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COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

At the release of this publication, the translation of the Country Profile submitted by the Russian Federation was still pending. Thus, the information contained herein is in draft form. Once the Secretariat receives the translated document, it shall be included in the final version of the Profile that will appear on our web page:

<http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo>

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LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation

IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council

WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Russia is a party to multilateral agreements on the conservation of nature (conventions on climate change, biological diversity, protection of the ozone layer, etc.), which take into account the special situation of developing countries in carrying out the provisions of the agreements. Russia is also a fully fledged participant in the activities of international organizations such as United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); World Health Organization (WHO); United Nations Centre on Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT); International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN); and, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); (ecologically sound foreign trade); etc., whose programmes of work include tackling the environmental and sustainable development problems of the developing countries.

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CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: On 24 October 1996, the State Duma adopted in first reading a Federal Law on the Minimum Income in the Russian Federation, which establishes the fundamental principles for determining the level of the minimum income and social support of the poorest families. The levels of minimum wages, pensions, allowances and benefits are regularly adjusted to the cost of living index. This most closely affects pensioners, children, the unemployed, and workers in establishments funded by the State budget. In accordance with the Presidential Decree of 2 March 1992 on System of Minimum Consumer Budgets of the Russian Federation, the poverty level in the Russian Federation is measured by the level of the minimum income, which is defined as the lowest possible volume of personal consumption of essential goods and services. On the instructions of the Government Council on Questions of Social Development, the Ministry of Social Security, together with the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Finance, prepared a report on Ways of overcoming Poverty in the Russian Federation. by a decision of the Council it was proposed that ministries and offices and executive organs of members of the Russian Federation should prepare measures for participation in the International Year for the Eradication Poverty. Matters connected with the preparation and with the implementation of measures to solve this problem are under consideration in all of Russia's regions.

Programmes and Projects: See under **Cooperation**

Status: A specific feature of the present situation in Russia is that, in addition to the traditional socially vulnerable groups (families with many children and single-parent families, the chronically sick and pensioners), the poverty category now includes large new groups, the unemployed, workers with children, and workers in budget-financed branches of the economy, categories of the economically active population, who are capable of ensuring and must independently ensure their essential living standards by their labour. The impoverishment of Russia's population manifests itself not only in general terms in the increase in the number of people with incomes below the minimum but also in the growth of extremely poor (indigent) groups among the poor.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: In conjunction with the World Bank, pilot programmes on the introduction of targeted social support for the poorest families were to be implemented in 1997 in three regions of the Russian Federation with the aim of bringing per capita incomes in such families up to a level not lower than 50 per cent of the minimum income in the region of their permanent residence. This approach will later be extended to the whole of Russia.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation is responsible for sustainable consumption of natural resources (minerals, water etc.) and at the local and provincial levels, the Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment, the Committees of Natural Resources of Subjects of Federation, and the Basin water use committees are in charge. In the sphere of natural resources there has been adopted more than a dozen legislative acts enhancing the effective use of natural resources, which include: the Continental Shelf Law of the Russian Federation, 1995; the Law on Internal Seas, The Territorial Seas and Adjacent Zone of the Russian Federation, 1998; the Water Code of the Russian Federation, 1995; the Subsurface Law of the Russian Federation, 1992 with Amendments of 1995 etc. National goals with regard to the formation of rational consumption structures are to be attained within the framework of specific decision-making procedures, which include the education of public opinion, enactment of legislation, preparation and adoption of decisions of the President and Government of the Russian Federation and decisions of other federal executive organs and executive and legislative organs of members of the Russian Federation. The National Strategy of Transition to Sustainable Development (in Russia) based on the Act of the President of the Russian Federation N 440 of 1996 has been developed by joint efforts of different governmental ministries and is at present at final stage of approval. The Ministry of Natural Resources has developed the Concept of the State Policy in the sphere of consumption, conservation and study of natural resources of the Russian Federation in 1997, which was approved by the Government at the initial stage, and now is going through the process of amendment. This concept is based on a strategic objective - the achievement of the optimal reproduction rate of the natural resources, the inexhaustible pattern of the natural capital use in the interests of future generations, the creation of prerequisites for the sustainable development. This objective can be achieved: through the optimal combination of governmental and market regulation, implementation of property rights on natural resources, the reduction (the improvement) of the indicators of resources consumption per unit of GNP etc. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Natural Resources the Concept of the State Policy of Sustainable Water Use in 1998 has been developed and is going through a discussion now. The principles which are being used in a long-term Strategy of Sustainable Water Use and applied to establishment of organizational, planning and financing mechanisms of its implementation include: the basin approach, the gradual reduction of negative water impact, self-financing of water industry, the incremental approach, public involvement in decision -making.

Programmes and Projects: The Concept of the Federal programme Drinking Water Supply for the Population of Russia, was approved by the Russian Government on the 6th of March 1998 (the Government Act n. 292). It was developed to cope with the critical water supply situation in Russia. The principal objectives of the programme are: improvement of water supply in qualitative and quantitative parameters; upgrading of environmental health, renewal of drinking water resources, which are supposed to be achieved through: prevention of pollution of water supply sources; improvement of technical systems and water supply technology and the regulative base (norms and standards of water consumption); and, stimulation of water saving activity. It is planned to be implemented through 3 stages: Stage I: 1999-2000. Water saving measures; water quality upgrading in cities and regions with critical situation; expansion of ground water intake in highly polluted areas; reconstruction of water supply facilities in rural areas; etc; Stage II: 2001-2005. Expansion of water facilities; Stage III: 2006-2010. Completion of the most costly water supply programmes. Specific issues, which these strategies address, include: increasing energy and material efficiency in production processes; reducing wastes from production and promoting recycling; promoting use of new and renewable sources of energy using environmentally sound technologies for sustainable production; reducing wasteful consumption; increasing awareness for sustainable consumption.

Status: Tariff experiments are under implementation at the local level to optimize the consumption of resources by householders. Despite contradictory results of these experiments they are still being carrying on.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: There is a programme of consumption education for general education and higher school, under implementation since 1995. (Act of the President 1761, October 26, 1993 and the Law of the Russian Federation, Protection of consumers' rights). The Ministry of Education approved school programmes, prepared by the International Confederation of consumers' societies and other organizations, which include "green" consumption issues. General education school programmes in 20

Russian regions provide study of green consumption issues by including "basis for consumption education" in their school programmes. The Federal standard, "consumption knowledge in education," which includes sustainable consumption issues, is being elaborated. Programmes on ecology for general education and higher school, which include sustainable consumption issues, are widespread. Public consumers' societies devote much more attention now to sustainable consumption issues in their awareness activities. Goods undergo ecological expertise and comparative consumer tests (power intensity, water consumption, and waste utilization). Consumer societies carry on an explanatory campaign on ecological labeling, and they are involved in cooperation with the media on ecological aspects of consumption. All the facts mentioned represent only the first steps. There is now a comprehensive programme, but stable cooperation of consumers and ecological societies does not exist.

Information: The state policy is aimed at development of the comprehensive and highly accessible informational system on natural resources. Russian consumers rights protection societies participated in «Consumers' International» on evaluation of effectiveness of ecological labelling. The results made it clear that ecological labelling used by Russian producers as well as importers does not provide reliable ecological information for consumers. Sometimes it even leads to delusion. Several publications in media were devoted to this problem. Separate efforts are being taken to elaborate ecological labelling at regions level, in particular in Moscow. Such programmes are still under elaboration.

Research and Technologies: In the framework of the public housing system at the local level, reform research programmes are underway for use of alternative methods of resources supply (energy, water) which are to decrease loss of resources and ineffective consumption.

Financing: The development of the economic and financial mechanism includes: economic incentives to the rational use of natural resources and to introduction of energy- and resources-saving technologies (deep processing of wood, reduction of losses of mineral resources in mining and refining etc.); development of natural resources tax payment system; introduction of flexible prices for the natural resources; and, implementation of the programmes aimed at reduction of the rate of resource consumption in relation to the output.

Cooperation: Russia has boundaries with 14 states and accordingly jointly used water objects. These relations are regulated based on bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements in the sphere of use and conservation of water objects (with Finland, Estonia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, etc.). Under these agreements the joint management of water resources, monitoring, and water protection measures are undertaken. Similar agreements are under preparation with Azerbaijan and China.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

Decision-Making: The responsibilities of the different Ministries of Russian Federation depend on the issue involved: energy in general, nuclear energy, utilization of energy, energy-related aspects of atmosphere, climate change, and transports. The coordination between different bodies of the government concerning energy is under the supervision of Vice-prime minister. In case of making decision on energy aspect of special importance, an inter-ministerial commission is created. Regional and local authorities have also a relevant role in the administration and legislation concerning issues related to energy. There many legal instruments, which establish various measures related to energy conservation, efficiency enhancement of energy production, conversion, distribution and consumption; consumption supervising; renewable energy sources; additional incentives to promote energy savings, transition to sustainable development; foreign investments; and, transports. The main national document concerning energy development is Energy Strategy of Russia for the period of up to 2020, which identifies the main elements of Russian energy strategy as follows: ensuring sustainable and secure energy supply of domestic economy and population; improving efficiency of fuel and energy use through realizing the energy conservation potential; developing a resource potential of domestic energy and ensuring sustainable development of the fuel and energy complex of Russia in market conditions; diminishing negative impact of the fuel and energy complex on the environment; ensuring export potential of energy; enhancing energy security; developing interregional economic links; and, creating economic and legislative bases, ensuring implementation of priorities and tasks of the national long-term energy policy.

Programmes and Projects: Major programmes undertaken to provide alternatives to unsustainable energy sources to urban and rural households for their consumption include issues related to: energy conservation; energy supply; energy saving and network gasification; nuclear power development; and, scientific and technical progress in energy. The main national programme oriented at reducing GHG concentration in the atmosphere is “Prevention of Dangerous Climate Changes and Their Negative Consequences”, which intends to deal with diminishing environmental hazard from climate change; ensuring implementation of Russia’s international legally binding commitments; and, providing information on current state and expected prospects of climate change and their consequences to all levels of executive authorities of the RF. There also many programmes concerning the transport situation, which establish some measures concerning energy saving. The main programme aimed at promoting energy conservation in Russia is “Energy Conservation in Russia”, which consists of a number of organizational, legislative, economic and financial measures stimulating efficient utilization of fuel and energy, and implements the energy conservation policy (reconsidering existing standards and norms; labelling the energy consuming equipment and devices; implementing energy audits at industrial enterprises; tax incentives for investment aimed at organization and technical measures for energy conservation; intensifying activity of Energy Saving Fund; providing state guarantees and direct financial support of energy efficiency projects; and organizing information campaigns, creating databases of energy efficient equipment etc).

