraine. This newspaper was also handed out free at a recent Kiev city holiday. Also issuing another publication on nature conservation for children called "Children Under an Open Sky".

NGO network building -- YES. 4 participants in Mama-86 have participated in summer camp program of different NGO supported by ISAR (Compass Club).

10. 7/5 NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL CENTER (Kiev, Ukraine)

Vadim Dyukanov

A "think tank" for Ukrainian environmental issues, the EcoCenter tries to educate public officials and scientists around Ukraine about environmental problems through translation and distribution of top international environmental articles. ISAR Grant: \$1,600

Government -- YES. Ecology committees of national and local parliaments receive publications and are asked to respond as to their information needs.

Environmental policy -- YES. Effort to link NGO and governmental communities through across-the-board educational effort. Also significant for effort to keep academic scientists involved in policy debates.

Problems: Narrow project. Unambitious in terms of subscribers (initial list contains only 30 groups) -- though they are at a high level.

11. 7/5 ECODEFENSE KIEV (Kiev, Ukraine)

Natasha Vas'ko

EcoDefense is an activist organization dedicated to intensive political and public education campaigns directed at individual polluters. Present focus is

on the planned fuel processing facility in Odessa and the creation of a documentary film about this potentially hazardous construction project.

ISAR grants (discretionary): \$700.

Government -- (negative) Odessa City Administration closed independent TV station which had been giving technical support to EcoDefense's filmmaking activities.

Public awareness -- Effort at public education through TV

NGO network building -- YES. Cooperation with Russian Federation NGOs (which also have received some ISAR support) -- Socio-Ecological Union, Rainbow Keepers and Third Path. In addition, EcoDefense maintains an electronic bulletin board for environmental NGOs which has had some articles republished in print medium.

12. 7/5 ECOMISSION -- Umbrella Organization (Kiev, Ukraine)

Andrei Glazovoi, Director

EcoMission was established to provide an NGO coordinating center and information clearinghouse for Ukraine. It has representatives in all 14 oblast' administrative districts and in the Crimea as well. In May 1994, EcoMission organized a nationwide NGO meeting which brought together some 21 organizations from around Ukraine. Has demonstrated that it can effectively run and set up environmental conferences. (Potentially, ISAR could subcontract to them for help with training and other seminars and relieve some of the strain on the Kiev office). As an umbrella organization, it does not have strict membership rules nor a headquarters, but instead concentrates on information distribution and on encouraging Ukraine NGOs to help one another. ISAR grant: \$2,900 to support range of EcoMission projects.

13. 7/5 ENVINET UKRAINE e-mail network (EcoMission project)

Aleksandr Krokhin

EnviNet Ukraine is an e-mail network for Ukrainian environmental NGOs.

E-mail in Ukraine continues to be too expensive and inefficient for many NGOs to afford, and EnviNet is an attempt to change this. With two sets of computers and modems, EnviNet has established dialup services in Ukraine in May 1994 and presently has some 30 users.

Environmental -- YES. Offers bulletin boards for different topics, including a Hot Line, Ecological Information, and Legal Topics.

NGO network building -- YES. Informed Ukraine NGO community about its efforts at May EcoMission conference and numerous users signed up thereafter.

14. 7/5 UNICORN (Ecomission project)
Andrei Glazovoi
Lesia Kalashnik
Publishes the international journal on ecology and energy use "WISE".
Media interest -- YES. Have had reprints from their journals in others with wider circulation (Evening Kiev, Ukrainian Vesti). Noted that national television is "inert" on environmental issues. WISE has 1000 circulation.
Government -- Ministry of Ecology staff and higher ups receive journal.
NGO network building -- YES. Member of Ecomission, committed to expanding NGO contacts and networking. Cooperates with Greenpeace.
15. 7/5 CHILD AND ENVIRONMENT (EcoMission Project)
Viktoria Glazova
Svetlana Malvoroda
Devoted to introducing environmental education in schools of Kiev, this project has already made serious headway, with four schools using their instructional materials and others expressing interest. Aimed at students ages 6-10. ISAR grants: \$1960 for publications and discretionary support.
Media interest -- YES. Local press
Government -- YES. Kiev schools administration interested in expanding curriculum to elementary schools throughout city
Public awareness -- YES. Parents of children in four schools have expressed enthusiasm for the effort.
NGO network building -- YES. Cooperation with other green NGOs in creating a new environmentally sound curriculum.
Note: Leverage -- Dutch foundation "Milieu-Kontakt" has expressed interest in supporting program's expansion.
16. 7/5 ARKA Publishing (EcoMission Project)
ARKA is a literary journal featuring works by prominent Ukrainian writers; ISAR supported design and layout of special issue on the environment. ISAR grant: \$1,717.
Media interest: YES. Media project.
NGO network building -- YES. Cooperation with EcoPravo to get publishing house registered.
Note: Some question whether support of one edition of one journal (though on an ecological theme) is effective use of grant funds.

17. 7/5 UNION OF SALVATION FROM CHERNOBYL (Kiev, Ukraine)
Evgeni Karbetskii
Network of radiation monitoring centers established across Ukraine, with 180 specialists trained to use dosimeters and over 700 associated volunteers in all. 57 independent monitoring stations now working. Volunteers measure radiation in soil, water, food products following 3-day training course and must present results regularly to Union of Salvation. Project authors attempting to "force the government to respect its own laws." ISAR grant: \$2000.

Media interest -- YES. Articles in local and national press throughout Ukraine.

Government -- YES. June 30, 1994: Ministry of Agriculture contacted all its local offices mandating their support of Union of Salvation and the transfer of all radiation testing equipment in their inventories to the Union for its training courses. April 5, 1994: Ministry of Education orders all its local offices to make space available in local schools for training sessions and pay teachers additional wages for running radiation training programs with their own students. One local volunteer sent a detailed report on radiation levels in his oblast and local administration hired him as head of radiation testing in the oblast.

Public awareness -- YES. Centers established all over Ukraine.

Environmental policy -- YES. Have succeeded in having bill submitted to Ukrainian parliament which introduces tax and income incentives and penalties for Ukrainian industries producing pollutants.

NGO network building -- YES. Cooperation with nationwide network of Zeleniy Svit organization. Additional support from Dutch foundation "Milieu-Kontakt".

18. 7/6 DIPART 21st CENTURY (Kiev, Ukraine)
Ludmilla Babina

Extracurricular environmental club for children from 7 schools in Kiev district. Meetings held in children's library with special "green corner" for latest child and adult ecological publications in Russian and Ukrainian paid for with ISAR grant. 30 participants. Students grades 4-10 also go on weekly field trips to local Institute of Physics, Botanical Garden, and greenhouse for hands-on experience. ISAR grant: \$1980.

Public awareness -- YES. Involvement of 7 schools in area and interest from neighboring districts.

Comments: This project appears overstaffed and while the library and lectures provided there -- the work of Babina -- clearly are useful, it is not clear whether most funds are for children's work or for staff members from the various field trip sites (mostly Inst. of Physics). While project has clear outputs (library, lectures, field trips) it seems to have no measurable impacts.

19. 7/6

ZELENIY SVIT CENTRAL OFFICE (Kiev, Ukraine)

Igor Kiril'chuk and colleagues

Zeleniy Svit (Green World) is the largest nationwide Ukrainian environmental NGO and perhaps the most influential. Though it has offices in all major Ukrainian cities, it is not a strict membership organization and the Kiev office does not "dictate" policy. (For more detailed description of group's work and its views on ISAR, please see "Other Meetings", below.) ISAR grants: \$2400 in general support and \$1800 in discretionary grants. At this meeting we heard about Zeleniy Svit's use of ISAR general support as well as about six projects which have received some form of ISAR support:

20. Anti-fir tree cutting campaign
21. Committee on Energy Policy at International Youth Conference
22. Park restoration projects
23. Restoration of Beletsky Watershed
24. E-mail development -- ISAR donated 7 modems to help Zeleniy Svit offices and projects communicate
25. Textbook on growing non-contaminated plants

This range of projects was able to show impacts in nearly all of the areas listed below.

Media interest -- (#1 -- in Kiev and even U.S.)

Government -- (#1 -- endorsed by local governments; #4 -- cooperation from local government)

Public awareness -- (#1, #3, #4, #6)

Environmental -- (#1, #3, #4)

Environmental policy -- (#2)

NGO network building -- (#2, #5)

UNION FOR
CHEMICAL
SAFETY

SELECTED DOCUMENTS
RUSSIAN SEED GRANT #S PETRENKO

APPENDIX 6.



SINCE 1992

The Moscow Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1994

24 PAGES

Chemical Arms Waste: Getting Under the Skin

By Alexander Gordeyev
THE MOSCOW TIMES

The first of two parts
VOLSK, Central Russia — Sergei Kobzev has little doubt about what caused the ulcers on his one-year-old son's skin last autumn — he blames obsolete chemical weapons dumped at a base seven kilometers away.

"Where else could that filth come from?" Kobzev said. "We will all get poisoned here like roaches."

Kobzev is not merely hysterical. The deputy head of the Volsk health office, van Ivkin, said the ulcers affected many people's skin when exposed to rain or dew. Statistics he has collected show the rates of some diseases are up to six times higher among the 13,000 residents of Shikhany than among the 40,000 in Volsk, Ivkin said.

"I cannot officially explain the meaning of the statistics," Ivkin said. "But try and guess why this could be happening, knowing what is stored in Shikhany."

In 1962, plastic casks containing 200 tons of Adamsite, an arsenic-based poison, were put in an open trench at the Shikhany military base and abandoned, said Colonel Alexander Stepanov, who was deputy chief of the

base until April 15 this year. Since the early 1960s the base has been testing chemical weapons developed by a research institute next door, Stepanov said, adding that samples of the agents are stored there.

Unlike six chemical weapons plants located along the Volga river and blamed for pollution, the complex was never used for the large-scale production of weapons, but it was here that the Soviet Union's newest and most potent weapons were tested.

Stepanov said the Adamsite at Shikhany was brought in from a different storage point and dumped at the base, perhaps because it was easier to hide at the closed location.

Thirty years later the casks were rotted and chemicals are leaking into the trench, but there is no plan to remove or eliminate the toxic mess. All the military can do is monitor soils around the trench, Stepanov said.

"Of course it gets washed down with the rain and probably reaches the river Bagaika," Stepanov said. "I know crawfish have disappeared from the river, and there used to be plenty."

The Bagaika is the only source of drinking water for the village of Bara-

novka, where a recent health survey revealed a new form of gastritis that affects 85 percent of children.

Yury Chernenkov, a senior children's doctor in the Saratov region, said the gastritis found in Baranovka, which lowers acidity in the stomach, develops as a lasting disease from the start, skipping the inflammatory stage which can normally be quickly cured.

Chernenkov also said people who suffer from the illness do not feel the pain typical of other known forms of

gastritis and, as a result, the disease was not detected until the survey in March.

The institute next to the military base at Shikhany used to produce small quantities of poisons as samples for tests of protective equipment and clothing.

But according to Stepanov, work there stopped three or four years ago and the military base now stores no chemical agents except irritants and incapacitants.

Suspicious were raised, however, in See CHEMICAL, Page 2

P 2
CHEMICAL
Continued from page 1

early February when six soldiers standing guard outside the warehouse were hospitalized with breathing problems caused by an unidentified gas.

