

# Preface

This report presents the results of the Global International Waters Assessment for the Russian Arctic (GIWA region 1a), as determined during three workshops. The first Scoping and Scaling Workshop was held in Zvenigorod (Moscow) from 15-18 April 2002. To achieve the workshop's objectives, 17 scientists whose expertise included issues related to environmental and socio-economic impact assessment in the Arctic region were invited to participate. Among participants of the workshop were: GIWA/UNEP Scientific Director Mr. Dag Daler, GIWA/UNEP Coordinator Northern Hemisphere Mrs. Elina Rautalahti-Miettinen, Dr. Thor S. Larsen (UNEP/GRID-Arendal, Norway), Deputy Executive Secretary of AMAP Vitaly A. Kimstach (Norway), and Prof. Sergei M. Chernyak (USGS/Great Lakes Science Center, USA). The second and third workshops (Detailed impacts assessment, Causal chain analysis and Policy option analysis) were held in Moscow, Russia, on June 16-18, 2003, and September 15-19, 2003. Seven experts participated in these workshops.

The basic goal of this report is to analyse and present in a single document all available information on the environmental impacts and the transboundary consequences in the seas of the Russian Arctic. The report includes the results of investigations performed by the authors as well as data from the environmental pollution monitoring network and the scientific literature. The specific environmental characteristics of the region were considered in order to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the ecosystem stability and for the prediction of the effects of anthropogenic processes.

This report especially emphasize the life situation of the Arctic indigenous population. Taking into consideration the social and economic situations, the socio-economic part of the assessment focused mainly in the indigenous population. A review of the Health and social welfare of the Arctic indigenous population in Russia is presented in Annex V.