Status: The Russian Federation is traditionally one of the main energy exporters in the world. However, there are some problems in ensuring stable, reliable and economically acceptable energy supplies in some regions, which are mostly connected with inefficient planning of energy supply and demand in these regions, lack of needed energy transport facilities, not sufficient amounts of stored fuel required for winter period, non-payments, and are not connected with energy resources availability in the country. In some cases there is shortage of automotive fuel supply due to lower internal prices compared with export prices. Fossil fuels play a basic role in the energy national balance. Utilization of advanced renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, geothermal and wave energy is very limited. The main barriers against development and usage of renewable energy sources and cleaner fossil fuel technologies are mostly financial, organizational and legislative. The problem of market deployment of developed renewable and cleaner fossil fuel technologies can not be solved because of lack of financing; lack of incentives to promote costly equipment for cleaner technologies; lack of required capital; unfavourable financial climate for attracting investments; political instability; high risks; low cost of energy; low energy demand; lack of any kind of guaranties to ensure return of investments; lack of environmental legislation; and, weakness of legislative base. Trade liberalization and privatization will contribute to increasing efficiency of the fuel and energy complex

functioning and hopefully declining the energy services cost for consumers, and to improve the capacity to face the implications of globalization.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: NGOs are highly engaged in information dissemination, consumers training, organization of public campaigns, energy efficient equipment exhibitions etc. Many popular scientific and specialized journals dwelling on energy-environment-related issues are published on the federal and regional levels. Education programmes have been launched in the Russian primary and secondary schools. The most part of training programmes is organized and sponsored by international and Russian organizations and programmes (UN ECE, GEF, EU-TACIS, EU-SYNERGY, EBRD, Nordic Council of Ministers, RUSDEM, Gosenergoadzor, Minobrazovaniya) and in a frame of bilateral cooperation (USA, Norway, Finland, GB, Canada, Sweden, Denmark). In Russia, regular training programmes are carried out by RUSDEM (Financial Engineering, Business Planning, Energy Audits, Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol Mechanisms, Long Distance Training), VTI (energy audits), Centre for Energy Policy (energy audits and energy management), Centre for Energy Efficiency (CENEF).

Information: The major supplier of energy statistics in Russia is Goscomstat, Ministry of Environment (Now Ministry of Nature), Ministry of Energy, Central Dispatching Board. System of Russian Demonstration Zones of High Energy Efficiency (UN ECE Project). Any consumer can make a special order for needed energy statistics to "Goscomstat" as well as for data of other governmental bodies which are compiling energy use related statistics. Information is disseminated throughout the country and abroad via the information exchange system of Russian energy efficiency demonstration zones. This information is not available to the public. Available websites: www.mte.gov.ru, www.minprom.ru, www.gov.ru, www.rusdem.com, www.energy.ru, www.cenef.ru.

Research and Technologies: In spite of the existing national programme for environmentally clean energy technology there was not so much progress during the latest years. The main problems are: economic competitiveness of renewable energy and nuclear power and; economic operation and safety level of nuclear power plants; and, safe management of radioactive wastes. There are new technologies being developed in Russia for the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions and cleaner production (e.g. clean coal technology), which will contribute to sustainable and environmentally sound development both the national fuel and energy complex.

Financing: Public financing is very limited, a little federal budget financing as well as financing from regional budgets take place in energy conservation, environmental protection measures: early implementation of production sharing agreement (e.g. Sakhalin oil projects); favourable tax regime for foreign investments exceeding 100 million US\$; state guarantee for long term loans for energy efficiency projects. A series of energy projects are financed through loans from multilateral banks (World Bank, European Bank of reconstruction and Development). The oil and gas production projects and in small scale power generation projects are financed by private capital (domestic and foreign). Some projects are financed through international assistance programmes (USAID, UN ECE, UNDP, GEF, TAGOS, TACIS, US DOE, THERMIE, Barents Region Energy Programme).

Cooperation: Among ongoing cooperation the following are worth to be mentioned: Agreement on Technical Cooperation in the Field of Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones with US and the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Russian-Chinese cooperation in development aviation derived gas turbines, coal-water slurry technology, bio-energy technology; Russian-Danish cooperation on energy efficiency and saving; Developing the energy policy dialogue between EC and the RF (EU SYNERGY Programme); Institutional support of France within the framework of EU' TACIS Programme); and, developing system of Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development (under leadership of IAEA). Russia is the only Annex I country, which meets the Kyoto Protocol targets. A whole number of projects based on joint implementation mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol are under implementation. Financing is effected through national programmes for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol Mechanisms. The Energy Charter and Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution must also be mentioned.

CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation is responsible for decision-making concerning all kinds of transport except railroads, which include planning and conducting governmental transport policy and programmes. The Ministry of Railway Transport of the Russian Federation has been set up to plan and conduct an overall policy of railway transport related to organization, expansion, maintenance, safety etc of the work of railways. Other governmental bodies are involved in transport considerations related to trade, standards and certification, industry, energy. Special committees are in charge of the coordination of their work at local, regional and federal levels, in which the respective authorities have relevant responsibilities concerning transport issues. There laws that, although not directly related to transport, control and provide frameworks for decision-making concerning environmental protection, atmosphere protection, certification of products and services, road safety, production and usage waste recycling, epidemic-sanitary safety, environmental inspection, federal railway transport, energy saving, urban-construction. All of them were introduced after the Rio Summit (1992) and reflect problems of environmental protection, life safety and health care, and maximizing energy efficiency. Specific projects laws on public passenger transport system, auto-transport system and transportation of dangerous goods are been developed. In Russia, special systems of emission standards and maintenance standards following the international and European guides for wheeled vehicles and other technical standards were adopted but they are still in process of implementation. Intergovernmental ecological standards were also introduced in Russia. There are no legal economic methods of stimulating production and usage of ecologically improved equipment. In 1997, a new concept of transport policy was introduced, which defines goals and missions of the governmental transport policy, main directions of further changes in property relationship, reforms on the corporate level, economic cooperation improvement in the field of transport services, tariff and tax control, and government support of transport companies. The participation of citizens and of public organizations in the discussion of projects and their access to information are guaranteed by law. However, there is no national system of studying public opinion concerning transport policy, but certainly there are premises for creating it. Auto transport associations have been created to meet the interests of all transport companies.

Programmes and Projects: In May 2000, the Ecology Committee in Duma made a decision to prepare a legal project "Auto transport ecological safety", which defines the main principles of providing ecological safety of auto transport, responsibilities of federal and local authorities, financing and insurance principles. To meet commercial, private and public demand in transportation in Russia, special programmes are been conducted: Inland waterways of Russia; Development program of public buses, trolleybuses and train production; Development of Auto Transport Industry till 2005; and also aimed at restoring taxi companies that were cut down in the 90-s. There are a number of programmes, which deal with: improvement of road safety; improvement of efficiency in fuel consumption; reduction of emissions from transport; promotion of non-motorized modes of transport (only research programmes); formulation of ecological requirements for the transport infrastructure; and, transport satellite navigation.

Status: The transport system of Russian is one of the main energy users and in charge of a substantial amount of ecological pollution. The governmental efforts to improve the transport system have faced difficulties such as the great territory of the country, severe climate, the length of transport communications and the economic and social situation. Furthermore, the changes of the transition to a market economy have been implemented and the economy has just started to stabilize. SO, slow progress in the transport industry is due to the following reasons: imperfect legal base, lack of economic methods (taxes, fees) for stimulating production of more safe transport equipment and lack of effective methods of financing transport systems.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: As a result of work of mass media since newspapers and journals regularly write about ecological problems, especially those that are connected with transport emission and environment pollution, Russian people are greatly concerned about them. Lately, environmental protection has become a great issue for election campaigns what improves the popular information. Besides, legal acts more often take into account public opinion in the process of decision-making. A number of public organizations provide information on environmental issues and develop environmental protection actions. To

improve road safety mass media informs of some serious accidents and their reasons. In schools there are special classes on road safety. Ecological aspects are more or less mentioned in Russian school program and their consideration depends on the school. Some of them have specific ecology courses or develop projects, which include issues as information about the atmosphere pollution; efficient use of resources; recycling; and, social action. In Russia there is a special system of improving employees qualification in the transport system, including the issues of environmental protection; seminars for transport system organizations; conferences on road safety. Some permanent courses on environmental protection and road safety are held on the base of international cooperation of Sweden and education programs are sometimes conducted at special Universities.

Information: Russia has a well-developed governmental system of gathering information, with an appropriate legal system, which is the responsibility of the Committee on Statistics of the Government of Russia that publishes statistical almanacs containing main economic and social data for a certain period of time. Later the information is analyzed by research agencies. Independent organizations, specialized in gathering information and studying public opinion sometimes participate in the projects. Statistical almanacs also contain information on transport system and services (production of means of transport, total amount of services by public passenger transport and cargo, energy consumption, accidents, etc). Each year the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia publishes a Report of the Government "Environment in Russia" that contains information on emission from all transport means. Unfortunately, due to the liberalization of the economy, the amount and quality of gathered information has reduced. Pollution monitoring of the basic toxic components is conducted periodically in big cities during special research programs or short-term projects. Information on environmental pollution is guaranteed by the Russian legal system, but very often it is neglected. Sometimes barriers for getting information are made in regions. Lately, due to the expansion of Internet in Russia, special web-sights on environment have been made. Television and radio also inform the nation about ecological situation. Information on traffic is more open and systematic. There are special web-sights and radio programs about situation on the roads. New roads also have electronic boards with current information on traffic.

Research and Technologies: Activities in the technology and research areas include the use of alternative types of fuel (energy) sources, new ways of cleaning emission gas, new complex system of ecological transport safety system, creation of ecologically safe transport and development of special systems and engines to improve the limited results of traditional methods as: organization of traffic outside central parts of cities; prohibition for some types of transport at special hours and roads; traffic lights control for "green wave" traffic system; correcting traffic lights cycles according to traffic; using reversible roads; and up-to-date telecommunication systems for traffic control. The Ministry of Transport of Russia is now conducting a project of introducing Satellite Navigation System GLONASS.

Financing: Transport industry development programmes are controlled by both governmental and local authorities. Special investment projects are now carried out with support by Development Budget of the Russian Federation. A new way of forming budget for restoring merchant fleet will be introduced; sea and river transport investment projects will be financed by that fund. Rational fiscal measures, protection of national transport system, governmental support for companies in the form of grants, low tax rates, etc. will definitely attract investors into the system. Introducing international accounting standards and creating special infrastructure would also attract foreign investments. New credit and insurance system for sea fleet provides money from the Development Budget for providing governmental guarantees on credits for shipping companies. Financial risks will be shared between the Government, insurance and credit companies, and ship owners.