According to Shikhany's public prosecutor, Vladimir Petrov, the investigators were still unable in April to determine the cause of the accident.

The military have attributed the poisonous rains and worsening health conditions of the local population to the giant cement producer, Krasny Oktyabr, located in Volsk.

But local newspapers have countered that hardly any pollution could have come from the cement factory, because it was forced to stop to stop production for most of last year due to lack of funds.

Shikhany's head of administration, Nadezhda Saratovtseva, who has lived there for 17 years with her husband and daughter, said the fears expressed were typical for people living near any weapons storage facility.

"I cannot tell people it is safe here because I do not have the qualifications to judge whether it is," she said.

Stepanov, however, said he believed the area to be safe and added that he has decided to continue living in Shikhany, even though he has a flat in Moscow.

Rim Balchenko, a senior researcher at one of the two institutes that used to be involved in the development of chemical weapons, said he believed that local fears resulted from a general paranoia based on lack of information.

"When we started burning waste a couple of years ago, people saw dark smoke coming out of our pipes and they began complaining about headaches," Balchenko said. "Then we started burning ordinary fuel instead, and people still complained," he said. "But when we told them about the experiment they calmed down and the headaches were gone."

"I don't believe them," said Ivan Parfyonov, a pensioner in Volsk. "They have lied in the past for the sake of their career. How can I trust them now?"

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SINCE 1922

The

Moscow Times

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P1

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CHEMICAL

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Stepanov, however, said he believed the area to be safe and added that he has decided to continue living in Shikhany, even though he has a flat in Moscow.

Rim Balchenko, a senior researcher at one of the two institutes that used to be involved in the development of chemical weapons, said he believed that local fears resulted from a general paranoia based on lack of information.

"When we started burning waste a couple of years ago, people saw dark smoke coming out of our pipes and they began complaining about headaches," Balchenko said. "Then we started burning ordinary fuel instead, and people still complained," he said. "But when we told them about the experiment they calmed down and the headaches were gone."

"I don't believe them," said Ivan Parlyonov, a pensioner in Volsk. "They have lied in the past for the sake of their career. How can I trust them now?"

Union for Chemical Safety

Russian Seed Grant #5 Petrenko

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The Moscow Times

SINCE 1992

NO. 437

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1994

16 PAGES

Yeltsin Fires Top Chemical Weapons Official

By Alexander Gordeyev
THE MOSCOW TIMES

President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday fired Anatoly Kuntsevich, Russia's top chemical weapons official, a man who has been accused of carrying out illegal secret tests of chemical weapons.

Kuntsevich, who heads the presidential committee on chemical and biological weapons, was dismissed for "a single grievous violation of his work responsibilities," according to Kremlin press spokesman Alexander Orlyonov.

Orlyonov declined to elaborate on the nature of the violation. But Kuntsevich has been accused in a highly publi-

cized court case of carrying out secret tests on a new chemical weapon named "Novichok-5," in contravention of an agreement with the United States signed in 1989.

Vil Mirzayanov, the chemist who was imprisoned and prosecuted for publishing that charge in the press, said Thursday that only after a replacement has been named can it be said whether Kuntsevich's removal is a victory.

On Thursday he repeated his belief that Kuntsevich, as the deputy commander-in-chief of the Russian chemical weapons forces until 1992, was responsible for secret tests on Novichok.

Mirzayanov also said Kuntsevich had concealed nine-tenths of Russia's chemical weapons stockpile from international scrutiny.

Kuntsevich has repeatedly denied the allegations and has maintained that Russia's chemical arsenal amounts to 40,000 tons, as recorded in the 1993 convention banning all chemical weapons.

The charges accusing Mirzayanov of leaking state secrets were dropped in late February with Yeltsin's active encouragement, after the trial became an embarrassing cause celebre and human rights case.

Yeltsin established the Committee

on Conventional Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons with Kuntsevich at its head in February 1992 to ensure imposition of bans on chemical weapons listed in the 1993 convention.

Kuntsevich's spokesman Igor Vlasov said the committee had played a central role in producing that convention, which bans the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and was signed in Paris by 154 nations.

If the convention is ratified by the State Duma, Russia must begin destroying its chemical weapons next year. During State Duma hearings last month Kuntsevich urged deputies to ratify

quickly to enable the military to meet the deadline for the beginning of the elimination program.

Mirzayanov, however, said that Kuntsevich had overstated Russia's ability to eliminate its chemical arsenals. He also argued that the Russian military were not prepared to begin a safe destruction of the declared weapons.

"It is insane to begin the destruction without technologies, methods of safety control or finances," Mirzayanov said, adding that Kuntsevich may have been sacked for trying to conceal the problems.

See CHEMICAL, Page 2

CHEMICAL

Continued from page 1

Mirzayanov also accused Kuntsevich of attempting to preserve the structure of the military chemical complex instead of working towards its dissolution.

But he also thought it possible that Kuntsevich had been ousted by officials in the chemical weapons industry who believed Kuntsevich did not try hard enough to secure finances for further research in the area.

Kuntsevich's aides appeared unaware of the decree Thursday evening and said their boss continued work as usual.

Vlasov said he was puzzled by the expression "violation of responsibilities." He said: "I know Kuntsevich as a workaholic, this news is quite unexpected."

Kuntsevich's aide, Vladlen Malyshev,

said his boss spent all of Thursday in a meeting with his staff discussing proposals for negotiations in Hague on editing the international chemical weapons ban.

Throughout the 1970s and 80s Kuntsevich headed the secret military chemical research institute in the central Russian town of Shykhany which officially developed means of defense against chemical weapons, according to Vlasov.

Vladimir Petrenko, a former employee of the institute, alleged recently that the institute also developed weapons and that he was subjected to a test of new weapons in 1982 while Kuntsevich remained director of the institute.

As a result of those tests, Petrenko now suffers from a series of chronic diseases that have crippled his health. Vlasov denied the allegations and said no chemical weapons were ever tested on humans.

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Russian Seed Grants #5 Petrenko Union for Chemical Safety

Ecological Center "Dront"
Nizhegorodskoe Division of the Socio-Ecological Union

REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PLAN

Program for Protection of Biological Diversity and its Role in Sustaining the
Ecological Balance in NIZHEGORODSKAYA OBLAST

• EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nizhegorodskaya Oblast is urgently faced with the problem of protecting biodiversity. Wildlife populations are dwindling and disappearing at an alarming rate, destroying the natural balance of the ecosystem. The establishment of a system of protected areas offers the greatest potential for reversing this process. To this end, Dront Ecological Center's Biodiversity Protection Laboratory has put together this program. The plan stipulates the development of a number of environmental protection measures: the creation of three new reserves protected strictly for scientific research (zapovedniki) in Nizhegorodskaya Oblast, ten new multiple-use areas protected from industrial and agricultural development (zakazniki), and several hundred new natural monuments; This plan also seeks to create and manage a database of rare species and protected areas and publish a set of methodological materials (scientific documents) and literature for public distribution, as well as other measures. Completion of the program will result in a fundamental system of environmental protection for Nizhegorodskaya Oblast that will preserve the area's unique biodiversity from the convulsions of an unstable national and regional economy.

The program is intended to span four years. Four full-time workers of the Laboratory will participate in the project, along with roughly ten specialists recruited for specific stages.

The Socio-Ecological Union's Biodiversity Conservation Center and the Geographical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences will appraise the success of the program upon completion.

The projected four-year budget for the program is \$96,430 (39,140 for 1994; 23,390 for 1995; 20,790 for 1996; 12,570 for 1997)

• INTRODUCTION

The Ecological Center "Dront" is a non-governmental organization created in December, 1989. One of the founding principles of the center's work is the preservation of biodiversity.

In 1992 the Biodiversity Protection Laboratory was established within the center's operations. Its staff is comprised of professionals having ten to fifteen years' experience in biodiversity conservation, including surveys, inspections, planning, and lobbying. One of the Laboratory's most important projects involved preparing an inventory of natural objects and territories in Nizhegorodskaya Oblast requiring protection, which was presented to the regional soviet. All areas presently designated as protected, as well as those that require such status but as yet remain unprotected, are included in that inventory.

Over the course of the last ten years Dront has been formulating various measures related to wildlife protection, particularly with regard to the location and study of undisturbed habitats where rare species retain their niche in the region's biodiversity. To date, four protected forest zakazniki and one ornithological zakaznik, together totalling an area of 85,000 hectares, have been established based on Dront's research. These areas include ecosystems of international significance, including, in Kilemarskiy Zakaznik, one

The THIRD WAY

is independent magazine, founded in 1988

TOPICS:

green and anarchist movements in Russia and in other countries.

radical press reviews.

ecological information and projects.

social ecology.

protest actions.

counter-culture and alternative society.

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\$ 10 per year, for the West countries.

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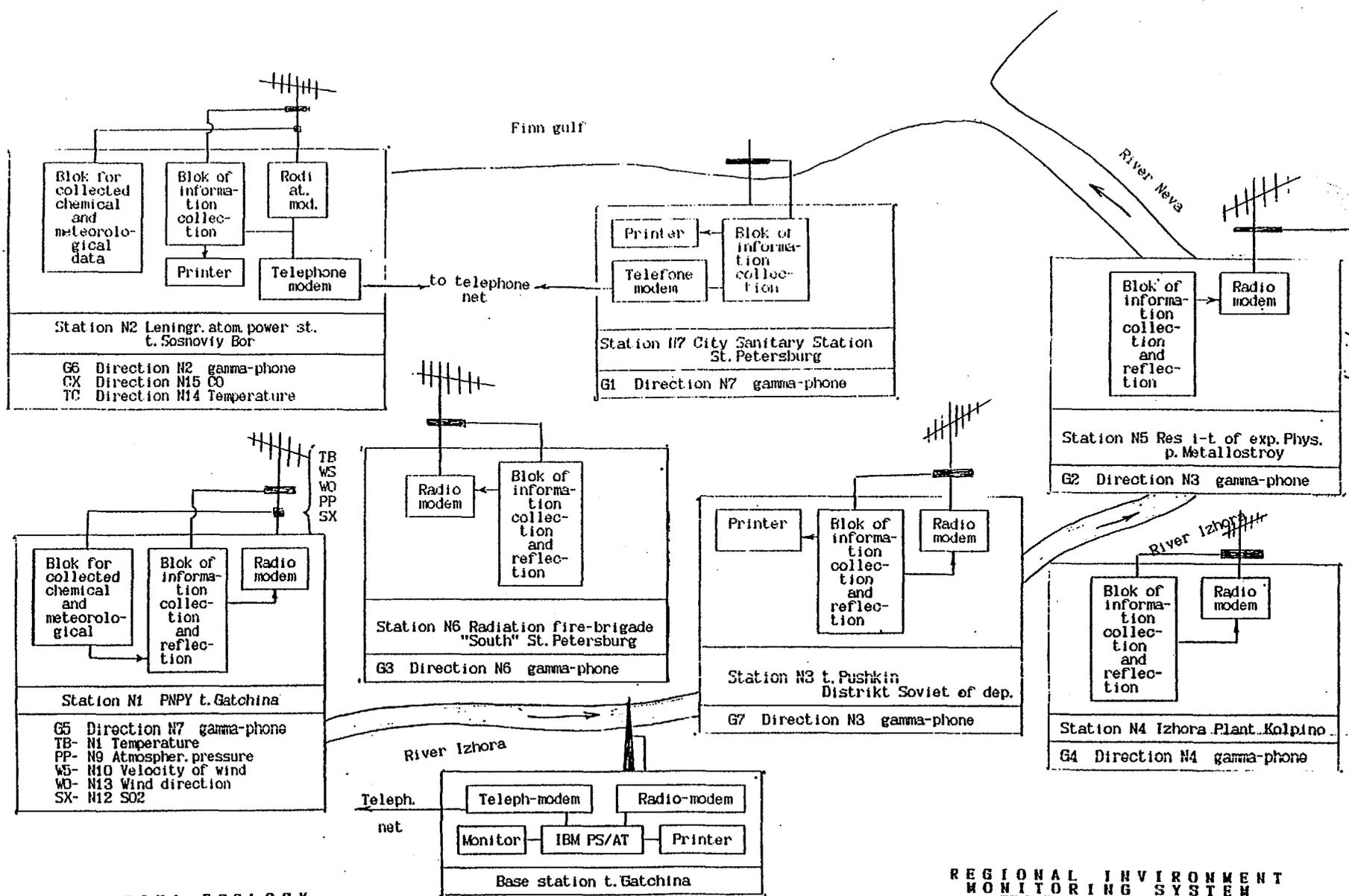
• SUSTAINING CONTRIBUTORS

