

FRESHWATER COUNTRY PROFILE

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

As part of the activities for the implementation of the goals of the World Summit for Sustainable Development in the Russian Federation, a national Programme of activities has been elaborated for the development of a comprehensive water utilization system for Russia (“Russian water — twenty-first century”).

The main aim of the Programme is to ensure the coordination of, and to bring together to form one complete programme, all ongoing programmes as well as those which are being developed or need to be developed — federal special programmes, programmes for the social and economic development of regions and entities of the Russian Federation and programmes for the development of branches of the economy as part of the rational use and conservation of water resources, the renewal of bodies of water, the prevention and elimination of the harmful effects of water and the elimination of any disconnection between departments and territories in matters relating to water resources.

The main aim of the Programme is to establish a full range of measures to be implemented by the year 2015 to ensure the optimal functioning of the country’s water resources.

The Programme has been developed on three levels:

- On the territorial level — territorial programmes have been drawn up for the territories of all 89 entities of Russia.
- On the level of bodies of water — for the 19 principal bodies of water in Russia, a number of water resource and water conservation measures are provided for in territorial subprogrammes and there are general measures specified in agreements on bodies of water. Subprogrammes have been developed for the Azov Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Western Caspian and the North-Eastern Seas, the Angara-Baikal and Dvina-Pechora river basins and the basins of the Amur, Volga, Don, Kama, Kuban’, Yenisey, Lena, Ob’, Oka, Tom’ and Ural rivers.
- A consolidated federal subprogramme makes the measures provided for in the programmes for territories and bodies of water more generally applicable, defines the goals and outlines the measures at the federal level for the improvement and development of the country’s water resources.

At the present time, work is being completed on the draft basic guidelines for the development of Russia’s water resources by the year 2010 and on a plan of action for their implementation.

The national Programme and the basic guidelines for the development of Russia’s water resources are based on the principle relating to bodies of water concerning the management and conservation of water resources.

As also provided for in the national Programme for the development of Russia’s water resources, the mechanism for the implementation of the basic guidelines is based on the interconnected implementation of the federal and regional special programmes, both those already in operation and those that need to be drawn up.

The first programme to be developed is the federal special programme for the provision of drinking water to the population of Russia, which is aimed at defining the priority goals in the water resource sector of providing the population with water in sufficient quantity and of a quality which meets the health and hygiene standards, establishing adequate drainage systems and lowering the morbidity rate of the people from diseases related to water.

A necessary condition for the effective and environmentally safe functioning and development of Russia's water resources is the development of a legislative and regulatory basis governing the use and conservation of bodies of water, the basis of which is the Water Code of the Russian Federation.

A new draft of the Water Code, approved by the Government of the Russian Federation, strengthens federal responsibility for bodies of water (with the exception of certain bodies of water), the principle relating to water basins governing the management and conservation of water resources and an economic mechanism to provide the necessary funding for measures relating to water resources and water conservation based on payments for the use of bodies of water, the amount of which should be sufficient to cover the overall implementation of the measures provided for.

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