Cooperation: There are relevant regional and international transport corridors on the territory of the Russian Federation. The role Trans-siberian Railway Road will be increased in the transit transportation from Asian-Pacific Region to Europe and Central Asia. Railroad expansion is planned on the boards with Mongolia, China; expansion of ports at Far East will increase transportation. A new transport "North-South" corridor will be build for further development of Russian-Indian trade and other regions as well. That corridor will reduce transportation costs as well as shipping time. Inland waterways, including Danube up to North Sea ports, are very convenient for Russia because of low transport costs. Solving the problem of Caspian Sea status will increase transportation in the area and will make economic cooperation more active in the region. Russia is a member of such international

organizations as UN/ECE, ESCAP, APEC, ASEAN, BSEC, ICAO, ECMT, WHO, etc. and participates in different committees on transport system improvement projects, conferences, and meetings. Russia has signed and ratified 28 out of 54 UN/ECE Agreements in the field of transport: European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), 1975; European Agreement on Main Railway Lines (AGC), 1985; Convention on Road Traffic, 1968; Convention on Road Signs and Signals, 1968; Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts, which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles, 1958; Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and reciprocal Recognition of such Inspections, 1997; European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), 1970; Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Inland Waterway (CVN), 1976; European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Good by Road (ADR), 1957, etc. Russia is a member of multilateral permissions on international transportation of European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and has participated in all important international forums on transport: European Conferences on Transport (Prague, 1991; Cyprus, 1994; Helsinki, 1997); UN/ECE Regional Conference on Transport and Environment (Vienna, 1997); First and Second International Europe and Asia Conference on Transport (Saint Petersburg, 1998 and 2000); Deli Conference on Infrastructure (Deli, 1996). Russia and countries of the former USSR are working on the project of the united transport system. Russia participates in a wide range of common transport schemes with neighboring countries. Cooperation with developed countries is very important for further development of Russian transport system. An international consultant agency profiled in problems of transport systems of Russia and former USSR countries could be created in order to help them to tackle the problems in transport industry.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Labour and Social Development, in accordance with the decisions of the Parliament and Government, and on the basis of research conducted in Russia's largest centres of population, is developing and implementing measures for the achievement of the fundamental socio-demographic objectives, preparing annual reports on the status and trends of demographic development in the Russian Federation for the President and government, and making proposals for the solution of the most pressing, demographic problems. An Inter-departmental Commission on Socio-demographic Questions, established by Governmental Decree n. 697 of 23 July 1993, is working on the formulation of an overall strategy for socio-demographic policy, the determination of priorities in the development and implementation of federal executive organs, scientific organizations and regional inter-departmental commissions on questions of socio-demographic development. The Inter-departmental Commission is establishing working groups on the basis problems of the demographic development of the Russian Federation: human health, the death rate, migration from northern regions, refugees and forcibly displaced persons etc.

Programmes and Projects: In accordance with the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Ministry of Labour and Social Development produced in 1995 a Concept of the Demographic Development of the Russian Federation, subsequently approved by the Government, which addresses the need for strategic programmes to counteract the crisis affecting the health of the population, with a view to increasing life expectancy and reducing the death rate and solving the problems of the birth rate and migration as the fundamental determinants of sustainable demographic development. In 1997 a Programme of Action to Resolve the Demographic Crisis in the Russian Federation was being elaborated for confirmation by the President or Government.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Scientific researches related to demographic issues are developed with support of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

Financing: Finance for demographic related activities comes from the federal budget and the budgets of members of the Russian Federation, as well as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Cooperation: The Ministry of Labour and Social Development is acting as lead agency for the participation of the Russian Federation in UNFPA, UNICEF and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, which coordinates and plays its part in scientific research in the regions connected with their demographic development.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: Actions regarding health in the Russian Federation are oriented toward the formulation of State policy for protection of human health and adoption of comprehensive measures to improve the performance of the branches of the health system. People's health always subtly and clearly reacts to and reflects the socio-economic and socio-political conditions in which they live. Accordingly, on the basis of analysis of the country's medical and demographic situation, a State policy is being constructed for the protection of human health. A law on medical Insurance of Citizens of the Russian Federation was adopted in 1991, and in 1993 a law was passed on fundamental Legislation of the Russian Federation on the protection of Human Health. A number of bills on improvement of the protection of human health have been submitted to the State Duma. In 1996 the Federal Assembly adopted a law of the Russian Federation on Framework of State Regulation of Socio-economic Development in the north of the Russian Federation. Since 1992 a number of key documents on the protection of mothers and children have been adopted in Russia. These documents form the basis for State social policy on the protection, survival and development of mothers and children, and include: the Presidential Decree on Priority Measures for Carrying Out the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990's (1992); Introduction of the Childbirth Criteria recommended by WHO (1993); the Presidential Decree on Priority Tasks of State Policy for Women (1993); the National Plan of Action for Children, confirmed by a Presidential Decree on implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1995); the concept of improvement of the status of women in the Russia Federation (1996); and, the National Plan of Action to Improve the Status of Women and Enhance their Role in Society up to the Year 2000 (1996), confirmed by the Government of the Russia Federation with a view to the implementation of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of discrimination Against Women.

Programmes and Projects: In accordance with the health care priorities, eight special purpose State programmes have been drawn up, including: children of Russia; safe maternity; prevention by vaccination; anti-AIDS; development and improvement of the all-Russian disaster-response medical service; elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station; and, development of the medical industry and improvement of the supply of medicines and medical equipment. The preparation of the following practical scientific federal programmes was supposed to be completed by 1998: urgent measures to ensure high standards of public health, prevention of infectious and non-infectious diseases, and reduction of the number of premature deaths; family medicine; and, support for Russian medical science.

Status: The death rate among the population of working age is high in a number of regions of the Russian Federation, and this is an important factor in the decline in life expectancy. The number of elderly persons is increasing, while the number of children and youth is decreasing. There is growth in the overall morbidity rate both among adults (psychological disturbances, tuberculosis, syphilis) and among children (diseases of respiratory organs). At the same time the indicators for controllable infections have declined. In these circumstances the fundamental task of the ministry of Health is to ensure the sustainable functioning of health system and maintenance of the volume and standards of medical care. Despite the objective difficulties of the transitional period in Russia, it has proved possible to maintain the capacity of the health system with respect to personnel, materials and equipment, and scientific and industrial requirements. The organizational structure of institutions of curative and preventive medicine in urban and rural areas guarantees free access of all citizens to primary health care. Hospital facilities at the municipal, regional and federal levels provide every kind of specialized medical services. As in the past, great attention is given to prevention. The public health and epidemiological services continue to perform their functions. Reforms of the health system have been implemented, including administrative decentralization and adaptation of health institutions and enterprises to the new economic conditions. To this end measures have been carried out to effect a transition to compulsory personal medical insurance and to ensure the regulation of activities of institutions of curative and preventive medicine in the new circumstances, the use of general practitioners, and the introduction of modern methods of prevention, diagnosis and treatment. One task of wide importance is the protection of workers and of the whole population by means of comprehensive programmes of environmentally safety.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: The scientific-industrial combine Medical Social Problems, the Economy and Information Technology and a number of public health scientific research institutes are providing the Ministry of Health with expert scientific assessments of problems of protecting human health.

Financing: The proportion of GDP spent on health remains small at 2.5 per cent.

Cooperation: Cooperation has begun in the Russian American Commission on science and technology (the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission) on programmes to combat infectious diseases, health education, and improvement of human health.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The most urgent problems of sustainable human settlement in Russia are connected with the establishment of an efficient employment system; improvement of social infrastructure and ensuring maximum satisfaction of social requirements. To solve them, principles for the establishment of an efficient employment system have been proposed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the relevant federal executive organs and executive organs of members of the Russian Federation.

Programmes and Projects: In accordance with the Presidential Decree on a Comprehensive Programme of Measures on Job Creation and Preservation for 1996-2000, a general plan was prepared for the creation of jobs in the light of the restructuring of the economy and social and regional policies. The Government has confirmed this general plan for changes in the settlement pattern (Protocol n. 31 of 15 December 1994).

Status: At present the development of a sustainable human settlement system in Russia is proceeding on the basis of the preservation of the existing basic settlement framework but with a reduction in the proportion of urban population due to a decline in the number of urban settlements. The inefficient employment system, especially in towns with a variety of industries, obstructs the establishment of a sustainable settlement system. The proportion of urban population in Russia stands roughly at the average European level and is only slightly lower than in such countries as the United States and Japan. However the concentration of population in very large towns is noticeably lower. The process of dispersal of population from large cities is proceeding in Russia, despite the obstacles, with the introduction of the registration system and attempts to carry out a policy of limiting large city growth. There are plans for the further development of densely populated large and very large cities, with due attention given to considerations of human environmental safety and the priority development of transcontinental settlement along the St. Petersburg-Vladivostok axis. In view of the need to improve the environmental situation in Russia, the existing settlements in areas of exceptional environmental conditions will be reorganized, and this will mean the relocation of population. Measures to improve the urban environment by means of new construction projects on the cleanest suburban sites envisage low rise instead of high rise building, the rehabilitation of land in industrial zones and centres, and the implementation of programmes to upgrade the environment. These will include the development of suburban zones for the construction of individual and collective housing, the use of local recreational possibilities, the establishment of a sustainable network of settlements, and the creation of model sustainable landscapes in the buffer zones of specially protected natural areas. Attention will also be given to the preservation of the historical traditions and authentic living environment of various ethnic cultural population groups, especially minority indigenous peoples, and to the establishment of federal or regional systems for the regulated use of natures.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Funding for settlement activities comes from federal and local budgets and investments, including direct foreign investments, the Small Business Development Fund, and regional development funds.

Cooperation: With the support of the International Labour Organization the Ministry of Labour and Social Development held a conference on improvement of the employment system in the Russia Federation.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: Following the United Nations Conference in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 the Russian Federation adopted a series of very important documents on environmental protection and use of natural resources, including: (i) The Government's Plan of Action for Environmental Protection for 1994-1995; (ii) Governmental Decree No. 155 of 19 February 1996 confirming the Government's Plan of Action for Environmental Protection and Use of Natural Resources for 1996-1997, which represents the second stage of the implementation of the fundamental provisions of the State strategy confirmed by Presidential Decree No. 236 of 4 February 1994 on State strategy of the Russian Federation for environmental protection and sustainable development; (iii) By Order No. 217 of 24 February 1994 the Government instructed the Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of the Environment, other relevant ministries and offices, with the participation of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the executive organs of members of the Russian Federation, to develop a draft Concept of the Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development. In compliance with this instruction the Ministry of the Economy created a working group to prepare the document and a commission to coordinate the work. The Ministry of the Environment and the Federal Environment Fund announced a competition, for which a number of different concepts were submitted by various collectives and individual scientists. Eight of these concepts were selected by the competition commission for use in the preparation of the summary document. The draft Concept was considered at the first all-Russian Congress on the Conservation of Nature, during the preparations for which in January-May 1995 the draft Concept was discussed at local conferences. The final version of the Concept for the Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development was confirmed by a Presidential Decree of 1 April 1996. This Decree ordered the production of a draft State Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the Russian Federation. The Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Science were nominated as the lead agencies in this undertaking. An all-Russian conference on combating violations of environmental law was held in May 1996. It adopted a very important resolution, the implementation of which will lead to a considerable reduction in such offences. This resolution requires the Ministry of the Environment to prepare and submit to the Government a draft federal coordination plan for combating violations of environmental law for the period 1997-2001.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: On 10-11 April 1996 the Ministry held an international seminar, at Golitsino, Moscow region, on the consideration and introduction of a programme of action on environmental protection for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. A package of documents, including the decisions of the seminar, was sent to 115 agencies for use in their work.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Financial resources for activities mentioned above come from the federal budget, budgets of members of the Russian Federation, resources of enterprises and extra-budgetary sources.