Murray Bookchin and Institute for Social Ecology (USA) - \$125, Anne-Mary Heemskerk and Milieukontakt (Netherlands) - \$45, Socio-Ecological Union (Moscow) - 100.000 rubls, Yuriy Shevchuk (Piter) - 1.000 rubls, Vladimir Kuzin (Chapajevsk) - 30.000 rubls, Alexandr Osokin (Togliatty) - 1.000 rubls, Yevgeni Simonov (Moscow) - \$10, Sergey Fyodorov and "Ecology of North" Association (Arkhangelsk) - 12.000 rubls, Bill Pfeiffer and Sacred Earth Network Newsletter (USA) - \$50, ISAR "Seeds of Democracy" project (USA) - \$3.000, "Muravyi" (Kazan) - 10.000 rubls

Thank You for your support !

We can always use more support !

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GATCHINA ECOLOGY MOVEMENT

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT MONITORING SYSTEM "CLEAN IZHORA"

Социально-Экологический Союз
Socio-Ecological Union



ЦЕНТР НЕЗАВИСИМЫХ ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ПРОГРАММ
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_____ 199 г.

Center for Independent Ecological Programs is a non-governmental organization (NGO) uniting professional ecologists mostly. It began its activity in September, 1990, and its officially registered as an independent section of the Russian Socio-Ecological Union.

The main goals of CIEP are:

Protecting human rights for healthy environment; giving help to the residents of ecological disasters regions; preserving the natural and cultural heritage. The CIEP members' activity is aimed at full-ranged support of democratic changes in our country; at the assistance to demonopolization and the development of alternative directions in the ecology and nature exploiting; at the contribution to the growth of social activity and the formation of ecological world outlook among children and grown-ups.

CIEP members work at concrete programs and projects, carry out independent ecological expertise. In the CIEP staff there are about 10 workers: administration board and the main programs' coordinators. To work at the project special working groups of specialists are created. Some of these people have constant collaboration with the Center, others are attracted for some definite period of time.

The main directions of CIEP activity at the present time:

1. ECOLOGY AND HEALTH

1) Chemical and radioactive contamination of the environment and people's health in different regions of Russia (Archangelskiy, Astrakhanskiy Brianskiy, Cheliabinskiy, Tomskiy regions, Dzerzhinsk, Altaiskiy region, Bashkiria etc.). Special attention is paid to the affect of such supertoxicants as dioxines and rocket fuel heptile on people's health, and also the problem of the environment contamination by plutonium.

The CIEP coordinators: S. Yufit, Ph.D.Chemistry
V.Lupandin, Ph.D.Medicine
M.Khotuleva, Ph.D.Chemistry.

2) Children's health in the areas of ecological disasters, organizing help to the families with disable children.

Coordinators: V.Lupandin, Ph.D.Medicine
O.Ievleva
E.Belozerova

2. PRESERVING NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

1) Designing and creating the preserves in the forest zone of European Russia (Novgorodskiy, Pskovskiy, Tverskoy regions)
Coordinator: A.Mischenko, Ph.D.Biology

2) Organizing a natural and cultural park "Suzdal Land". In 1993 the project of the park "Suzdal Land" took the first prize in Ford European Conservation Awards on preserving natural and cultural heritage.

Coordinators: M.Cherkasova, Ph.D.Biology;
V.Brunov, Ph.D.Geography; I.Bradis, Yu.Makarov

3) Creating some safeguarded natural areas in Russia (Lublin Fields, etc)

Coordinator: K.Avilova, Ph.D.Biology

4) Wood-grouse breeding and its reintroduction into nature, into the place of former inhabiting.

Coordinators: S.Kirpichev, Ph.D.Biology
A.Kirpichev

3. INDEPENDENT EXPERTISE OF ECOLOGICALLY UNSAFE PROJECTS

1) The expertise of the Khatun Hydro-electric station in Gorniy Altai. The work started in 1987, before CIEP was formed. The initial project of constructing a 180-metre dam was turned down due to the efforts of the public. At the present time a new project of a 60-metre dam is under way. But it also requires an independent examination.

Coordinator: V.Kosenko

2) The examination of the project of a high-speed railway line Moscow - St.Petersburg.

Coordinators: V.Kosenko
A.Mischenko

4. ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

All CIEP staff members work in this direction publishing materials in mass media, especially on the problem of ecology and health. Besides we give special assistance to biological and ecological children schools and clubs, for example to the Club of Young Biologists of the Zoo (CYBZ, Moscow), the School of ecological aesthetic education of V.Grebennikov, biological form of G.Sokolova (Moscow) etc.

CIEP works at joint projects with many Russian and foreign organizations. Work at local projects is most successful where we collaborate with grassroots organizations. For example, we collaborate with Socio_ecological Union departments in Arkhangelsk, Suzdal, with organizations of parents with disable children in Dzerzhinsk, Petrozavodsk, Moscow etc. We work with the Institute of World Affairs (American NGO) in the framework of the joint project on the problem of disable children. Long collaboration connects CIEP and ISAR (former Institute of Soviet-American Relations). There was the First Russian-American conference of ecological NGOs organized in 1991 together with ISAR. According to this conference decision International Clearinghouse on the Environmental Protection was formed.

CIEP is a non-commercial organization getting the main funds from different foundations and other charity organizations in the framework of grants for concrete projects. The main assistance was received from Alton Jones Foundation (USA). Sometimes we've got a chance to get financing for independent expertise from Russian local officials. But the most part of our work, first of all help for Russian NGOs, CIEP does free of charge. That's why we extremely need sponsors. We are ready to give detailed information about our projects to them.

Maria Cherkasova,
the CIEP director
Ph.D.Biology
"Global-500" laureate of UNEP

Социально-Экологический Союз
Socio-Ecological Union



ЦЕНТР НЕЗАВИСИМЫХ ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ПРОГРАММ
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" " " 199 г.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

There will be held the Russian-American Conference in Moscow on the problem of Health of Children in the Regions of Ecological Disasters. It'll be conducted since October 21 till October 24, 1994.

The initiators of this event are the Center for Independent Ecological Programs of the Socio-Ecological Union (CIEP of SEU) - Russia and Institute of World Affairs (IWA) - USA.

We suggest to take part in the conference to:

- ecologists working on problem of chemical and radioactive pollution influence on human health;
- doctors having practice in treating people with "clinical ecological syndrome";
- organizations (units) of parents with disable children;
- lawyers and teachers connected with solving problems of families with disable children;
- specialists of people's social and psychological adaptation in extreme situations;
- governmental organizations, business people, sponsors interested in the problem.

Conference program will include:

- 1, Plenary reports, discussions and seminars on the problem.
2. Poster reports and exhibitions (including sale exhibitions of children's and their parents' works).
3. Visits to children institutions, hospitals, rehabilitation centers.
4. Meeting officials.
5. Excursions around Moscow.
6. Slides, ecofilms and other materials.

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Conference goals:

1. Attracting attention to this problem in Russia.
2. Experience change between Russian and foreign organizations on conducted joint projects.
3. Developing working of system of practical help for families with disable children.

The conference agenda will be formed according to your wishes and, finally, it will depend on participants and their materials.

We have got a request to send this information to all interested in it.

The Steering Committee waits for your applications till September 15, 1994.

Personal invitations and organizational information will be sent to you later.

* [Sponsor of the conference is Agency of International Development (USA). Funds were granted to the joint project of CIEP and IWA in the framework of the program "Seeds of Democracy".

Expenses on the conference (lodging and food for one representative of each Russian organization) are paid from the budget of this project.

Registration fees for the participants who don't work on the project:

- organizational points	\$100
- lodging and food	\$300
Total	\$400

Address of Steering Committee:

115470 Moscow, Nagatinskaya quay, 44 - 3 - 30 (CIEP)

Tel/fax: (095) 118 86 86

E-mail: cnep@glas.apc.org

Project coordinators:

Olga Ivanovna Ievleva, tel. 402 88 84

Elena Anatolievna Belozérova, tel. 494 60 51

Steering Committee

Russian Partnership Grant # 9

INTRODUCTION

In 1991, in Obninsk College, in the Kaluga Region of Russia, students in grades 6th through 9th formed an environmental club and began to study the Protva River. Currently, in 1994, students in grades 8th through 11th continue to learn about water quality testing and environmental science.

Also in 1991, representatives from the Colorado River Watch Foundation (CRWF), a non-governmental organization devoted to water quality monitoring and protection of the Colorado River in Texas, USA, proposed a joint water quality study between themselves and interested students in the former Soviet Union. A grant proposal for such a joint water quality study was submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) during a trip to Washington DC made by representatives of the Colorado River Watch Network (CRWN), a volunteer water monitoring organization which works closely with the CRWF. Funding for the joint study was finally granted by the United States Information Agency (USIA) in 1993.

The study was supposed to have commenced in the summer of 1993 with ten Russian students and two adults coming to Texas to conduct a water quality study on the Lower Colorado River with Texas students involved with CRWN. Unfortunately, the Russians were unable to come in 1993 due to difficulties in obtaining visas.

In the summer of 1994 the joint water quality study began in Obninsk, Russia. Twelve Texas students participating in CRWN and three adults traveled to Russia on June 12 and conducted water quality tests along the Protva River with the cooperation of students and teachers from Obninsk College. In the summer of 1995, Russian students and adults will travel to Texas to complete the joint water quality study of the Protva and Colorado Rivers.

The purpose of the joint water quality study is to compare water quality in the Protva River and the Colorado River while promoting environmental education and international cooperation in environmental protection.

DESCRIPTION OF PROTVA RIVER

For over 2000 years the Protva River has been a major source of water for humans. Many little villages have been born along the river and over time have died. No big cities have existed on the river and there is practically no industry in the river's drainage basin.

