

- The roles, responsibilities and influence of selected officials at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and other Ministries, are discussed. Notes are provided on each official, including position and the reasons for inclusion in this section. A separate subsection discusses Russian officials who are expected to play important roles in the implementation of the **World Bank Environment Sector Project**. Maintenance of contact with these officials by the Moscow Embassy is recommended, as is the distribution of information to them concerning the capabilities of Canadian environmental technology and service companies.
- Information is provided about selected Russian environmental NGOs. The structure and activities of the Socio-Ecological Union (SEU), the largest Russian environmental NGO, are described in detail. Recommendations are made concerning cooperation between the Moscow Embassy and the SEU with respect to the design of environmental training projects, and the identification of Russian industrial enterprises as potential clients of Canadian environmental technology and service companies.
- Several issues pertaining to the financing of environmental projects are discussed. Information is provided concerning the importance of the National Pollution Abatement Fund to be set up under the **World Bank Project**. The refusal of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to provide project loans to Russia in the absence of sovereign repayment guarantees from the Russian government, is noted. The potential importance of barter trade as an alternative project financing mechanism is discussed, and recommendations are made concerning the development of a manual on barter trade as a means of informing Canadian companies about this project funding alternative.