Cooperation: There are bilateral and multilateral agreements on environmental protection and the use of natural resources.

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CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: The State Environmental Protection Committee is the lead agency in the Russian Federation for matters connected with the Montreal Protocol. There are also an organizational structure dealing with questions of the gradual reduction of the production and use of ozone depleting substances (ODS). The coordination of activities connected with UNFCCC is entrusted to the Inter-Departmental Commission on Problems of Climate Change, which has as basic functions: coordination of the work of ministries and offices on the reduction of the harmful impact of economic activities on the climate, and prevention of the adverse consequences of climate change for the country's economy and natural environment; coordination of the activities of ministries, offices and organizations in implementation of Russia's commitment under UNFCCC to secure stabilization of concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level which will prevent any dangerous anthropogenic impact on the climatic system; organization and coordination of activities connected with the participation of the Russian Federation in the official organs of the Convention and in international cooperation on problems of climate change. Among the most important results of the work of the inter-departmental commission over the recent period in accordance with the obligations of the Russian Federation under the Convention attention must be drawn to the preparation of the first National Statement of the Russian Federation on activities under the Convention, as well as to activities under the programme on prevention of dangerous climate changes and their harmful consequences (1996).

Programmes and Projects: For the purposes of fulfillment of the Russian Federation's obligations with respect to implementation of UNFCCC and with a view to prevention of the harmful consequences of climate change for human health and the national economy, the Programme on Prevention of Dangerous Climate Changes and Their Harmful Consequences for the Period 1997-2000 provides for: more detailed and reliable information on the state of the climatic system and climate changes and transmission of this information to users; reliable information on anthropogenic sources and emissions of greenhouse gases, the state of sinks and the dynamics of the absorption of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and on other sources of anthropogenic impact on climate; improved quality and reliability of information on reactions to climate changes and the vulnerability to such changes of managed and natural ecosystems, the national economy and human health; design of preventive measures to reduce the vulnerability of climate-dependent branches of the economy; design of measures to cut emissions and increase the absorption of greenhouse gases, taking into account the forecast increase in economic activity and the requirements of the Convention. Activities under the programme will be coordinated with the activities of other current federal, regional and branch programmes for prevention of dangerous climate changes.

Status: The evaluations contained in the first National Statement on activities under the Convention justify a confident assertion that by 2000 the Russian Federation will no longer be exceeding the level of anthropogenic emissions greenhouse gases established on base 1990. This will make it possible to carry out, within the framework of the programme, measures for the limitation of anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases which take into account the levels of economic growth expected in our country. In the Russian Federation agriculture, forestry and water resources are extremely vulnerable to climate change. This is due mainly to shifts in the distribution of precipitation and an increase in the frequency and severity of droughts. In the zone of permanent frost, thawing caused by warming of the climate will destroy the economic infrastructure, owing largely to the vulnerability of mining installations, energy and transport systems and the communal economy. A rise in the level of the world's oceans will lead to flooding and destruction of coastal areas and low-lying land in river deltas together with the towns and other settlements located there. Climate change may have a harmful effect on human health both through intensification of heat stress in southern regions and through the spread of many kinds of disease. The Russian Federation therefore has an interest in conducting national activities in various economic spheres and in broad international cooperation on problems of climate change with the States parties to the Convention.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Rosgidromet has a network of stations for measuring the total ozone content at 30 points in the territory of the Russian Federation. The incoming operational information is processed at a single centre (Rosgidromet's Central Aerological Observatory) and is presented in the form of daily maps showing deviations of

the volumes of total ozone content from norms established over many years, together with block bulletins. Analyses are also made of monthly and seasonal anomalies in the fields of total ozone content above the territories of the Russian Federation in the Antarctic. See also under **Programmes and Projects**.

Research and Technologies: Questions of ozone layer research and monitoring are the responsibility of the Federal Hydrometeorological and Environmental Monitoring Service (Rosgidromet). The programme of work includes the basic areas of research envisaged in the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Special attention is given to the development and support of a system for monitoring the condition of the ozone layer and a system for monitoring ultraviolet radiation over the Russian Federation and adjoining territories. In the monitoring of the ozone layer use is made of both land-based and satellite observation facilities. The work, which is being done represents a significant contribution by the Russian Federation to the development and support of the Global Atmosphere Watch of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and to the fulfillment of commitments under the Vienna Convention.

Financing: For the period 1997-2000 the programme envisages funding from the federal budget totaling 171.4 billion roubles and mobilization of extra-budgetary sources totaling 68 billion roubles. In order to finance special purpose projects in accordance with the priorities of the Global Environment Facility, agreements have been signed with the World Bank concerning grants to Russia for: reducing emissions of greenhouse gases during the production and consumption of methane - \$US 3.2 billion; phased reduction of the consumption of ozone depleting substances - \$US 60 million.

Cooperation: The Montreal Protocol (1987) was signed in 1987, the London Amendment (1990) was signed in 1991 and the latest reports to the Montreal Protocol Secretariat were prepared in 1994. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was signed in 1994, and the latest report to the UNFCCC Secretariat was submitted in 1995. Considerable attention has been given to the development of bilateral scientific and technological links with other countries on problems of climate change. Particular attention must be drawn to the development of bilateral cooperation on problems of climate change between the Russian Federation and the United States within the framework of the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission, for the support of national research in the field of climate change. The problems of climate change occupy an important place on the agenda of the Inter-State Hydrometeorology Council, which coordinates the activities of the hydrometeorological services of the States members of CIS.

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CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The Government of the Russian Federation established a special agency, currently known as the State Committee for Land Policy of the Russian Federation (Goskomzem), which is responsible for the coordination and regulation of land tenure in the Russian Federation. The main responsibilities of Goskomzem are: participation in development and implementation of the governmental land tenure and land reform policy; organization of governmental supervision of the use of land; maintenance of the State land cadastral system; land-use planning, including land surveying and zoning; land valuation; maintenance of the Register of Federal Lands; improvement of land management practices; land privatization; development of the land market; participation in development of the unified system of registration of rights to land parcels and adjoining property; development of draft legislation; and, administration of territorial offices and subsidiary enterprises. In order to promote effective land management and sustainable use of land resources, in 1990 the Government of the Russian Federation started to implement a land reform policy. Initially, the main objectives of the land reform were: distribution of land to all citizens without restitution; establishment of ensured private property rights to land; restructuring of large farm enterprises (collective and State farms); introduction of private family farms; development of the land market; State supervision of the protection and use of land. The importance of land reform issues was demonstrated by the round-table discussion (1997), in which all political groups in the country had an opportunity to express their views. The discussion has identified laws in the area of land reform that should be adopted by the Russian Parliament as a matter of priority, as follows: the law on State and municipal lands; the law on the State land cadastral system; the land administration law; the land valuation law; the law on State regulation of and limits on agricultural land turnover. On 1 February 1998 the law on State registration of rights to real estate and related transactions became effective and divided the responsibilities of land registration and land cadastral maintenance between the Ministry of Justice and the State Committee for Land Policy.

Programmes and Projects: In recent years the Government has adopted a number of programmes to promote the effective use of land and sustainable management of land resources. The most important of these programmes are: (i) Development of the automated land cadastral system (1996), whose objective is to develop and put into operation an automated system for maintaining the land cadastral system that would include modern means of cadastral data collection, storage and transfer by developing and improving the legislative basis of the State land cadastral system, the system and technological schemes, software, data protection subsystems, data transfer subsystems; providing information support; creating organizational structures; and organizing training; (ii) Development of the land reform in the Russian Federation in 1999-2000 (1999), whose objectives are: to improve the efficiency of land use; to create an environment for increasing the social, investment and productive potential of land; and, to make land work as a factor of economic growth by developing and improving the legal and regulatory basis for regulating land tenure, a mechanism for supporting the ownership rights of land share owners, a mechanism for promoting the privatization of land parcels occupied by businesses, a land market in human settlements, a land market infrastructure, mortgage loan mechanisms; introducing State land cadastral system; improving the system for collecting payments for land use and an area zoning; implementing the mass assessment of land; promoting mapping, geodetic and land-surveying support for the land reform; maintaining land monitoring; promoting technical support for State control over the use and protection of land; establishing a financial fund for land protection; promoting public relations activities to increase awareness of land issues; establishing special information centers, modern Geographic Information Systems (GIS) laboratories in colleges and universities; and, promoting education and training. The expected results of this programme include: ensuring the constitutional rights of individuals to dispose freely of their land parcels or land shares under strict Government control; dividing land property into federal, regional and municipal land; creating a land and real-estate market; developing a land mortgage system; creating conditions favourable to investment; promoting effective and rational management of land resources at all levels; increasing budget revenue through the collection of payments for land use.

Status: The Russian Federation has enormous land resources. However, this national resource is not used effectively. The 1993 Constitution of the Russian Federation views land and other natural resources as the basis of the life of the people. The Government of the Russian Federation considers the issue of sustainable use of land

resources as one of extreme importance. Goskomzem is currently developing a new concept of land monitoring in the Russian Federation, which will reflect the changes in land tenure patterns occurred in the country.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: See under **Programmes and Projects**.

Information: The issue of an integrated approach to more effective land use and sustainable management of land resources is set out in the annual national report on the condition and use of land in the Russian Federation, which also includes data on land use patterns in the country as a whole. The data contained in the annual report are based on statistical indicators collected annually by local offices of Goskomzem and on the regional annual reports on the condition and use of land prepared by regional offices of Goskomzem. These data are later combined, integrated and analyzed at the federal level. The findings are reported to the Government of the Russian Federation and made available to the public in official statistical reports. Goskomzem has a World Wide Web site at the following address: www.fccland.ru. See also under **Programmes and Projects**.