The Protva River is a tributary of the Oka River which is a tributary of the Volga River. The Protva is 280 kilometers long and approximately 18 meters wide. The Protva is very calm, flowing only 0.3 to 0.4 meters per second. The topography of the drainage basin is hilly and covered with many different types of vegetation. This vegetation includes birch, willow, and pine trees, as well as many reeds growing in the river itself. There are few large boulders covering the banks of the river, although there is a gravel bottom. Long weeds cover the banks for most of the river. Where these weeds are absent, there is red-brown exposed soil. There were few observations of wildlife during the course of this study.

Historically, the Protva River has not been home to large populations of people. In the past two years, many new homes have been built along its banks. The houses are spaced very far apart in most situations and have their own individual septic systems which in some cases discharge directly into the river. In cities like Obninsk, Ermolino, and Borovsk, there are centralized septic systems. There were many small farms along the river which cause the most pollution to the river. The farms have drainage ditches which run directly into the river.

Currently there is very little being done to control water quality in the Protva. There are water treatment plants for waste in the few cities along the river, but in the countryside sewage is not treated centrally. At one place during this study, trash was observed to be dumped directly into the river. There are a few governmental committees like the Ministry of Environmental Protection and local health and medical authorities which are responsible for maintaining the quality of the river's water. They control drinking water and certain amounts of pollution. Some towns also have their own regional committees charged with ensuring safe water quality.

PROCEDURES AND METHODS

RESULTS OF A JOINT WATER QUALITY STUDY OF THE PROTVA RIVER, RUSSIA
CONDUCTED BY
STUDENTS FROM OBNINSK COLLEGE, KALUGA REGION, RUSSIA
AND
STUDENTS FROM THE COLORADO RIVER WATCH NETWORK, TEXAS, USA

JUNE 19 - JUNE 22, 1994

Report Prepared by:

Natalie Peshkova

Eugenia Datskevich

Tanya Pakhomova

Sasha Kalinin

Julya Solomykina

Boris Kobritsov

Dima Uliyanov

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Andrew Rivera

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Thomas Gonzalez

Thomas Mahler

Elisabeth Welsh

Natalie Saldana

Jennifer Veninga

Traci Arnold

Whitney Ann Morgan

Pakhomova
Tanya

Colorado River Watch Foundation

Pretest for Russian-Texas Student Exchange Program

1. Describe the water quality variables (dissolved oxygen, pH, total dissolved solids, temperature, nitrates, phosphates) their importance in an aquatic system and what effects them.
2. Explain three things we as monitors can do to ensure the water quality data we collect is accurate and valid.
3. What important information about an aquatic system do these tests NOT tell us, and what other monitoring activity could we do to obtain this information.
4. What do you think are the most pressing water quality problems in Russia? in Texas?

Post Test for Russian-Texas Student Exchange Program

1. Describe the water quality variables (dissolved oxygen, pH, total dissolved solids, temperature, nitrates, phosphates) their importance in an aquatic system and what effects them.
2. Explain three things we as monitors can do to ensure the water quality data we collect is accurate and valid.
3. What important information about an aquatic system do these tests NOT tell us, and what other monitoring activity could we do to obtain this information.
4. What do you think are the most pressing water quality problems in Russia? in Texas?
5. How are these problems addressed in both places?
6. What is similar about day-to-day life in Russia and Texas? What is dissimilar? (Give examples).
7. What will you do to share the experiences of this exchange program with other people at home?

Russian Partnership Grant # 9

1. If the dissolved oxygen is high, the water plants would grow harder and the living essens will die. The same with temperature. Living things can't ~~be~~ bare low or high concentration of pH. All these variables must present in water but it should be in normal concentrations.

2.) We should do the tests for several times to check it.

2) We should use clean chemical tools.

3) We should know instruction well.

3. There are lots of different more substances which we can't test. For example: Fe, Mg, etc. And they also very important for our water environment.

4. I don't know if there are the same problems in Texas, but in Russia we have lots of problems with polluted air and water. ~~And~~ And our government doesn't pay any attention for our problem. And for us it's the main problem. (in Russia).

WESTERN NIS SEEDS GRANT #17 Union of Salvation

Translation of letter RE "Union of Salvation" project

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF UKRAINE

To the Heads of Educational Departments of Regional Administrations.

The Ministry of Education of Ukraine hereby sends you an information package from "Union of Salvation From Chernobyl" and asks to support the project "Radiation Education of the Population" by providing all necessary space for Community Radiation Control Sites, paying wages to the teachers who work at these sites (leading student activities and delivering public lectures), and organizing other efforts to achieve the main purposes of the Ukraine Community Antiradioactive Network Program.

Deputy Minister.....(signed).....V.P. Gondjul

Translation of letter concerning "Union of Salvation" Project
June 30, 1994

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE UKRAINE

To: UKRAGROSTANDART (Ukrainian Agricultural Standards)
Regional Inspection Centers of Kiev, Zhitomir, Chernigiv, Rivne and
Cherkassy

Copy: To E.V. Karbetski, Director of "Union of Salvation"

The "Union of Salvation" of the Ukrainian environmental association
"Zelenyi Svit" has applied to the Ministry of Agriculture to
receive equipment to be used at schools and extracurricular
establishments in order to implement the program "Radiation
education of the population."

To achieve the project's goals we request the Regional Inspection
Centers to supply radiation monitoring equipment available in the
"Fourth zone" (Chernobyl area) for instruction in local schools.

In addition to the above, we inform you that this equipment has
been used only for receiving warning signals, and thus their
recordings cannot be mentioned in official documents. To use this
data for official purposes it is necessary to register the
laboratory with the Ministry of Chernobyl Affairs of the Ukraine
and have equipment verified by the Ministry of Standards of
Ukraine.

First Deputy Minister

[Signature]

A.A. Zasukha



Ukrainian Environmental Association
"Green World"
UNION "RESCUING"

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252207, Kiev-207, Ukraine
President: Evgen Korbetskiy
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Secretary: Adel Bosak
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The Union "Rescuing" from Chernobyl is independent collective membership of Association "Green World". Because of Chernobyl catastrophe, the divisions of this Union are located mainly in the most contaminated areas. There are such 3 regions in Ukraine. The Union consists of 28 regional organizations with the total number approximately 500 persons.

Practically the Union already exists, starting from the 7-th of February, 1989. The specialists and the divisions of "Green World" and "Rukh" from the Institute for Nuclear Research for the first time in Ukraine carried out independent expertise of the radiation situation in Naroditsky region. Later on an initiative group was organized, which was responsible for the organization of divisions "Green World" on radiated-contaminated territories. At the constituent conference in the village of Narodichy Zhitomir region, all these divisions were formed into the Union "Rescuing".

The activity of the Union has the following aspects:

1. The preparation and transferring to the legislative board of Ukraine the propositions concerning the improvement of legislative and social positions of inhabitants at the contaminated region. Many of them were used in governmental decisions.

2. The spread of information and educational activity is carried out by specialists of ecological meetings and by means of lectures, interviews in press, on radio and TV. The lectures are provided how to use public dosimeters and the training at 3 days courses for public dosimetrists. The methodological literature, text books and informational lists are distributed. The urgent programme of radioecological education for the population of Chernobyl's areas is implemented into the life.

3. The creation of the independent public dosimetry control service on radiation situation of vicinity. 27 public dosimetry centers are opened where 185 public dosimetrists are trained. Dosimetric centers are installed by dosimeters and radiometers, which are used free of charge the test of courtyards and kid's institutions. Due to the measurements some conclusions are made recommendations are provides, and some measures are carried out. The results of this work are highlighted in local press.

4. The Union "Rescuing" cooperates with foreign ecological and charity organizations in kid's recovering, and also in providing humanitarian help to population, who suffered in this area.

Translations made by Igor. A. Nestchetny. ISAR.

1. **WHAT DO WE WANT TO SUSTAIN? ENVIROMENTALISM AND HUMAN EVALUATIONS** by Kenneth E. Boulding from **Ecological Economics**.
 2. **PRINCIPLES FOR UNDERSTANDING AND SUSTAINING THE EARTH** by G. Tylor Miller, Jr. from **LIVING IN THE ENVIROMENT**.
 3. **TRADE AND ENVIROMENT** by Tom Wathen from **TRADE AND ENVIROMENT (selections)**
 4. **PREDATOR** by M.Herman from **TEACHING KIDS TO LOVE THE EARTH**.
 5. a) **THE ENTROPY LAW AND THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM.**
b) **SELECTIONS FROM "ENERGY AND MYTHS"** by Nicolas Georgescu-Roegen from **VALUING THE EARTH**.
 6. **EPISODES** by Pierre Delattre from **Utne Magazine**.
 7. **THE WHITE BUFFALO CALF WOMAN AND THE SACRED PIPE.** (a legend of the Lacota-Siux-Native Americans of the Great Plains) from **KEEPERS OF THE EARTH** by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac.
 8. a) **FROM COSMOPOLITISM TO THE "COMMUNITY OF COMMUNITIES"**
b) **FROM INDIVIDUALISM TO THE "PERSON-IN-COMMUNITY"** by Herman E. Daly and John Cobb, Jr. from **FOR THE COMMON GOOD**.
 9. **DEEP ECOLOGY MOVEMENT** by Arne Naess. (selections)
 10. **MODERN DOMINANT WORLDVIEW AND ITS CRITICS** by Bill Devall from **DEEP ECOLOGY**.
 11. **ENVIROMENTAL ETHIC** by Edward O. Wilson from **DIVERSITY OF LIFE**.
 12. **PASSIVE SOLAR FUNDAMENTALS** by Emanuel Levy from **THE PASSIVE SOLAR CONSTRUCTION HANDBOOK**.
-

Translations of books for ISAR:

1. Fritjof Capra "The Turning Point" (Science, Society, and Rising Culture)
2. Jeremy Rifkin "Biosphere Politics" (a New Consciousness for a New Century)

Translator-Perepelitsia Natalia.

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Western NIS

I. U.S. Government meetings

1. 6/30 Meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller

Ambassador Miller had words of praise and encouragement for ISAR's programs in Ukraine. He noted that Chernobyl remains the key issue for the Ukrainian environment and for the environmental movement and said ISAR should continue to fund useful projects helping deal with Ukraine's effect. Miller saw some benefits in encouraging Ukrainian NGOs across the spectrum of environmental policy positions, even if some of these groups were at odds with official opinion in Ukraine. He was of the opinion that environmental activism could help with public education on these crucial issues, enriching the public and policy debate.

II. Ukraine Government Interviews

1. 7/4 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ANDRIY DEMIDENKO
Director of Environmental Relations

Demidenko, a long-term environmental activist who has been in the Ukrainian government for several years, had much praise for ISAR's programs. While noting that the NGO situation as a whole in Ukraine needs a lot of work to develop further, he said that ISAR is a group with a "national reputation" which is well known for its concrete assistance to local NGOs. He noted that the Minister had recently asked for materials on ISAR's Seeds program.

Demidenko was quite positive about AID's efforts in terms of NGO development, and cited ISAR's program as an AID success. He was less enthusiastic about what he called support for the "state environmental programs." Regarding the EPT, he said that their preliminary efforts were good -- "they've done their reading, unlike other organizations which have come into Ukraine," he said -- but he said people are still waiting to see what would be accomplished.

