

Press Release

Nord Stream 2 Announces Partnership with Strelka KB to Develop a Management Plan for the Kurgalsky Reserve

- Nord Stream 2 will work with Strelka KB in Russia on a sustainability framework for the Kurgalsky reserve
- Development of the Kurgalsky Management Plan is an important element of Nord Stream 2's commitments to enhance biodiversity and comply with the IFC PS
- Biodiversity enhancement is a pillar of the Environmental and Community Initiative Strategy (ECo-I) developed for the landfall in Russia

[Zug, Switzerland/Moscow, Russia – 25-Sep-18] Nord Stream 2 AG, the developer of a pipeline to supply Russian natural gas to the EU market through the Baltic Sea, today announced a partnership with Strelka KB. Strelka KB is the leading company in spatial development strategies in Russia. At Nord Stream 2's request, Strelka will develop a Management Plan for the Kurgalsky nature reserve which will serve as an administrative tool for the sustainable implementation of conservation objectives of this protected area in the medium and long term.

In Russia, the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline crosses a section of about 3.7 km in the southern part of the Kurgalsky nature reserve, which is protected under the Ramsar and Helsinki Conventions. Nord Stream 2 recognises its responsibility towards Kurgalsky. As a project developer seeking external financing, on top of compliance with applicable national legislation, the company follows the International Finance Corporation Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability (IFC PS). IFC PS no. 6 "Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources" requires project developers working in protected areas to demonstrate that project implementation will achieve a net gain on the area's biodiversity value.

To this end, the company has agreed with the Committee of Natural Resources of the Leningrad Region to sponsor and coordinate the development of a Management Plan for Kurgalsky. The Management Plan will be delivered in partnership with Strelka KB and in dialogue with key regional experts and institutions.

"The Kurgalsky project is the first transboundary project for Strelka KB, but not the first experience of working with green zones, including protected areas. The Management Plan development will be based on a comprehensive scientific analysis that will offer strategies for biodiversity enhancement. At an early stage our task is to define all risks and to pay particular attention to the possible threats to the biodiversity of the reserve. The main direction of the work on this project will be the establishment of a management model that would strike a balance



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between environmental protection and the development of recreational potential of the Kurgalsky reserve,” says Alexei Muratov, Partner at Strelka KB.

The objective of the Management Plan is to establish a structured conservation framework for the reserve, in compliance with the existing regulations, and:

- > Determine the long-term conservation priorities and objectives of the reserve;
- > Establish pilot projects for biodiversity enhancement;
- > Develop a management strategy to control threats to the biodiversity value of the reserve;
- > Identify the focus areas for scientific research of ongoing natural processes within the reserve;
- > Establish a framework for sustainable public use of the reserve.

“Nord Stream 2 is committed to the highest standards of sustainable development. The partnership with Strelka KB will lead to a set of measures that would ensure achievement of a net gain on the biodiversity value of the Kurgalsky peninsula and enhance the conservation aims and effective management of the entire area,” said Dirk von Ameln, Senior Advisor to the CEO at Nord Stream 2.

The Kurgalsky Management Plan will be developed as part of the comprehensive Environmental and Community Initiatives Strategy (ECo-I) being implemented by Nord Stream 2 to ensure benefits for the environment and communities in the project area in Russia. The Strategy is based on four pillars and adopts a holistic approach to compensation, biodiversity enhancement measures, community initiatives and sponsorship activities that Nord Stream 2 plans to undertake in and around the landfall in the Kingisepp district.

Biodiversity enhancement, including the development of the Kurgalsky Management Plan, an ongoing telemetry study of ringed seals in the Gulf of Finland and related projects, is the key element of the ECo-I Strategy and the company’s compliance with the IFC PS. Nord Stream 2 is committed to implementing initiatives in close coordination with the expert community and regional authorities, as envisaged by the cooperation agreement signed in February 2018 with the Leningrad Region Government.

The Kurgalsky Management Plan will be developed taking into account a comprehensive ecological study that was conducted in 2017 in accordance with an established international methodology and covered the entire Kurgalsky peninsula, as well as other studies, such as tourist load and invasive species studies carried out over the summer of 2018.



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About Nord Stream 2

Nord Stream 2 is a planned pipeline through the Baltic Sea, which will transport natural gas over some 1,230 km from the world's largest gas reserves in Russia via the most efficient route to consumers in Europe. Nord Stream 2 will largely follow the route and technical concept of the successful Nord Stream Pipeline. The new pipeline will have the capacity to transport 55 billion cubic meters of gas per year, enough to supply 26 million European households. This secure supply of natural gas with its low CO₂ emissions will also contribute to Europe's objective to have a more climate-friendly energy mix with gas substituting for coal in power generation and providing back-up for intermittent renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar power.

www.nord-stream2.com

About Strelka KB

The Strelka KB company was founded in 2013. Strelka KB is a pioneer in spatial development strategies in Russia. Strelka KB is a company of 300 people working today in such spheres as architecture, economics, anthropology, city design, and data with projects nationwide. Today Strelka KB works with 390 cities across Russia.

Within the company's structure, there is an Urban Anthropology Center, an Urban Economics Center, and a GIS Laboratory. The company collaborates with experts in the fields of urbanism, urban planning, design, transport, ecology, culture and art, and digital technologies. Strelka KB's expert network spans 45 countries. The company has built the network of 2,000 experts across the world. Strelka KB is a public-benefit company investing its profits in educational and public outreach programs of Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design.

www.strelka-kb.com/en

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