Research and Technologies: See under **Programmes and Projects**.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: The new Russian Federation Forest Code (1997) establishes the sustainable management of Russian forests as the ultimate goal and provides the necessary legislative basis for regulating forest relations in a market economy. The Russian Federation's sustainable forest management concept, adopted in 1998, is based on the principles of the ecological, economic and social sustainability of forests as components of the State's overall national sustainable development strategy. The legal framework for regulating forest relations in the Russian Federation has been established through forest legislation, including the above-mentioned Russian Federation Forest Code, other laws relating to forests and an entire set of provisions, rules, instructions and other normative legal instruments for ensuring sustainable forest management in practice. The federal law on guaranteeing the rights of the indigenous small national groups of the Russian Federation, which is designed to ensure the unique nature of the social, economic and cultural development of these peoples and protect their habitat and traditional ways of life, economic management and trades was adopted in 1999. The results of the international negotiation process on forests, which has been actively developing since the Rio Conference, have been exerting a very important influence on the formation of the national forest policy. In recent years, a large number of new-generation documents for ensuring the sustainable development of Russian forests have been adopted. In accordance with the provisions of the Russian Federation Forest Code and corresponding governmental decisions, work had been carried out since 1997 on drafting a schematic plan for the mandatory certification of standing timber and secondary forest resources, which will be a key factor in marketing certified products.

Programmes and Projects: Within the framework of a number of federal target-oriented programmes, a set of forestry, organizational and economic measures is being carried out with the aim of promoting the sustainable management of national forests and fulfilling the Russian Federation's international obligations with regard to environmental protection and the maintenance of biological diversity. At the current time, the following national programmes are in effect in the Russian Federation and developed through coordination of a number of governmental bodies: (i) "Russia's Forests" for the period 1997-2000, designed to reduce the land surface not covered by forest, improve and maintain high-productivity forests and comply with international obligations concerning forests, and covers also the following issues: forest management, forest monitoring, reforestation and forest cultivation, the cutting and care of forests, protecting forests from pests and diseases, water and forest reclamation, road building, organization of State monitoring of forest utilization and the use of scientific and technical methods in forestry; (ii) "Protection of forests from fires for the period 1999-2005" provides for the implementation of a package of measures for preventing the outbreak and spread of forest fires, early detection and suppression of fires at the initial stage, as well as the development and introduction of new technology and equipment for detecting and extinguishing forest fires; (iii) a programme to provide State support for national nature reserves and parks, whose ultimate goal is to be the establishment of a national network of specially protected natural areas; (iv) "Russian Forests" of the scientific and technological programme "Research and development in priority areas of the development of science and technology up to the year 2000" is collating and coordinating research by scientific institutions in studying forest ecosystems and formulating recommendations for organizing sustainable forest management.

Status: The political and economic conditions for forest management changed frequently over the two centuries. Nevertheless, the classical school of forestry and the ongoing work conducted by Russian forestry experts in the rational use and reproduction of forest resources made it possible to conserve the forests of the Russian Federation. The logging industry has continued to decline in recent years owing to the systemic crisis affecting the Russian timber sector. The resulting situation shows that the weakest link in ensuring the sustainable development of the forest sector of the Russian economy is not the ecological component, but rather the socio-economic one. Some paper products in the Russian Federation have traditionally been manufactured by using elements derived from the recycling of paper refuse (waste paper). However, the successful development of these technologies is being impeded by serious investment problems. Since timber has traditionally been widely used in the Russian Federation to manufacture a very broad range of products, discussions or initiatives aimed at promoting the transition to the use of wood products instead of those made from non-renewable materials are not being conducted at the present time. The Russian Federation is making a major effort to solve problems relating to forest fires, which were

indicated in the IPF proposals for action as one of the main causes of deforestation. Forest fires inflict direct economic damage, and significant financial means are expended in fighting them.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: The Russian Federation's criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management constitute a contemporary normative instrument, in accordance with which the national system for certifying forest production is currently being set up. Also measures related to forest fires seem advisable to combine the efforts of countries in creating a single forest-fire monitoring network for forecasting the outbreak of fires early and compiling long-term global forecasts of extreme weather conditions conducive to the outbreak and spread of forest fires in order to ensure timely prevention and take appropriate measures. In view of its geographic location, the Russian Federation has actively participated in two international initiatives on the criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, namely, in the European (Helsinki) and Montreal processes. The national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management are being used in the Russian Federation as a tool for monitoring the implementation of its forest policy. The national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management to a considerable extent correspond to the international lists. Accordingly, defining any specific Russian criterion or indicator or recommending them for use at the international level does not seem to be appropriate. The results of the inventory of the country's forests are published every five years in the Russian Federation. Pressing issues are given broad media coverage (in newspapers, magazines and radio and television programmes).

Research and Technologies: See under **Programmes and Projects**.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) was the first post-Rio forum where discussions on the whole range of forest issues were continued at the intergovernmental level, and the bases for a forest policy for the twenty-first century were laid. The Russian Federation participated actively in the work conducted at its sessions and in the IPF Bureau and is deeply interested in the IPF process because of the globally significant extent of Russian forests, their role in the biosphere and their industrial potential place a great responsibility on the Russian Federation with regard to human civilization for the sustainable development of their national property; and, because sustainable forest management at the global level can be achieved by building a consensus on the ways to settle the numerous forest issues and on the gradual harmonization of national forest policies. The most serious steps taken in implementing the IPF proposals for action were in the following areas: establishment of a legal basis for organizing and regulating forest relations in a market economy; preparation and implementation of coordinated national programmes relating to various aspects of forestry; attracting financial assistance in carrying out projects for sustainable forest utilization; intensification of scientific research into forest ecosystems and improvement of the multifaceted assessment of forest resources, including the formulation of national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management; promoting national forest production for the world timber market and the development of a national forest certification system; participation in the intergovernmental negotiation process to identify the possible elements of a legally binding instrument on all types of forests. The Russian Federation has consistently participated in the intergovernmental consultations on the advisability of drawing up an international legally binding instrument on all types of forests and is in favour of the speedy drafting of a convention on forests, which believes will contribute for: the creation of additional conditions for carrying out existing international treaties relating to various aspects of the sustainable management of forest ecosystems; the need for an objective international assessment of timber management systems; effective monitoring of the sustainable management of all types of forests with account taken of differences in the level of economic development of countries and their forest resources; conservation and sustainable use of the various forest resources; development of the national forest sectors of the States parties.

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CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: A UNEP project on the drafting of a national plan of action to combat desertification in the Kalmyk Republic is being implemented.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: In accordance with an instruction of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 17 October 1995, the Russian Federation is participating in preparatory meetings for the International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. After its entry into force, it will participate in conferences of the parties as an observer. At the same time the relevant ministries and offices and members of the Federation experiencing serious problems of drought and desertification are proceeding with their detailed study of the possibility of Russia's becoming a fully party to the Convention.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: There is a plan to draw up a programme on the sustainable development of Russia's mountain regions, which the possible key components are: improvement of the emplacement of environmentally hazardous substances; support agricultural production in mountain regions; environmental rehabilitation of mountain regions; establishment of a framework of environmental protection in the mountains to support the sustainable development of the region etc.

Status: At no time in its history has Russia had a special State policy for the socio-economic development of its mountain regions. By virtue of the geographical location of 70 per cent of its territory, Russia is a northern country and it has such policies only for the northern indigenous peoples and territories. Some of the republics of the North Caucasus (Dagestan, North Osetiya-Alaniya) carry out their own programmes to support the development of mountain regions, which are generally poor and almost totally dependent on the federal and republic budgets. In the European part of Russia the mountains occupy peripheral positions in relation to the Russian plain, which is the historical and economic centre of the country. The Caucasus mountains (to the south), the Urals (to the east), the Khibiny range (to the north-west), and the polar islands of Novaya Zemlya and Franz Joseph Land frame the plain with a huge semicircle. With regard to the state of the environment and resources and the problems of socio-economic development Russia's mountain regions differ substantially from each other, depending on their geographical location and history of assimilation. The North Caucasus has a "fuller spectrum of problems", typical of many mountain regions in the world. The war in Chechnya and the territorial conflict between the Republics of North Osetiya-Alaniya and Ingushetiya are without doubt the dominating problem of the current socio-economic development of the North Caucasus. This is one of Russia's most acute and complex political problems, deeply rooted in history, and so far found no solution has been found for it. However, the Government of the Russian Federation and the authorities of the Chechen Republic are even now working on plans for the postwar development of Chechnya. For the uninhabited mountains of the high plains (Khibiny range, Novaya Zemlya) and the thinly settled Urals social problems do not have any priority. The main priorities related to problems of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources are: pollution of the atmosphere and surface waters by emissions from industrial enterprises (central Urals, Khibiny); monitoring of the radioactive pollution of groundwater and the countryside as a result of underground nuclear tests (at the Novaya Zemlya nuclear test site and also in the Perm region in the southern Urals, where nuclear tests were carried out from 1969 to 1987); the felling of mountain forests is leading to changes in their structure and species diversity (northern Urals), which are reducing the average annual drainage by up to 10 per cent; emplacement of mining wastes (tips, tailing dumps, etc.); rehabilitation of land and countryside; improvement of the network of specially protected areas.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: The specific features of mountain territories are taken into account in some indicators in the State sectors of the economy.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Government of the Russian Federation and the regional governments and local government authorities in mountain areas are interested in studying the European experience of the development of mountain regions - the Alpine Convention, the Charter of the Mountain Regions of Europe, and mountain policy (Council of Europe).

CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: In order to strengthen State monitoring of the quality of agricultural products, raw materials and food, and to provide high-quality food products to the population and raw materials for production to enterprises in the processing industry, there are plans to strengthen the lines of State management by means of services to ensure the quality of agricultural products, raw materials and food of subjects of the Russian Federation and administrative districts; and to enhance the role of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture as the main federal executive body for the management of the agro-industrial complex and the food supply. In 1997, an interdepartmental commission was established to lead with agricultural issues. The federal legal instruments establish the food security doctrine, which became the basis for formulating and implementing the State food policy, which involves considerations on certifying products and services, protecting consumer rights, control and inspections to ensure the health of the population, the use of pesticides and agro-chemicals, the fulfilment of sanitary and phytosanitary standards, protection of national commodity producers, etc. The legislation concerning water issues is also related to conservation of soil and sources of water from pollution by manure, fertilizers and pesticides. There are also measures on agricultural cooperation, which broaden and strengthen the cooperative sector by organizing agricultural production cooperatives and providing them with State support. The national action plan of the Russia Federation for 1999-2001 provides an integral assessment of environmental problems by regions, defines the environmental aspects of the development of the agro-industrial complex, and summarizes the priority directions for the solution of environmental problems and urgent measures to improve the existing system of environmental protection and use of the natural environment, including measures to help alleviate environmental problems in the agro-industrial complex of the Russian Federation.