On the question of interregional projects within the NIS which might be supported by outside funding, Demidenko said that these could be quite useful but would have to be preceded by more concrete assistance within Ukraine. Large international projects in the absence of programs meeting internal environmental needs might not receive public and specialist support, he said.

III. ISAR West NIS Board of Advisor Interviews

We asked Board members to discuss why they joined the Board, how it worked, ISAR's general reputation, and what the Ukrainian, Belarus, and Moldovan environmental movements need today.

1. 7/2 PAVLO ZHOVNIRENKO, Kiev, Ukraine
Water-treatment engineer, member of Ukraine NGO coalition group "Zeleniy Svit". Former staff member, Ukraine Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Said Board of Advisors has done a good job so far. It's a tolerant atmosphere, people listen to each other pretty well, and Board is careful with the money -- checks the budgets as if this money were their own. However, there are a few problems, including that many Board members have also received grants [Zhovnirenko has not]. This has an effect on objectivity. Noted that Board members might support certain projects from their regions anyway, and this is not a bad thing as long as there is open discussion and competition of ideas.

Suggested ISAR do more preparatory work in its offices before Board meetings. Some of these budgets are clearly not well prepared and the Board should not have to assess this kind of project. Said 40 well analyzed proposals is good -- only hold Board meetings when there are 40 solid project proposals.

Said ISAR staff should do more inspection of grants; this should probably be done by a Ukrainian who knows the local specifics of Ukraine and can "sniff out" problems. Board should receive a report about the progress of the various projects we have given grants at each Board meeting to identify failures and try to correct our selection process.

2. 7/2 SVETLANA KOROLYOVA, Belarus
VALERII LOBKO (Advisor to Board, Belarus)
Founders and members, "Next Stop - New Life", Minsk NGO
and ISAR grant recipient

Said ISAR is really the only organization working to support NGOs in Belarus. Soros Foundation and United Way are less active. Said ISAR works in a democratic way -- coming to them to learn about Next Stop's work and this kind of contact gives groups a sense they are working together. Noted ISAR's technical help (e-mail and communications around the NIS) and moral support.

3. 7/2 OLEG EMMANUELOV (Republic of Crimea)

Also grantee, "Blue Crab" project

Long-term activist for Crimean youth ecological programs.

Emmanuelov was the biggest supporter of the idea of ISAR allowing Board members to open offices/information centers for ISAR in various cities in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova. (See Board of Advisors summary discussion)

4. 7/2 ANDREI DUMBREVEANU, Moldova

Also grantee, "Natura" environmental journal

Thinks ISAR has to work harder in Moldova. Very dense population -- 200 persons per square kilometer. The entire territory of Moldova was recognized as an ecological disaster area by the former USSR.

Said Moldova needs:

(1) ecological education

(2) Tree planting -- urgent (Moldova has no forest cover -- thinks 20 percent is optimal.

(3) Programs for cleaning small rivers

Recommended prioritized categories for grants.

5. 7/2 VIKTOR KHAZAN, Dniepropetrovsk, Ukraine

Thinks more people should be volunteering instead of "consulting" on the grant proposals the Board looks at. Called for prioritization of grant areas.

Russian Federation

I. Russian Government Interviews

1. 6/29 ALEXEI YABLOKOV

Head of Department of Environmental Security

National Security Council, Russian Federation

Yablokov had studied descriptions of all the Seeds grants and he said he was "amazed" at the quality of ISAR's Seeds grants. He said that in going through the list, he "couldn't find one bad

project.” He praised the size of the Seeds grants, saying that “small grants are very useful. Big grants for \$50k often give much less effect than small grants to the right people.” He noted that groups which received small grants would later move on to larger grants and apply to Soros, MacArthur, Ford and the like. However, Yablokov did recommend that ISAR try to give more medium-sized grants in its next round (up to \$10,000) as there are now many organizations which can make good and fair use of such funds.

He said that given the slowness of most grantmaking by Western institutions in Russia, “there has been a lot of distrust developed towards Western foundations” and that when ISAR gives money quickly and efficiently some trust is regained.

The importance of the small grants lay in the fact that today Russia really needs good NGOs, he said, noting that the environmental protection process needs “structures which really reflect public opinion” and which act in concrete ways because this will give citizens the feeling that something can be done and that not all political activity is a waste of time. Yablokov noted that “in our system you can work if you get the public behind you.”

Regarding politicians, Yablokov said that an active environmental movement might become a successful political vehicle. Local and national level politicians are looking to see where public sympathies lie and if they see that there is energy and interest in environmental issues politicians may become more interested in supporting environmental reforms.

At the meeting, Yablokov quickly looked over a list of the joint projects. He was less enthusiastic about the joint projects than about the Seeds grants, but he said there were a number of good ones.

On the subject of the EPT, Yablokov cautioned that large projects offered potential for corruption and a good system of oversight for the funds given was essential. He commented that the speed of change in Russia meant that pilot projects would need excellent publicity because “at the present time one year here is like ten years anywhere else, and people don’t always have enough time to pay attention to good examples.”

Yablokov was very enthusiastic about interregional projects among NIS countries. He said that such projects could both have a serious effect on pressing transboundary pollution problems and could bring the experts and populations of these countries together without entering the more challenging and tense sphere of high-level politics.

2. 6/28 MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY
 NIKOLAI RYBALSII

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Deputy Minister of Ecology and General Director, Russian Federal
Ecological Information Agency (private firm)
EVGENII SAMOTYOSSOV

Head of Section for Press Relations and Non-Governmental Organizations

Rybalskii and Samotyossov came for lunch at the ISAR offices. They described the work of the Ministry of Ecology in general and its cooperation with NGOs in particular. While the meeting could hardly be described as a conversation (most time was taken up with descriptions of a wide range of Ministry of Ecology programs, both NGO and otherwise), a number of important points emerged:

1. The Ministry is quite aware of ISAR's Seeds program and expressed admiration for it; Mr. Samotyossov said that he would be proud if the Ministry had as many effective programs to show.
2. The average Ministry program funding level -- 5 million rubles, or about \$2,500 -- is about the same as an ISAR Seeds grant.
3. The Ministry would like to receive more regular information about ISAR grants.
4. The Ministry is looking into draft laws freeing environmental NGOs, as well as environmental publications, from taxation.
5. The Ministry is working on a database listing all green NGOs and publications.
6. The Ministry is trying to establish, apparently with assistance from Dutch philanthropists, a project called "TV Ecoinform" -- a nationwide TV station or channel for information about environmental problems and solutions.

II. ISAR Russian Board Member Interviews

We asked Board members to discuss why they joined the Board, how it worked, ISAR's general reputation, and what the Russian environmental movement needs today.

1. 6/22 NIKOLAI MARFENIN
 Professor of Biology, Moscow State University

Joined the ISAR Board of Experts because it distributes funds to real projects. Said that while many boards of experts give vote money to projects based on the author's prestige or position in society, this committee really takes experts' opinions into account and chooses projects that will get something done. Called ISAR Board "a very different kind of committee -- it's not a group of famous names, but a group of people who know their specialties well and who stand on principle in choosing projects." Noted serious and goal-oriented Board discussions and said that the professionalism of the Board and staff had improved over the three meetings held thus far.

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Regarding proposals submitted, Marfenin said that some are vague projects like in "old times," but many are "very concrete, very interesting, with a clear plan of work" and with a foreseeable impact.

Said that Seeds of Democracy program is the most impressive element, since in Russia "a lot can still be done with \$500, \$1000, \$2000." Cited electronic mail grants as essential, noting that spreading electronic mail use around the country helps sparks activism and activates people. Quote: "The problem today is not the lack of money. It's that people don't believe in their own power and strength to make changes. When people learn they can actually accomplish something in the environmental area (they usually think only government or big business controls everything) they go on to do amazing things. They break down the barriers and this really opens up the gates to more change." Marfenin said Seeds grants amounts should grow somewhat every six months or so, to keep up the cost of living, but should remain about the same in relative size.

Described productive cooperation between the U.S. and Russian Boards on joint projects.

2. 6/22 VITALII CHELYSHEV
Editor of ecological newspaper "Spasenie" (Salvation)
Former deputy, USSR Supreme Soviet
("Spasenie" regularly publicizes ISAR/AID grant programs and RFPs)

Said ISAR has become a well organized force in the Russian ecological movement. It has a reputation as an organization which can do honest and skilled assessments of projects and new ideas. Receiving an ISAR grant has a real effect on the reputation of a project on the local level.

Commented that ISAR's influence is strong in part because ISAR grantees like Natalya Mironova have participated in legislative hearings on the national level (Joint project #3, above). Mentioned ISAR support for groups needing e-mail, which leads to support and communication among environmental organizations as well as joint actions.

Noted a number of ISAR projects have been effective on the local level. These have helped spark cooperation between NGOs and local government. The creation of a small local nature reserve, for example, has important political effects because local leaders usually sense public opinion in favor of the action. By supporting some projects with a scientific angle, ISAR helps improve the attitude of government towards environmental research. [Chelyshev then named several politicians aware of ISAR's work including Lemyshev -- chair of the Duma Ecology Committee, and Astafiev, chair of the Committee on Natural Resources.]

Generally I think ISAR provides good information for choosing projects to its expert Board. But some changes in the projects could be made -- for example, if a project develops a commercial side this should not exclude it from receiving further grants because it is showing it can help itself. ISAR seems open to suggestions from its Board members about further development of the organization.

3. 6/27 ASKHAT KAYUMOV
General Director, DRONT NGO (Nizhnii Novgorod)
Environmental official, Nizhnii Novgorod
Please see interview regarding DRONT (Entry #8)

4. 6/27 EVGENII SIMONOV
Director, Biodiversity Conservation Center

Called for project proposals to be received according to thematic areas. Areas could be (1) scientific, (2) political, (3) organizational/consultative. Also there should be different levels of funding depending on a group's experience, access. Present board has several very good features: decisions are taken carefully, there is no evidence of corruption in any projects, and individual board members are improving their selection skills and sense of good projects.

5. 6/27 OLEG CHERP
(Consultant to Board of Directors)

Cherp was consultant on project selection and helped run Board meetings when he was on the ISAR staff. He presently is NIS Director for the monitoring project ECOLOGIA, which ISAR co-sponsors. Cherp recommended putting a government official on the Board -- "someone who deals with 'hard' ecological problems" which bring economic needs of the country into conflict with proposed environmental solutions. Also recommended on Board.

6. 6/28 SVYATOSLAV ZABELIN
Director, Coordination and Information Center,
Socio-Ecological Union.
Biologist

Urged that ISAR make project selection more competitive. Said projects selected were generally excellent but that the competition among them should be tighter in order to produce more

professional NGOs. Zabelin had good things to say about SEEDS program because it is the only source of small grants available in Russia -- "there is a place for ISAR because of its mobility" in comparison to the large private foundations, he said. However, he said that if (for example) "MacArthur takes too long," it must also be said that "ISAR is too small." He urged the creation of mid-sized Seeds grants in order to encourage Russian groups which have already achieved a fairly professional status.

However, Zabelin was against the idea of a thematic breakdown. He said that SEEDS programs were helping create an environmental movement, and that the focus should be on finding capable organizations without special regard to their main activity area.

