

Press release

## **Nord Stream 2 launches Biodiversity Study in the Kurgalsky peninsula**

- > Biodiversity study in the Kurgalsky peninsula is being carried out by Saint Petersburg-based EcoProjekt company**
- > The study is performed as part of Nord Stream 2 commitment to the Environmental and Social standards of the International Finance Corporation**
- > The detailed studies will help identify potential areas for ecological improvement and offset measures and contribute to the scientific knowledge on the Kurgalsky peninsula**

**[Zug–15 June 2017].** Nord Stream 2, the developer of a new natural gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea, has started a biodiversity study in the Kurgalsky peninsula. It will be performed by CJSC EcoProjekt, a Saint Petersburg-based environmental consultancy. The detailed investigation of flora, fauna and geobotanical features will cover approximately 320 hectares, which are representative of the diverse biotopes in the Kurgalsky peninsula. Over 20 scientists from St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region will dedicate about 6,000 man-hours during a period of 6 months to study lower and vascular plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds and terrestrial mammals as well as geomorphological features of the Kurgalsky peninsula.

Nord Stream 2 is committed to implementing the project in compliance with the Environmental and Social standards of the International Finance Corporation (IFC PS), which ensure compliance with the highest sustainability standards. As part of this commitment, Nord Stream 2 will ensure that the proposed pipeline project causes no significant adverse impacts and has a beneficial effect, or net gain, on the biodiversity of the Kurgalsky peninsula. To achieve this goal, the project developer must fully understand the ecological characteristics of the area where the project will take place and of the adjacent areas that have similar ecological characteristics. Based on the outcomes of the biodiversity study, Nord Stream 2 will identify potential areas of ecological improvement and develop offset measures to compensate the limited impacts that the project will have within the construction area.

This process goes beyond the legislative requirements of the Russian Federation and it is a mandatory condition for the project to be eligible to receive a loan from international financial institutions. To ensure full adherence to the IFC PS, the survey results will be closely scrutinized by the independent consultants that have already been working on project documentations at the request of lending agencies since 2016.

The results of the biodiversity survey will greatly expand the scientific knowledge on the Kurgalsky peninsula, complementing the extensive data that has already



## Nord Stream 2 launches Biodiversity Study in the Kurgalsky peninsula

---

been gathered by Nord Stream 2 in 2015 and 2016 and that will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment report, which is being prepared in line with Russian legislation. The information will be shared with the competent authorities as well as the scientific community and non-governmental organizations. Such knowledge could further support efforts to manage the Kurgalsky reserve in a sustainable and socially responsible way.

The results of the survey will also form the basis for Nord Stream 2 Environmental and Community Initiatives program, which foresees a phased investment in the order of 30 Million EUR. It shall promote the conservation objectives of the Kurgalsky reserve and the welfare of the communities that live within and in the immediate proximity of the peninsula.

Mr. Vasily Pchelintsev, zoologist, leading specialist, CJSC EcoProjekt, underscored: “The ongoing Kurgalsky peninsula biodiversity study, together with the available ecological and engineering survey results, will help accurately assess possible risks and potential adverse impacts of the project implementation as well as further elaborate a program of nature conservation and compensation measures. Besides, new data will be obtained on how rare species of flora and fauna are distributed across the entire Kurgalsky peninsula, which is undoubtedly valuable for the scientific and expert community.”

Dr. Alessandro Casartelli, team leader of the Lenders’ Independent Environmental and Social Consultants, Arcadis NV, noted: “Arcadis has been retained to carry out the independent environmental and social due diligence audit of the Nord Stream 2 project and verify that the project complies with the environmental and social performance standards of the International Finance Corporation. The due diligence process has been ongoing since September 2016 and will extend throughout 2017. So far, we have witnessed a scrupulous approach to environmental and social management and great dedication of Nord Stream 2 AG to this topic.”

Dr. Antonio Santaniello, Environmental and Social Manager, Nord Stream 2 AG, said: “This study is essential to ensure the sustainability of the Nord Stream 2 project in the Kurgalsky peninsula. It will provide us with an extensive knowledge of the ecological characteristics of the area, beyond the mere footprint of our proposed project, and will enable us to make a long-term contribution to the conservation objectives of the area.”

### **About Nord Stream 2**

Nord Stream 2 is a planned pipeline through the Baltic Sea, which will transport natural gas over 1,200 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 design of the successful Nord Stream pipeline. With Europe’s domestic gas production projected to halve in the next 20 years, Nord Stream 2’s twin pipeline system will help Europe to meet its future gas import needs, with the capacity to transport 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year, enough to supply 26 million European households. This secure supply of natural gas with its low CO<sub>2</sub> 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](http://www.nord-stream2.com)



## Nord Stream 2 launches Biodiversity Study in the Kurgalsky peninsula

---

### **About CJSC EcoProjekt**

CJSC EcoProjekt is an environmental and nature conservation consultancy specializing in the provision of the environmental support services. The company was established in 2000 and since then has successfully delivered more than 700 projects. It has an extensive experience in performing comprehensive baseline assessment studies and environmental monitoring.

### **About Arcadis NV**

Arcadis NV is a leading global design & consultancy firm for natural and built assets, employing 27,000 people in over 70 countries. A part of Arcadis' operations is the provision of independent advisory services to multilateral financial institutions and commercial banks to assess the compliance of externally financed activities with applicable environmental and social standards.

Media Contact:

**Irina Vasilyeva**

+7 916 133 8781

+41 41 418 3636

[press@nord-stream2.com](mailto:press@nord-stream2.com)