Programmes and Projects: The Programme of Stabilization and Development of Agro-Industrial Production for 1996-2000 envisages the creation of the economic preconditions and economic infrastructure for increased production and market activity on the part of agricultural producers. Taking into account the framework for the development of wholesale food markets, a draft federal programme is being finalized, which aims at the creation of a single food area with optimal routes for the movement of nationally produced goods in order to reduce their cost and increase their competitiveness. The solution of environmental problems in the agro-industrial complex is envisaged in programmes for the stabilization and reform of the agro-industrial complex, which provide for a transition to a new generation of agricultural systems (typographical and so forth); technologies for growing agricultural crops (prevention of soil compaction, degradation and erosion, environmental balance, and the safe use of mineral fertilizers and chemical methods of plant protection; and other measures), and other issues on farming, private subsidiary plots and non-commercial markets. There are also programmes, which aim at increasing the fertility of soils, the protection of soils from erosion, the re-cultivation of degraded lands, and the restoration of contaminated land, and the stabilization and development of the agro-industrial production. In order to prevent damage to the agro-industrial complex, special programmes have been drawn up involving issues as: prevention of epizootics, massive attacks on plants by pests, and elimination of their consequences. In order to ensure sustainable development, enhance the effectiveness of the farming and cooperative sectors as an integral part of the mixed agrarian economy and improve the social protection of farmers in a market economy, a programme for the development of farms and cooperatives was adopted.

Status: The years of reform in Russia have seen radical changes in the structure of agriculture, mainly because of the results of widespread privatisation. However, unfavourable developments in general economic conditions at certain stages and the serious financial difficulties, together with the problems of the transitional period in agriculture had an impact on the sector, which manifested itself in particular in a decline in State allocations, the emergence of price disparities for the means of production and for farm output, and a significant decrease in the supply of the means of production. In addition to all this there is the openness of the external market, which has created serious competition for the Russian producer. The beginning of 1998, following the relatively favourable natural conditions of 1997, created a certain basis for the possible stabilization of production and for gradually emerging from the difficult financial situation; subsequently, however, the severe drought which affected a significant portion of the country's agricultural regions, followed by the consequences of the August economic crisis, led to an even greater slump in agro-industrial production. The unfavourable social and economic situation in

agro-industrial production and in the rural social sphere in turn is hampering the rational transformation of institutions and the formation of effective interregional systems. Further stagnation is occurring in the branches of industry, which provide material and technical resources and services to the agro-industrial complex. All of this makes it necessary to elaborate additional measures to overcome the slump, strengthen the financial situation of agricultural and other commodity producers within the agro-industrial complex, and make use of existing opportunities to improve the organization and technology of production. There is a need to enhance market mechanisms and establish a more favourable macroeconomic situation within the agro-industrial complex.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: In the context of the implementation of the agriculture reform implementation support project (ARIS) of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, an information and advisory service is being established, which is intended to play an important role in the establishment of stable agricultural systems ensuring food security. In the K. A. Timiryazev Moscow Academy of Agriculture, a federal centre is in operation for training specialists of the information and advisory service of the agro-industrial complex of the Russian Federation.

Information: A federal farmer information and advisory service, which includes providers of information for the agro-industrial complex through computerized data collection, processing, storage and follow-up is being implemented. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture publishes information concerning agricultural produce markets, statistical information, agricultural press reviews and other information in Internet: <http://www.aris.ru.has>. Farmer information and advisory services were being established Under the World Bank's ARIS Project, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is setting up a Market Information System (MIS), including a system of price monitoring and a data-analysis service, which aims at collecting, processing, preparing and making available to all market players real-time, authoritative information on pricing trends and the current market status of, and forecasts for, the major types of agricultural production and foods. An automated system for processing and providing information within the framework of the World Trade Organization has also been created.

Research and Technologies: Russian agrarian science and production use advanced methodology and modern technologies, which ensure the effectiveness of work to eliminate harmful processes and restore the economic potential of degraded land. Comprehensive protection is ensured through a range of agro-technical, chemical and biological methods, taking into account the economic thresholds of pest harmfulness. The introduction of a comprehensive, integrated system of plant nutrition is making it possible to achieve an almost twofold increase in agricultural productivity compared with traditional methods of growing agricultural crops. Watering equipment and irrigation techniques are being developed as scientific and technical progress is made in a number of areas of agricultural sector, which helps to increase yield, protect the environment, raise labor productivity and reduce material and energy consumption in the watering process.

Financing: The federal budget, budgets of members of the Russian Federation, resources of enterprises and extra-budgetary sources support agricultural activities. Every year the Government earmarks budgetary funds for the payment of subsidies and compensation to support pedigree production in animal breeding.

Cooperation: There are bilateral and multilateral agricultural agreements in the Commonwealth of Independent States - CIS framework. In the context of international trade agreements, particularly the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (art. 20), a great deal of work was done on the estimates of domestic agricultural support measures, the rates of import customs duties, and export subsidies for agricultural and food products. In 1998 revised estimates were sent to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Economy of the Russian Federation, taking into account the content of article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture and the results of the seventh working meeting on accession by the Russian Federation to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Work is being done on justifying the proposals concerning the level of domestic support and export subsidies for agricultural raw materials and food.

CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: On the basis of the decisions of the Russian Government, the relevant federal executive organs make sectoral decisions. An inter-departmental commission on problems of biodiversity, which is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment (now the State Environmental Protection Committee), has been created in order to coordinate activities and prepare governmental decisions on biodiversity. At its meetings this commission has considered a number of questions connected with the drafting of a national strategy on biodiversity, the inclusion of specific measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in sectoral plans, and the establishment of a database. In 1994 the Government of the Russian Federation adopted a special Order specifying the priority measures for fulfilment of obligations under the CITES, taking into account the new situation resulting from the break-up of the USSR. The national legislation is being improved. In recent years bills have been submitted on The Animal World, Regulation of Genetic Engineering, and The Continental Shelf of the Russian Federation.

Programmes and Projects: In 1995 the President confirmed the Programme of Support for State Nature Reserves and National Parks for the Period up to 2000, which provides for the creation of reserves and national parks. In 1995-1996 the Government strengthened the measures for conservation and sustainable use of sites where especially rare and threatened animals are found. Russia is also carrying out a programme on biological diversity and a project on the conservation of biological diversity is being carried out with the support of the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility.

Status: Russia's protected areas are divided into four categories: reserves, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and natural monuments. The national nature parks, which are being created, have many different functions, one of which is the conservation of the biodiversity of the forest, including the diversity of ecosystems and species and genetic diversity. Under the existing legislation national parks are foundations for the conservation of nature, including natural systems and sites of special ecological, historical and aesthetic value designated for use for nature-conservation, recreational, educational, scientific and cultural purposes.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: With the financial support of Switzerland, Germany, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and a number of other organizations, two teaching seminars have been held for the CIS countries, a handbook on the animals included in the CITES annex has been published in Russian, and a popular booklet entitled "Import and export of endangered species of fauna and flora" has been produced and published. Effective cooperation is being established with the customs authorities.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: A biodiversity scientific-coordination centre is being established under the auspices of the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute for Environmental Protection in accordance with a decision of the inter-departmental commission.

Financing: The State budget is the main source of financing. Some expenditure is also covered by overseas investors including, the Global Environment Facility, which has signed an agreement for a grant of US\$ 20.1 million for preserving biodiversity.

Cooperation: Many different activities are being carried out under bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements. The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in 1992 and ratified in 1995. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was signed in 1974 and the latest report was submitted in 1995.

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CHAPTER 16 AND 34: TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, BIOTECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Decision-Making:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: In 1996, the Russian Federation adopted the Federal Act on State Regulation in the Field of Genetic Engineering. The Act covers both basic research and development in the field of genetic engineering and the pilot production of recombinant products and the goal-directed introduction of genetically modified organisms into the environment in order to optimise agrarian processes, for medical purposes, in export and import, the transfer of technologies, and so forth; and it is based on: general principles for ensuring biological safety, declared in international recommendations issued by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Model, Code of Conduct of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and others; and, biotechnological-product-oriented concept for risk evaluation and management and a system, based on that concept, of granting approval for and providing notification of genetic-engineering activities. In 1997, with a view to implementing the Federal Act on State Regulation in the Field of Genetic Engineering, the Government of the Russian Federation established the Inter-Agency Commission on Genetic Engineering (a body similar to the national committees on biological safety recommended by international normative legal instruments, including the Convention on Biological Diversity). Specific targets with particular reference to time-bound targets are: coordination of the development and implementation, on the basis of potential-risk evaluation and management, of a system of granting approval for, and providing notification of, licensing of genetic-engineering activities; ensuring the development by Russian scientists of sector-specific rules for the safe receipt, use and transfer of genetically modified organisms and their parts; providing and improving an infrastructure and monitoring system for ensuring the safety of genetic-engineering activities (including the establishment and registration of local regulatory commissions in all organizations engaged in genetic engineering); ensuring the establishment and maintenance of a centralized data bank in the field of genetic engineering and biological safety (inventory of jobs involving risk levels III and IV); and, coordination of genetic-engineering activities in the Russian Federation as a whole and support for initiatives of national scientific organizations in this field. Mechanisms for the further implementation of the Federal Act on State Regulation in the Field of Genetic Engineering include development of a biological safety infrastructure in the field of genetic engineering and development of a notification and standardization system, and norms for responsibility and compensation. Legislation to protect Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) includes the Federal Act on Information, Information Science and Protection of Information, and the Federal Act on Participation in the International Exchange of Information.

Programmes and Projects:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Status:

Technology: The development of computer telecommunications in Russia using modern equipment and technology with a view to integration in the world information community began in the late 1980s.

Biotechnology: The problem of the environmentally sound use of biotechnology is becoming all the more urgent for Russia in view of the fairly intensive development of biotechnology in the country's scientific institutions, the extension of the range of recombined products used for various purposes, and the need to ensure the safety of transboundary technology transfers and of genetically modified organisms and/or their products. In this connection the creation of a legal and regulatory framework for biodiversity has become an urgent national priority. Further work on Russia's legal and regulatory framework for biotechnology will seek to harmonize it with the existing regulations (at the national and world levels) and with international agreements.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Information:

Technology: Through the Inter-departmental Programme on the Creation of a National Network of Computer Telecommunications for Science and Higher Education, which is under implementation, a national computer network is being built as a local distribution branched system which includes an inter-urban network linking the regional user networks and facilitating the exchange of information among Russian users as well as access to international communications networks.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Technology: At present Russia has two complementary data transfer systems using different technologies - X.25 and TSR/IR. Both these systems have their own areas of application, but for a number of reasons the most popular in the international scientific community is the Internet technology. The programme is designed to establish in Russia the nucleus (cluster) of a future Russian network of the Internet type on the basis of overseas experience. The creation of an efficient system for reciprocal access by the leading national scientific research and academic centres to the information technology resources built up in Russia and abroad (data banks and bases, information systems, super-computers) is a very important component of the measures taken to maintain the capacity of Russia's science and education system and to create favourable conditions for entry into the international scientific community. The national network of computer telecommunications for science and higher education is a logical virtual network composed in most cases of "real" standard computer networks.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Financing:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Cooperation:

Technology: The national computer network will be created with the help of broad international scientific and technological cooperation.