Regarding U.S. AID, Zabelin said that publicizing the fact that funds come from the U.S. government is generally not a problem. It would be better, he said, if Russia could "concentrate on building its own strengths" and finding its own funding sources, but he said that at present the funds from AID are greatly needed and are seen as "natural" because environmental problems are transnational.

Zabelin believed that American money in Russia would be best spent on creating infrastructure rather than on specific environmental problems. He commented, for example, that the AID EPT program would be most effective if it involved local groups and different layers of society, it could be helpful in building infrastructure. For example, he said that while modern clean technologies are needed in Russia, the best way to institute them would be to help build the Russian infrastructure to encourage their introduction, rather than purchasing the technologies directly. He pointed to the ECOLOGIA monitoring system project supported by ISAR (see Entry #10 under Joint Projects) as a good use of modern technologies -- one that lets citizens work to increase their own participation and their own rights.

Said e-mail was crucial to the success of technologies and initiatives: he said that "concrete projects will go on their own and find their own funds if better communication exists." He also stated that use of incentives and taxes to encourage responsible behavior by industry was "big politics" and wouldn't necessarily be helped by foreign assistance. Money needs to go to NGOs that can spark change on a broader level, Zabelin said.

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Environmental Electronic Mail Network
(as of April 1, 1994)

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U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

MAY 4 1995

Ms. Eliza K. Klose
Executive Director
ISAR
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 301
Washington, D.C. 20009

SUBJECT: Agreement No. CCN-0003-A-00-3048-00

Dear Ms. Klose:

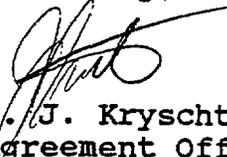
Pursuant to the authority contained in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the Agency for International Development (hereinafter referred to as "A.I.D." or "Grantor") hereby provides to ISAR (formerly the Institute for Soviet-American Relations hereinafter referred to as "ISAR" or "Recipient") the sum of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) to provide technical assistance to build linkages between U.S. and NIS environmental NGOs through cooperative efforts to strengthen NIS NGOs, as described in the Schedule of this Cooperative Agreement and the Enclosure 2, entitled "Program Description."

This Agreement is effective and obligation is made as of the date of this letter and shall apply to expenditures made by the Recipient in furtherance of program objectives during the period beginning with the effective date and ending on or about March 31, 1995.

This Agreement is made to the Recipient on condition that the funds will be administered in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in Enclosure 1 entitled "The Schedule," Enclosure 2 entitled "Program Description," and Enclosure 3 entitled "Standard Provisions," which have been agreed to by your organization.

Please sign all copies of this letter to acknowledge your receipt and acceptance of the Agreement. Retain one copy for your records and return the other copies to me to the address noted in Special Provision G.7 of the Agreement Schedule.

Sincerely,


J. J. Kryschtal
Agreement Officer
Branch Chief, FA/OP/CC/N
Office of Procurement

Enclosures:

1. Schedule
2. Program Description
3. Standard Provisions
4. The Recipient's Proposal

ACKNOWLEDGED BY: 
TYPED NAME: Eliza K. Klose
TITLE: Executive Director
DATE: May 10, 1993

FISCAL DATA

PIO/T NUMBER:	110-0003-3-2653
BUDGET PLAN CODE:	WNIX-93-36110-EG-12
APPROPRIATION NUMBER:	72-11X1093
TOTAL OBLIGATION:	\$1,000,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF AGREEMENT:	\$1,000,000
PROJECT OFFICE:	NIS/TF/EET, Long, Dennis
TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	52-1289651
CEC NO.:	12-256-188K

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U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Eliza K. Klose
Executive Director
Suite 301
ISAR
1601 Connecticut Avenue , NW
Washington, DC. 20009

August 17, 1993

SUBJECT: Amendment to agreement No. CCN-0003-A-3048-00

Dear Ms. Klose:

Pursuant to the authority authority contained in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the Agency for International Development (hereinafter referred to as "A.I.D. or "Grantor") hereby amends the subject Cooperative Agreement to ISAR.

The purpose of this amendment is to increase the total agreement amount, increase the amount of funds obligated, provide incremental funding, revise the agreement budget and incorporate into the agreement the Recipient's proposed additional program.

The specific changes to the basic Cooperative Agreement are as follows:

BASIC AGREEMENT

In the first paragraph of the Agreement letter delete the word "Million Dollars (\$1,000,000)" and insert the following words in lieu thereof: " Two Million Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifty One Dollars (\$2,009,351) of which One Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$1,750,000) is obligated."

SCHEDULE

C - 1 - Amount of Cooperative Agreement and Payment - paragraph 1 is changed by increasing the obligated amount by \$750,000 for a new total obligation of \$1,750,000. The total budgeted amount of this agreement is established at \$2,009,351 as reflected in paragraph 2-D, below

C - 3 - is added as follows - Additional funding of the Agreement will be provided incrementally over the period of the Agreement based upon satisfactory performance by the grantee, completion and satisfactory audit review, and availability of funds."

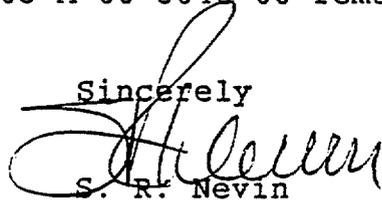
D - 1 - Financial Plan - paragraph 1 - delete the Agreement Budget in its entirety and restate as follows:

<u>Cost Element</u>	<u>Agreement Budget</u>	<u>A.I.D</u>
Salaries/Wages	\$	486,175
Fringe Benefits/Allowances		103,831
Travel/Transp/Per Diem		112,480
Other Direct Costs		141,750
NGO Subgrantss		1,130,000
Indirect Costs		<u>35,000</u>
	TOTAL ...\$	2,009,351

J - 16 - Special Provisions - Recipient Proposal and Order of Precedence - delete the first sentence in its entirety and restate as follows: "The Recipient's proposals entitled Sewing Seeds of Democracy: A Project for Environmental Grant-Making in the NIS" and "Amendment to the ISAR/AID Cooperative Agreement" are hereby incorporated by reference.

Except as expressly modified herein, all other terms and conditions of Cooperative Agreement CCN-0003-A-00-3048-00 remain unchanged and in full force.

Sincerely



S. R. Nevin
Grants Officer
FA/OP/CC/N
Office of Procurment

ACKNOWLEDGED BY: Eliza Kloze
TYPED NAME: Eliza Kloze
TITLE: Executive Director
DATE: 8/17/93

FISCAL DATA

PIO/T NUMBER:	110-0003-3-366-2653A1
BUDGET PLAN NUMBER:	WNIX-93-36110-EG-12 (393-68-110-06-69-31)
APPROPRIATE NUMBER:	72-11X1093
TOTAL PRIOR OBLIGATION:	\$1,000,000
OBLIATED THIS AMENDMENT:	\$750,000
TOTAL OBLIGATION:	\$1,750,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED AGREEMENT AMOUNT:	\$2,009,351
PROJECT OFFICE:	NIS/TF/EET
CEC NO.:	12-256-188K
TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	52-1289651



U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

SEP 21 1993
SEP 21 1993

Ms. Eliza K. Klose
Executive Director
ISAR
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 301
Washington, D.C. 20009

SUBJECT: Cooperative Agreement No. CCN-0003-A-00-3048-00
Amendment No. 02

Dear Ms. Klose:

Pursuant to the authority contained in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the Agency for International Development, hereby amends the subject Agreement. The purpose of this amendment is to provide incremental funding in the amount of \$250,000.

The specific changes are as follows:

Schedule

Section C. - Amount of Cooperative Agreement and Payment,
in Paragraph 1., Delete \$,1,750,000" and substitute in lieu thereof "\$2,000,000".

Except as amended herein, all other terms and conditions of this Cooperative Agreement remain unchanged, in full force and effect.

As this is a bonafide administrative change to the Cooperative Agreement, no acknowledgement or acceptance of this Amendment is required.

Sincerely,

Clement J. Bucher
Grant Officer
NIS Branch
Office of Procurement

Agreement No.: CCN-0003-A-00-3048-00
Amendment No.: 02
Page 2 of 2

FISCAL DATA

PIO/T NO: 110-0003-3-3662653
APPROPRIATION NO: 72-11X1093
ALLOTMENT NO: 393-68-110-06-69-31
BUDGET PLAN CODE: WNIX 93-36110-EG12
TOTAL AMOUNT OBLIGATED: \$2,000,000
AMOUNT OBLIGATED THIS ACTION: \$250,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$2,009,351
TECHNICAL OFFICE: Dennis Long, NIS/TF
CEC: 12-256-188K
TIN: 52-1289651

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ENCLOSURE 1

SCHEDULE**A. Purpose of Cooperative Agreement**

The purpose of the Cooperative Agreement from the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) to ISAR (formerly the Institute for Soviet-American Relations, hereinafter referred to as "the Recipient") is to provide technical assistance to build linkages between U.S. and NIS environmental NGOs through cooperative efforts to strengthen NIS NGOs. The proposed program would also encourage local environmental problem-solving by NGOs through a small grants program in the NIS with offices in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, as further described in Enclosure 2 to this Cooperative Agreement entitled "Program Description," and the Recipient's proposal entitled "Sowing the Seeds of Democracy: A Project for Environmental Grant-Making in the NIS" dated December 1992 which is incorporated in the Cooperative Agreement by reference. In the event of any inconsistency between the Recipient's proposal, the program description, and this schedule; the schedule and then the program description shall take precedence.

B. Period of Cooperative Agreement

1. The effective date of this Agreement is the date of this letter. The expiration date of this Agreement is March 31, 1995.

2. In compliance with the terms and conditions of this Cooperative Agreement, funds obligated hereunder shall be used to reimburse the Recipient for allowable program expenditures from the period March 4, 1993 to March 31, 1995.

C. Amount of Cooperative Agreement and Payment

1. A.I.D. hereby obligates the amount of \$1,000,000 for purposes of this Agreement.

2. Payment shall be made to the Recipient in accordance with procedures set forth in Enclosure 3 - Standard Provision, entitled "Payment - [Letter of Credit]".

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D. Financial Plan

1. The following is the Agreement budget, including local cost financing items, if authorized. Revisions to this budget shall be made in accordance with the Standard Provision of this Agreement, entitled "Revision of Grant Budget" (November 1985).

Agreement Budget

<u>Cost Element</u>	<u>A.I.D</u>
Salaries/Wages	\$407,500
Fringe Benefits/Allowances	89,620
Travel/Transp/Per Diem	88,000
Other Direct Costs	91,000
NGO Subgrants	300,000
Indirect Cost	<u>23,852</u>
TOTAL	\$1,000,000

2. Notes to the Budget:

a. Pursuant to the Standard Provisions of this Cooperative Agreement entitled "Allowable Costs" and "Revision of Grant Budget," the Recipient shall obtain prior approval from the Agreement Officer for the following: the purchase of "General Purpose Equipment," which is defined as an article of nonexpendable tangible personal property, the use of which is not limited to research, medical, scientific, or other activities (e.g., office equipment and furnishings, air conditioning equipment, reproduction or other equipment, motor vehicles, and automated data processing equipment) having a useful life of more than two years and an acquisition cost of \$500 or more per unit.

b. When the purchase of automated data processing equipment (ADPE) or of an ADP system exceeds \$100,000, the Agreement Officer's approval, in conjunction with a review of the proposed equipment by A.I.D./IRM, must be received prior to the purchase of such equipment. ADPE includes computers, printers, word processors, computer systems, software, or related services.