Biotechnology: No information available.

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CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

Decision-Making: In July 1996 the Government of the Russian Federation approved the Convention on Law of the Sea and submitted it to the President for transmission to the State Duma for ratification. The following are responsible for decision-making for oceans and coastal areas: Ministry of Natural Resources of Russian Federation, Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring; Ministry of Science and Technology of Russian Federation, and, State Committee on the Environment of Russian Federation. Relevant legislation for oceans and coastal areas include: the Continental Shelf Law of the Russian Federation, 1995; the Law on Internal Seas, Territorial Seas and Adjacent Zone of the Russian Federation, 1998; the Water Code of the Russian Federation, 1995; the Subsurface Law of the Russian Federation, 1992 with Amendments of 1995. The management, conservation and optimal use of basic resources has also become a new strategic principle of Russia's fisheries policy in order to ensure the sustainable development of its fishing industry and equal opportunities for use of these resources under all forms of ownership.

Programmes and Projects: A federal programme called World Ocean was approved in 1998 and is aimed at the comprehensive approach and co-ordination of the national ministries and agencies activities in respect of seas and oceans. It is supposed to be implemented in 3 stages: (i) the settlement of disputes on marine state boundaries (national security provision; experimental use of marine technology; and, adequate and proved fish and marine products catch for national requirements); (ii) extraction of mineral resources on industrial scale (energy supply of coastal regions and integrated management of coastal zone); (iii) improvement of trade relations and equal opportunities at the international market (new technology large-scale use; national integrated informational system on use of seas and oceans; the expansion of the economic potential of the country through the use of ocean territories; and, equilibrium of economic, ecological and social processes as a result of integrated ocean development). The programme "World Ocean" 1998-2020 includes a Subprogram on Mineral Resources of the Ocean, Arctic and Antarctic prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. The subprogram is aimed at the exploration and the subsequent exploitation of the natural resources base of the continental shelf and the Ocean. It promotes development of the legislative, informational and technological base of the Ocean exploration. By the end of the programme term, the exploitation of oceanic mineral resources will be put into practice. The Integrated Programme on Coastal Zone Management and effective use of natural resources in the region of the Black and Azov Seas for the 1998-2010 was adopted in 1998. There is also an Integrated Programme on Coastal Zone Management in the Region of the Caspian Sea. The Federal Programme for the Development of the Fishing Industry of the Russian Federation up to 2000 ("Ryba") sets out what are basically stabilization measures. This approach is essentially based on genuine State support (budget allocations, grants to meet additional expenditures connected with higher prices of energy, fishing equipment and feedstuffs; organization of preferential tax and credit terms; reduction of customs duties) and on expanded foreign investment to secure an increase in marine catches.

Status: Russia has been always known as a leading maritime nation. Major current uses of the coastal areas in the Russian Federation are mining and oil exploitation. Russia's fishing industry has been facing a period of acute crisis, with a decline in catches and output of food products and, most of important of all, a decrease in the availability of fish products in Russia, something which is unjustified given the shortage of foodstuffs in general and of animal protein in particular. Together with the domestic economic difficulties of Russia's fishing industry, serious new problems have arisen in the international situation. This is primarily a matter of water- resource and fisheries relations with the former republics of the Soviet Union, which are now sovereign. Russia has to solve these extremely complicated and entirely new problems of an international legal and economic nature for the regions of the Caspian, Black and Baltic Seas. Some of the difficulties which Russia's fishing industry is experiencing are specific to itself, but there are many global reasons for the worsening of the situation: decline of basic stocks for valuable traditional products of the industry, together with a drop in catches per unit; overall decline in the economic indicators of the activities of the fleet and shore enterprises; intensification of uncontrolled international fishing on the high seas and, in particular, in the northern Pacific Ocean and Barents Sea; use of

unselective equipment and fishing techniques, etc. Accordingly, Russia has a serious interest in broad international cooperation in the rational exploitation of the bioresources of the world's oceans as a means of checking these negative trends. Priority constraints include the following: changing geopolitical situation and newly established state marine boundaries; aggravating economic situation; increasing international competition for property rights of the Ocean zones and resources; the absence of the mechanism of the interregional and interbranch co-ordination in oceanic projects.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The year 1998 was proclaimed as the International Ocean Year and was marked by a number of events in Russia. Some of these were as follows: participation in the Meeting of the NGO Advisory Committee of Protection of Seas in Stockholm; distribution and signing of individual "My Ocean Charter (Khartya)" (initiated by UNESCO) by a large number of people; Russia has been participated in EXPO-98 devoted to seas and oceans with exposition on scientific research of the oceans and the history of their exploration in Russia; the International Conference "The International Law Problems of the World Ocean" devoted to the International Ocean Year took place in 1998 in Moscow.

Information: At present the information is dispersed between agencies and ministries. Within the framework of the Programme World Ocean, an unified informational system is to be arranged. The system will facilitate access to the specialized information of different ministries and submission of the generalized information for the problems of comprehensive character. It will include the establishment of the bank data on the regulative information. Under its marine research programme, new methods of marine forecasting have been devised and are being brought into operational use; the foundations have been laid for a modern national system for processing marine data, including the use of super-computers; and marine information systems are being developed in the Arctic and Antarctic. Regular Antarctic research activities are continuing, together with work at an extensive network of Antarctic stations located on the ice continent. A water quality-monitoring programme has been in operation for some time now in the territorial waters of the former USSR. A decision has been taken to establish a national reporting centre under the MARPOLMON programme. Russia has a standing programme of data collection, analysis, evaluation and application with a view to rational resource use, including evaluation of the environmental impact of activities affecting coastal and marine regions. Databases are being created for evaluation and rational use of coastal regions and all seas and their resources, and measures are being carried out to support the regular monitoring of the state of the environment of coastal and marine regions. In developing the system of forecasting and other services considerable attention is given to improving the components on the forecasting and detection of dangerous natural phenomena, such as high water levels, storm waves and tidal waves, and to an early-warning and response system for such phenomena. Efforts are being made to combat the effects of the rise in the level of the Caspian Sea. A system is being developed for forecasting the level of the Caspian over various time spans, and it will be capable of predicting erratic changes.

Research and Technologies: The Russian Federation has concluded the latest cycle of research under the federal programme comprehensive research in oceans and seas and in the Arctic and Antarctic, which included the following components: the physical fields of Russia's seas and the oceans, their interaction with the atmosphere, and the forecasting of short-range changes in the ocean climate; the chemical regime of Russia's seas and the oceans, mineral and raw material resources, hydrochemical bases of bioproductivity, and anthropogenic changes in the state of the waters; ecosystem dynamics, and biological structure and resources of Russia's seas and the oceans; the geosphere of oceans and seas; composition, structure, development, forecasting and evaluation of mineral resources; Arctic: natural environment and its sustainability, mineral and biological resources, hydrometeorological forecasting, and climate; Antarctic: natural environment and global change trends; technical ways and means of measurement, collection and processing of environmental data; computer technology; Russia's seas: natural resources and environmental situation; drafting of recommendations on rational use of natural resources; economic, political and legal problems of scientific research on and use of the space and resources of the world's oceans (especially Russia's sea space), the Arctic and Antarctic, and measures to maintain their environmental security.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: In connection with its marine activities and use of marine resources Russia is extensively engaged in international work under the auspices of the United Nations and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and in bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In this connection the Russian Federation: participates in scientific research on and observation of the marine environment, and conducts an active exchange of data and information resulting from scientific research and systematic observation through a network of world, regional and national centres. The Russian Federation is helping to strengthen international cooperation for the protection and rational use of seas and oceans. It is active in the following programmes: the marine aspects of World Weather Watch (World Meteorological Organization WMO); the marine programmes of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), WMO, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations; the marine components of global systems for monitoring climate and droughts and of the Global Ocean Observing System; marine pollution monitoring programmes. Great importance is attached to expanding regional cooperation in the Black and Azov Seas and in the Caspian, Baltic, Japan and Bering Seas. Other matters of fundamental importance for the Russian Federation are the forthcoming use of the northern sea route by international shipping and international cooperation in the Russian sector of the Arctic. Fisheries cooperation with neighbouring countries with which Russia is linked by long-term common interests, primarily the optimal use and conservation of common or interlinked fish stocks, must of course be conducted under strict State control regardless of the form of ownership of the vessels authorized to fish or conduct research operations. This approach is consistent with the responsibility of a State for conservation of natural resources in the interests of present and future generations and its responsibility for the activities of vessels flying its flag. Another State responsibility is the very important aspect of international activity represented by Russia's active participation in the work of existing and international fisheries organizations and others, which are coming into being. Russia welcomes in particular the adoption of two new complementary instruments, the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, in the drafting of which it took an active part. This represents a contribution by the world's fishing community to the implementation of Agenda 21. The Russian Federation is party to the following related Conventions: Convention on the Protection of the Baltic Sea area, Helsinki, ratified in 1992; Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, Bucharest, ratified in 1993; United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Montego Bay, ratified in 1982; International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) (1973), as amended by Protocol (1978), ratified in 1983; Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries, ratified in 1982; Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. Canberra; Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean, Reykjavik.