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PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

The principal objective of the proposed activity is to support environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in participating in and strengthening both environmental public awareness and the democratic process throughout the NIS region. This is fully consistent with the U.S. Government's strategy for environmental assistance to the NIS. The primary geographic focus is in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan--with secondary efforts in other new states. The proposed program responds to both U.S. strategic priorities and the highest priority needs for environmental quality improvement.

ISAR will provide in-country representatives knowledgeable in the local language and institutions and will work with indigenous NGOs to: encourage their professionalism; help them establish appropriate management norms and related infrastructure; and build links between and among local NGOs, nascent business communities and governments. ISAR will also establish a US-based support facility which will broker environmental expertise as it relates to the strengthening of NIS NGOs and to provide appropriate financial resources. ISAR will set up field programs in Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine for awarding and distributing small grants to independent environmental groups throughout the NIS. Once the first three project offices are established, ISAR will engage in expanding its in-country representation in other states to the extent that local need dictates and current political conditions and opportunities allow.

BACKGROUND

Along with support for the development of improved environmental policies and private sector environmental demonstration work, the promotion of environmental public awareness and accountability is one of the three pillars of the environmental technical assistance strategy for the NIS region. A technical review (See Attachment B) of an unsolicited proposal received from ISAR indicated that the organization could provide services which were in the U.S. Government's interests regarding environmentally-related technical assistance to the NIS. On this basis, ISAR was offered the opportunity to resubmit its ideas (See Attachment C) for the establishment of an environmental NGO assistance program in the NIS region.

The revised proposal lays out a two-year work program which should allow ISAR to provide strategic support to a broad range of environmental NGOs in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. There will

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also be the opportunity to focus on environmental NGO support and development needs in other states of the former Soviet Union. The in-country institutional affiliations proposed by ISAR for Russia in its revised proposal of 12/18/92 will be amended within 30 days of the effective date of the agreement to provide for ISAR to exercise responsibility for the Russia program without bias in favor of or against any particular Russian NGO. The proposed new arrangement will be subject to USAID approval in line with Section G of Enclosure 1 (the Cooperative Agreement Schedule). (This takes precedence over the 12/18/92 ISAR program proposal.)

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Washington Based Activities:

Activities to be carried out under this cooperative agreement will be managed by an Executive Program Director and Project Manager with administrative support based in Washington, D.C. This management team is expected to maintain close contact with NIS/TF/EET, and a representative will be invited to periodic meetings of the USAID Environmental Policy and Technology Project Steering Committee, when necessary, to report on proposed activities as well as accomplishments.

Field Activities:

While the field offices of ISAR will report to ISAR's Washington management team, due regard will be paid to USAID's internal division of responsibilities between Washington and the field. This division, described in the parent project, is as follows:

USAID field staff will be responsible for identifying and proposing country specific activities, developing country specific strategies, and monitoring all field activities conducted under this project within their respective jurisdictions. They will also have direct daily management responsibility over both the resident staff and field teams provided under the core contract mechanism, and will be responsible for requesting assistance from the various project mechanisms to carry out their country specific strategies.

Clearances for all inter-country travel will be cleared in advance by the respective (receiving) USAID Mission. Field Representatives of ISAR will work in close coordination with designated representatives of the respective USAID Mission. Within their respective jurisdictions, USAID Missions will exercise USAID rights and responsibilities concerning substantive USAID involvement in Program activities.

A NIS/TF/EET staff member will be assigned to serve as a contact point and to sit on ISAR's Program Steering Committee, which will

review all major proposed actions and see that they are put into the form of "Activity Implementation Plans" (AIP) and submitted for the clearance of the respective USAID Mission and approval of the USAID Parent Project Steering Committee. ISAR is also responsible for ensuring compliance with A.I.D. Environmental Regulations 22CFR 216 through the review process provided for in the AIP. At the respective field or Washington level, USAID will be involved in all significant project decisions, including the following: selection of key personnel; choice of in-country institutional affiliations; and the design and oversight of major technical assistance and/or training activities. ISAR also will be expected to participate in annual planning workshops of the Parent USAID project, that are scheduled to be held in September/October.

ISAR shall submit both general and country-specific Program Workplan Report and Quarterly Progress Reports. The first Program Workplan Report will be submitted by no later than 45 days following the effective date of the Agreement. Subsequent plans will be submitted at least 30 days prior to the start of the period that they cover. Quarterly Progress reports will be submitted within 30 days of the last day of the period that they cover. The Program Workplan must be approved by the A.I.D. Project Officer prior to the initiation of activities funded under this cooperative agreement.

The format and content of the annual reports and progress reports will be as ISAR, the respective concurrence from USAIDs and NIS/TF/EET office. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, progress reports will include but not be limited to the following: (1) cumulative expenditures for the reporting period; (2) summary description of activities over the reporting period; (3) progress toward achieving the activity's purpose and objectives; (4) issues and problems; (5) status of actions scheduled to be implemented during the last reporting period; and (6) actions to be undertaken during the next reporting period. No later than 30 days after the completion date of the program, ISAR shall submit a final report to A.I.D.

Both the Program Workplan Reports and Quarterly Progress Reports shall be submitted to the Office of Energy, Environment and Technology, New Independent States Task Force, Room 2636 NS, A.I.D., Washington, DC 20523 after having obtained the concurrence and or comments of each of the respective USAID Missions.

END OF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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E. Procurement and (Sub) Contracting

1. Authorized Geographical Code

The total procurement of goods and services is estimated to be \$250,000 or less, therefore, the following shall apply:

All services shall have their nationality in the United States (A.I.D. Geographic Code 000) or the cooperating country (A.I.D. Geographic Code 935), except as A.I.D. may otherwise agree in writing. The authorized source and origin for all goods/commodities shall be in accordance with the Optional Standard Provision entitled, "A.I.D. Eligibility Rules for Goods and Services (August 1992)". In reference to this Standard Provision, although not yet incorporated into A.I.D. Handbooks, A.I.D. Geographic code 935 has been amended to include the cooperating country. Requests for deviations to this requirement must include a full justification to be submitted to the Project Office indicated on the Fiscal Data page of this Cooperative Agreement. Approval of the Agreement Officer and the Project Office is required before procurement of this nature can be undertaken. Ocean shipping financed by A.I.D. under the program shall, except as A.I.D. may otherwise agree in writing, be financed only on flag vessels of the United States.

2. Procurement Cost Detail

Whenever feasible, the lead U.S. Recipient and/or its subgrantees will be responsible for purchasing the U.S. equipment and commodities required for the technical assistance components of the program. This equipment must be specifically and directly linked to the programs undertaken under the various subcomponents. The prime Recipient will be responsible for providing more exact details and specifications of the commodities they propose to procure, including estimated costs of same, in their application to the Project Officer and Agreement Officer.

3. Government Owned Organizations

A Government Owned Organization, i.e., a firm operated as a commercial company or other organization (including nonprofit organizations other than public educational institutions) which are wholly or partially owned by governments or agencies thereof, are not eligible as suppliers of goods and commodities, commodity-related services, or services (other than commodity-related services), except as the Grant Officer may otherwise agree in writing.

4. Local Cost Financing

Local cost financing is hereby authorized under this Cooperative Agreement, provided such financing falls within the legitimate needs of the Program Description of Attachment 2, and does not exceed the following limitations:

- i. Procurement locally of items of U.S. origin up to a per transaction limit of the local currency equivalent of \$100,000.
- ii. Procurement locally of items of non-U.S. origin up to a per transaction limit of the local currency equivalent of \$5,000.
- iii. Commodities and services available only in the local economy (no specific per transaction value applies to this category). This category includes the following items:
 - A. utilities - including fuel for heating and cooking, waste disposal and trash collection;
 - B. communications - telephone, telex, fax, postal, and courier services;
 - C. rental costs for housing and office space;
 - D. petroleum, oils, and lubricants for operating vehicles and equipment;
 - E. newspapers, periodicals, and books published in the cooperating country, and
 - F. other commodities and services (and related expenses) that, by their nature or as a practical matter, can only be acquired, performed, or incurred in the cooperating country.

In cases where local cost procurements are expected to exceed the above limitations, and authorization for such procurement does not already exist in the Cooperative Agreement, the Recipient must obtain approval from the A.I.D. Agreement Officer prior to proceeding with the procurement.

Except as otherwise changed by the above limitations, the conditions of the Optional Standard Provision entitled "Local Cost Financing (August 1992)", apply, including paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).

F. Reporting

1. Financial Reporting

a. Financial reporting requirements shall be in accordance with the the standard provision of this Cooperative Agreement entitled "Payment -[Letter of Credit]."

b. The original and two copies of all financial reports shall be submitted to The Agency for International Development, Office of Financial Management, FA/FM/CMP/LC, Room 700, SA-2, Washington, DC 20523-0209. In addition, copies of all financial reports shall be submitted to the A.I.D. Mission in each target country in the program and to the Project Officer, or his designee, at the following address:

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Dennis Long
A.I.D. Project Officer
AID/NIS/TF/EET
Room 2637
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20523.

2. Program Workplan Report

No later than 45 days following the signing of this cooperative agreement, the Recipient will submit to the project officer a general and country-specific workplan for the overall implementation of this activity. This workplan will include specific objectives for each program component, and a strategy for measuring the impact of program activities towards meeting those objectives. The activities planned in the first six-months of implementation should be specified at the highest level of detail possible, including tentative dates and locations of activities. This workplan will be approved by the Project Officer prior to the initiation of activities funded under this cooperative agreement.

3. Quarterly Progress Reports

Two (2) copies of a quarterly implementation progress report plus one copy for the A.I.D. Mission in each target country in the program will be submitted to the A.I.D. Project Officer 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter. The Project Officer will provide a format for the report which shall include at a minimum the following: (a) cumulative expenditures and cost to complete projections; (b) description of activities; (c) progress toward achieving program objectives; (d) description of implementation methodology; (e) issues and problems; (f) status of previously scheduled actions; (f) actions to be scheduled for the next reporting period in the form of a revised program workplan.

4. Final Report

Within 30 days after the completion date of this Cooperative Agreement, the Recipient shall submit two (2) copies of a comprehensive final report to the A.I.D. Project Officer; two copies shall be submitted to A.I.D., PPC/CDIE/DI, Washington, DC 20523-1802 and one copy for each A.I.D. Mission in target countries in the program. The Project Officer will provide a format for the report which will include at a summary description of program activities and an assessment of program impact towards achieving program purpose and objectives. The final report shall include a full accounting of expenditures and, if applicable, reasons why established goals were not met, including any problems or difficulties requiring the attention of the U. S. Government, the host country or the Recipient.

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5. Special Reports

Between the required program performance reporting dates, events may occur that have significant impact upon the program. In such instances, the Recipient shall inform the A.I.D. Project Officer as soon as the following types of conditions become known:

(a) Problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially affect the ability to attain program objectives, prevent the meeting of time schedules and goals, or preclude the attainment of work units by established time periods. This disclosure shall be accompanied by a statement of the action taken, or contemplated, and any A.I.D. assistance needed to resolve the situation.

(b) Favorable developments or events that enable time schedules to be met sooner than anticipated or more work units to be produced than originally projected.

(c) If any performance review conducted by the Recipient discloses the need for change in the budget estimates in accordance with the criteria established in the Standard Provision of this Cooperative Agreement entitled "Revision of Grant Budget," the Recipient shall submit a request for budget revision to the Agreement Officer and the A.I.D. Project Officer.

G. Substantial Involvement

Substantial involvement is anticipated between A.I.D. and the Recipient during the performance of the proposed activities. For the purposes of facilitating this involvement, the Recipient will submit to the designated A.I.D. Project Officer, or his designee, with information copies sent to the relevant A.I.D. Mission in each target country in the program, the following:

- 1) A.I.D. Project Officer and Recipient will reach a written concurrence on choice of in-country institutional affiliations.
- 2) Prior to the expenditures of funds, the A.I.D. Project Officer and the Recipient will reach concurrence on the design and oversight of major technical assistance and/or training activities.
- 3) A.I.D. Project Officer and the Recipient will reach written concurrence in the selection of all ISAR in-country representatives and key consultants.
- 4) The Recipient will be expected to prepare and obtain concurrence from the respective USAID Mission of the "Activity Implementation Plans" (AIP) reports on project activities for review at periodic Project Steering Committee meetings where USAID will be represented.

- 5) Program Workplan Report will be approved by the Project Officer prior to the initiation of activities funded under this cooperative agreement. This workplan will be updated on a quarterly basis and included as a component of the quarterly reports (see Section E. Reporting).
- 6) The Recipient is encouraged to participate in annual planning workshops of the Parent USAID project, semi-annual coordination, scheduling, and progress review meetings.
- 7) A.I.D. reserves the right to participate in Program evaluations and visit the Recipient's program sites, both in the United States and overseas, to review the progress toward the project goal and purpose, as stated in the Recipient's proposal.
- 8) With regards to the Recipient's program objectives in Russia, the Recipient shall provide a neutral mechanism serving a wide range of Russian NGOs, therefore will not have a preferential relationship with any Russian NGO.

H. Indirect Cost Rate

Pursuant to the Standard Provision of this Cooperative Agreement entitled "Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates - Provisional," an indirect cost rate or rates shall be established for each of the Recipient's accounting periods which apply to this Agreement. Pending establishment of final or revised provisional indirect costs rates, provisional payments on account of allowable indirect costs shall be made on the basis of the following negotiated provisional rate(s) applied to the base(s) which is (are) set forth below.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Period</u>
Indirect Cost	13.5%	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>

1/ Base of Application: Total Direct Cost excluding purchase of equipment.
Type of Rate and Period: Provisional - 8/3/92 until amended

I. Title to Property

Title to property purchased by the Recipient under this Cooperative Agreement shall be vested in the Recipient. Accordingly, the Standard Provision entitled "Title To and Care of Property (Grantee Title)" applies. Disposition of property shall be in accordance with said Standard Provision.

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J. Special Provisions

1. Sub-Grantee Audit Clause

The Grantee shall ensure that sub-grants with non-U.S. nongovernmental organizations include an audit clause that if a sub-grantee receives \$25,000 per year or more under such a sub-grant, the sub-grantee agrees that it shall have an independent financial audit made of the funds provided under such a sub-grant. The financial audit of the funds disbursed to the sub-grantee shall determine whether the receipt and expenditure of the funds provided under the sub-grant are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and whether the sub-grantee has complied with the terms of the sub-grant agreement. An audit shall be conducted for each fiscal year of the sub-grantee. The audits shall usually be performed annually, but not less frequently than every two years. The audits shall be performed in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

For all sub-grants to non-governmental organizations which receive less than \$25,000 per year, the grantee is expected to take reasonable care that systems are in place to ensure money expended under the sub-grant are used for the purposes described in the sub-grant and can be properly accounted for.

2) Required Agreement Language Relating to Section 599

U.S. BUSINESS RELOCATION, EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES WORKERS RIGHTS

(a) General. This provision is pursuant to the prohibitions contained in Section 599 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1993, P.L. 102-391. The grantee shall include this clause in any subagreements.

(b) U.S. Business Relocation. [The Recipient confirms and agrees that no monies or other financial benefits under this agreement will be used to relocate its business outside the United States or to replace U.S. production with non-U.S. production.] The recipient agrees that it will not provide funds or other financial benefits under this agreement to a business enterprise located in the United States if such funds or benefits would be used by the U.S. business enterprise to relocate its business outside the United States or to replace U.S. production with non-U.S. production.

(c) Export Processing Zones. The recipient shall not use any monies or other benefits under this agreement to establish or develop, or cause others to establish or develop, in a foreign country any export processing zone or designated area in which the tax, tariff, labor, environmental or safety laws of that country do not apply, in part or in whole, to activities carried out within such zone or area, unless AID has made a prior written determination and certification that such assistance under this agreement is not likely to cause a loss of jobs within the United States.

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(d) Workers Rights. The recipient shall not use any monies or other benefits under this agreement to support, or cause others to support, any project or activity that contributes to the violation of internationally recognized workers rights, as defined in section 502(a)(4) of the Trade Act of 1974 (and codified in 19 U.S.C. sub-section 2462 (a)(4)), of workers in the recipient country or any designated zone or area therein. The recipient agrees not to take actions to prevent its local employees from lawfully exercising their right of association and their right to bargain collectively. The recipient further agrees to observe applicable laws relating to a minimum age for employment of children and acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational health and safety. The recipient shall not utilize forced or compulsory labor. [The recipient is not responsible under this provision for the actions of a government.]

3. Constraint on Assistance to Azerbaijan

Unless otherwise authorized in writing by A.I.D., no funds provided under this contract shall be used to provide assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan.

4. Restriction on aid to Russia

Unless A.I.D. provides advance written approval, the contractor shall not expend more than one half of the total funds obligated under this agreement (currently, no more than \$500,000) for assistance to Russia.

5. Employee Salaries

Except as the Agreement Officer may otherwise agree in writing, A.I.D. shall not be liable for reimbursing the Recipient for any costs allocable to the salary portion of direct compensation paid by the Recipient to its employees for personal services which exceed the highest salary level for a Foreign Service Officer, Class 1 (FS-1), as periodically amended.

6. Consultant Fees

Compensation for consultants retained by the Recipient hereunder shall not exceed, without specific approval of the rate by the Agreement Officer: either the highest rate of annual compensation received by the consultant during any full year of the immediately preceding three years; or the maximum rate of a Foreign Service Officer, Class 1 (FS-1) (as periodically amended), whichever is less. A daily rate is derived by dividing the annual compensation by 2,087 and multiplying the result by 8.

7. Consultants

The Project Officer and Agreement Officer must approve, in advance, the selection of consultants retained by the Recipient.

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8. Monitoring

In addition to reviewing and approving the program reports described above, the A.I.D. project officer will engage in other monitoring activities necessary to effectively manage this agreement. Monitoring activities may include on-site visits to program activities, periodic implementation meetings with the recipient, and other measures necessary to monitor agreement activities.

9. Evaluation

The scope of work for the mid-term evaluation must be developed with, and the evaluator(s) chosen to carry out this activity must be approved in advance by, the Project Officer. This approval must be communicated in writing. The Recipient is encouraged to provide at least one evaluator from its permanent staff for the evaluations. At least one evaluator will be an individual not currently employed by the Recipient. The A.I.D. Project Officer is to participate in pre- and post- evaluation briefings and to receive four (4) copies of the completed evaluation report.

10. Government Furnished Property

The Recipient shall have access to Medical Facilities (Health Room). The services normally include such medications as may be available, immunizations and preventive health measures, diagnostic examinations and advice, and home visits as medically indicated. Emergency medical treatment is provided to U.S. citizen contractor employees and dependents, whether or not they may have been granted access to routine health room services.

11. Defense Base Act (DBA) and/or Medical Evacuation Insurance

Pursuant to Section J.16. of OMB Circular A-122 , the Recipient is authorized to purchase DBA and/or medical evacuation insurance under the Agreement. If DBA insurance is purchased, it shall be purchased from the insurance company or agent with which A.I.D. has a contract to provide DBA insurance for A.I.D. contracts. The Agreement Officer will provide the name, address, and telephone number of such insurance company or agent upon request.

12. The following Additional Standard Provisions as shown in Enclosure 3 are NOT applicable to this Agreement:

Payment - Periodic Advance
Payment - Cost Reimbursement
Patent Rights
Subgrants
Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates - Pre-determined
Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates- Provisional (For-profits)
Voluntary Population Planning
Protection of the Individual as a Research Subject
Care of Laboratory Animals
Government Furnished Excess Personal Property
Title To and Care of Property (Government Title)
Title To and Care of Property (Cooperating Country Title)
Cost Sharing (Matching)

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13. Additional Standard Provision Number 5 entitled "Air Travel and Transportation" (August 1992) is hereby modified as follows:

Delete paragraph (a) in its entirety and insert the following "(a) The Grantee shall secure advance written approval from the Project Officer prior to any travel financed by this Grant to any of the countries in the New Independent States, except the Russian Federation. The request for approval shall include the name of the traveler, purpose of the trip, origin/destination (and intervening stops), and dates of travel. It shall be submitted to the Project Officer at least 10 working days prior to commencement of proposed travel. The traveler shall carry the approved travel request to the travel destinations in the New Independent States. The Grantee's failure to secure such approval shall not be reimbursed under this Grant."

Paragraphs (b) thru ((m) shall remain unchanged.

All other provisions not listed above are applicable to the performance of the program under this Agreement.

14. The following are alterations to the Mandatory and Additional Standard Provisions as listed below:

Mandatory Standard Provisions

"Notices" - For the purpose of notices delivered to the Agreement Officer, the following addresses shall be used:

(a) Regular U.S. Postal Service

Agreement Officer's Name
Agency for International Development
FA/OP/CC/N
Office of Procurement
Room 1407, SA-14
Washington, DC 20523-1415

(b) By Courier/Express Mail Only

Agreement Officer's Name
Agency for International Development
FA/OP/CC/N
Office of Procurement
1100 Wilson Boulevard
14th Floor Reception Area
Arlington, Virginia 22209

15. The following nine-digit zip codes are applicable in lieu of the five-digit zip codes shown in the corresponding standard provisions:

Mandatory Standard Provisions

Notices 20523-0051

Additional Standard Provisions

Ocean Shipment of Goods 20523-1419

Procurement of Goods and Services 20523-1414

Payment - Letter of Credit 20523-0209

(In addition to the zip code change, the organizational symbol for A.I.D.'s Office of Financial Management has also changed as shown in section E.)

Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates

- Provisional 20523-0060

(second address in the provision) 20523-1417

16. Recipient Proposal and Order of Precedence

The Recipient's proposal entitled "Sowing the Seeds of Democracy: A Project for Environmental Grant-Making in the NIS" is hereby incorporated by reference. In the case of a conflict between the proposal and this Agreement, the following shall be the order of precedence:

1. Mandatory and Additional Standard Provisions
2. The Cover Letter and Schedule
3. The Program Description
4. The Recipient's Proposal

END OF THE SCHEDULE

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