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CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The State management of water resources and the water industry is the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources, which carries out the functions of State client for the conduct of project and construction work in the area of water management; organizes the use of large water reservoirs, integrated-use water-management systems, and protective hydraulic engineering; and disseminates information on water management and the use, protection and restoration of water resources and water bodies. The water resources management system is organized according to basins and administrative subdivisions. The legal and regulatory framework for water resource management and development includes a number of legal instruments concerning various issues such as: protection of the natural environment; specially protected natural territories; water code; safety of hydraulic engineering structures; protection of the natural resources of the territorial waters, continental shelf and economic zone; ratification of the procedure for developing and approving environmental standards for the discharge and disposal of pollutants into the natural environment, limits on the use of natural resources and the disposal of waste; ratification of the procedure for payment, and the maximum amount of charges, for pollution of the natural environment, disposal of waste and other activities that harm the environment; urgent measures to ensure drinking-water supply; development, coordination, State assessment, approval and implementation of plans for the comprehensive use and protection of water resources; conduct of State water inventory; approval of the Statute on Water Conservation Areas of Water Bodies and Their Littoral Protective Zones; procedure for developing and approving standards for maximum allowable harmful effects on water bodies, etc. Russia's fundamental Water Management Policy consists of the rehabilitation and maintenance of natural water sources in a stable state in order to guarantee a sustainable supply. The basis of this policy is the restoration and maintenance in stable condition of natural water bodies, with a view to ensuring the sustainable development of water supply for the population and the industrial and agricultural sectors. Decisions have been taken related a different considerations: approval of the Statute on the Procedure for Collecting Higher Payments from Enterprises, Associations and Organizations for Exceeding the Norms for the Disposal of Industrial Water-Borne Waste into the Sewerage Systems of Populated Areas; temporary minimum charges for the right to exploit mineral resources; and procedure and conditions for collecting payment for the right to exploit mineral resources, water areas and areas of the seabed; and, legally binding acts on payment for water and the application of charges for water. The Plan of Action of the Government of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection and Resource Management for 1996-1997 has been approved, and interested ministries and agencies and local government bodies are taking part in its implementation.

Programmes and Projects: The Government of the Russian Federation has adopted the programme Drinking water for the population of the Russian Federation. In addition, special programmes are: Rebirth of the Volga, The Caspian, Drinking Water Supply for Russia's People, Flood-prevention Measures, Fundamental Improvement of Water Management and the Environmental Situation in the River Tom Basin, and Improvement of the Quality of Moscow's Drinking Water Supply, among others. At the federal level, every year measures are developed and taken to overcome the consequences of floods and droughts; in particular, the programme, Protection of cities, populated areas, national economic installations and valuable lands in the territory of the Russian Federation from flooding and water logging. Draft programmes have been prepared on the supply of water to household and business consumers and on the rational use, protection and rehabilitation of water resources and natural sources.

Status: Owing to the poor quality of water from these sources and a number of other reasons, the country's existing system of drinking water supply is in a critical situation. There is a lack of necessary purification equipment what cannot guarantee totally decontaminated and purified water; many withdrawal facilities (one in four) are not surrounded by protection zones, and where such zones do exist, they mostly violate the existing regulations. The pollution of natural sources and the drinking water supply owing to inadequate filtration and purification equipment means that the drinking water delivered to the consumer is of poor quality and constitutes a serious threat to human health in many regions of Russia, contributing to a high level of intestinal infections and hepatitis and to an increased risk of carcinogenic and mutagenic factors affecting the human organism. According to official figures,

half the inhabitants of the Russian Federation have to use drinking water which does not meet a number of hygiene standards, almost a third of the country's population uses local sources of supply without appropriate treatment, and a number of regions suffer from a shortage of drinking water and from associated hygiene and sanitation problems. Water resources are administered and water management is carried out in the following areas: development of State target-oriented programmes for providing water for the population and the national economy, and restoration of water bodies; implementation of flood-control measures and measures to combat the harmful effects of water; establishment of limits on water consumption and water removal for river basins and territories; issuance of licences to use water bodies and permits to conduct work on water bodies; development of plans for the comprehensive use and conservation of the water resources of river basins; interregional distribution and redistribution of water resources; State monitoring of the use and protection of water resources and water bodies; regulation of water-management regimes (control of high water and flood water, reduction of damage during periods of low water); prevention and elimination of accidental water pollution; collection of payment for the use of water resources; construction of integrated-use water reservoirs; drafting of agreements on the water management of basins, and monitoring of the effectiveness of measures carried out; and monitoring of agreements on transboundary waters. In the agricultural sector, measures are being taken to improve and monitor agrotechnical methods of crop cultivation with a view to preventing the introduction of pesticides and herbicides into water bodies. In the industrial sector, local waste treatment is being intensified and closed systems of water use are being introduced to reduce the volume of pollutants, entering water bodies, and ensuring the sound use of water resources. In the household sector, a series of measures is being taken to achieve the operation of each treatment plant in a project mode, construct facilities for add-on waste treatment, and limit the intake of water-borne wastes.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Information on water management is collected mainly from State monitoring of water bodies and the State water inventory. The monitoring system provides for such functions as: monitoring of the condition of water bodies; collection, storage and processing of data from such monitoring; creation and maintenance of data banks; assessing the current condition of water bodies and predicting changes in them; provision of information to users; and preparation of recommendations on water management. In 1996, the Government adopted a decision on the conduct of the State inventory of the Russian Federation, which provides for the continued conduct of the State water inventory, including data on water bodies, their resources and use, and water users.

Research and Technologies: Water quality is measured according the systematic instructions, "Monitoring methods. Methods for the sanitary microbiological analysis of drinking water," and covered by the following standards about water quality of ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and of the State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Inspection of the Russian Federation. In order to improve the technical and technological levels of water management, work is being conducted in such areas as: development of energy- and resource-conserving technologies for preventing pollution of natural waters and rehabilitation of water-body ecosystems; development of new structures, devices, equipment and computer complexes in order to ensure safe, guaranteed and controlled water consumption; improvement of methods for monitoring water bodies; development of the scientific base and creation of technologies and the technical means for protecting water bodies from pollution by surface drainage from territories; and creation of an economic water-management mechanism that conforms to market conditions and allows for adequate financing of water-management activities.

Financing: Financing of measures concerning the use and protection of fresh water sources is provided by: the federal budget (18 per cent), the budgets of members of the Federation (16 per cent), local budgets (18 per cent), resources of enterprises (60 per cent), environmental funds and other sources (5 per cent).

Cooperation: The Russian Federation borders on 14 States, and it uses transboundary water bodies jointly with all those States. Water relations with neighbouring States are regulated on the basis of agreements between States on cooperation in the field of management and conservation of transboundary waters, as well as on the basis of international conventions, as follows: Agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Republic of Finland concerning the Boundaries of Sea Areas and of the Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Finland (1965); Helsinki Rules on the Uses of the Waters of International Rivers

(1966); Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Water Bodies (1992); Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Ukraine on Joint Use and Protection of Transboundary Water Bodies (1992); Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Protection, Regulation and Reproduction of Living Water Resources in the Frontier Waters of the Amur and Ussuri Rivers (1994); Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Estonia on Cooperation in the Field of Conservation of Transboundary Watercourses (1997); Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Conservation of Transboundary Watercourses (1997); Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter ("London Convention", 1972); Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (1974); Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution ("Bucharest Convention", 1992); and Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992).

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CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Activities connected with the environmental monitoring of the handling of waste products encompass everything connected with the generation, collection, storage, processing, transport and disposal of industrial and consumer wastes.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: Inventories have been made or are being made of sites for the storage or disposal of industrial and consumer wastes in the Republic of Mordovia and in the Kaliningrad, Kostroma, Ivanovsk, Volgograd, Novosibirsk and Astrakhan regions and the Altai area, as well as in a number of other parts of Russia. These inventories will facilitate the systematic treatment of information on sites for storage or disposal of wastes, determination of the types of wastes accumulated at these sites, including by category of risk, and evaluation of the conditions and situation at the sites and the degree of their impact on the environment.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC

Decision-Making:

Hazardous Wastes: Russia still needs to develop the legal and regulatory framework, and investment measures for treatment and use of wastes. The drafting of an effective State policy for waste management has not been completed. The transition to a market economy has not led to any increase in the reprocessing of wastes. Questions of the transboundary movement of wastes in the Russian Federation are regulated by the following legislation: the federal law on ratification of the Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Governmental Order No. 670 of 1 July 1995 on Priority Measures for Implementation of the Federal Law on the Ratification of the Basel Convention; Governmental Order No. 766 of 1 July 1996 on State Regulation and Monitoring of Transboundary Movements of Wastes and Their Disposal.

Solid Wastes: Russia's national priority is the development of the legal and regulatory framework, and investment measures for the treatment and use of wastes. The Government of Russian Federation produced a draft federal law on industrial and consumer wastes. One aim is to establish a standardized regional system for the management of the handling of industrial and consumer wastes and the improvement, development and application of regulatory and methodological instruments in this area in 1995-1996. The Ministry of the Environment is carrying out an experiment in the handling of hazardous industrial and consumer wastes, which has been developed at a number of regions of the country. One aspect of the experiment is the development of a system of regulatory instruments on the handling of wastes.

Radioactive Wastes: Over recent years the Ministry of the Environment and other relevant ministries and offices have been continuing their work on the amendment and completion of the State register of places and sites of generation, movement, reprocessing, use, storage and disposal of radioactive materials and wastes which are sources of ionising radiation.

Programmes and Projects:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: The Government of the Russian Federation has confirmed a Special-purpose Federal Programme (Wastes) and also a number of federal and regional programmes aim at the implementation of pilot projects to solve the problem of wastes in the Russian Federation.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Status:

Hazardous Wastes: The situation in Russia with regard to the generation, use, treatment, storage and disposal of wastes is leading to dangerous pollution of the environment, irrational use of natural resources and considerable economic damage, and represents a real threat to human health. The accumulation of toxic wastes at dumps and tips is causing particular alarm.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: The presence of surface storage reservoirs for liquid wastes results in the penetration of radioactive substances into the groundwater. It is possible that waters will penetrate into other water-bearing structures and deliver radionuclides into the hydrographic system. Radioactive wastes are also generated by the operation of nuclear research reactors and the use of radionuclides in medicine, industry, agriculture and scientific research. The producers of wastes in this category are Russia's numerous scientific research organizations, industrial enterprises, medical and teaching institutions, which are mostly located in regions of high population density. For the disposal of such wastes Russia has 16 radioactive waste disposal facilities. Since 1963 84 low-yield underground nuclear explosions have been carried out in various regions of the country at the request of the Ministry of Geology of the USSR, the Ministry of Petroleum of the USSR and the Ministry of Gas of the USSR in order to create underground storage capacity, extinguish fires at gas wells, increase oil production, and conduct soundings of the earth's crust for the purpose of large-scale mineral prospecting. The majority of these sites has fulfilled their purpose and can now be regarded as closed, but some sites are still being operated or are only temporarily closed. The land in these areas requires careful investigation and, if necessary, rehabilitation. This work

is not being carried out either, owing to the lack of financing. The storage facilities for the spent fuel of the joint-stock company Murmansk Merchant Shipping are completely full. The same is true of the shore-based and floating storage facilities for the spent nuclear fuel of the Russian Navy. The floating facilities are in theory and in practice obsolete and owing to their poor operational order they are unable fully to perform the functions required of them. Murmansk Merchant Shipping has experimental industrial plant for the treatment of liquid radioactive wastes, which can reprocess not only the liquid wastes generated by the ice-breaking fleet but also the wastes produced by the Navy. Enterprises of Minatom (atomic energy ministry), where most of Russia's radiochemical production is concentrated remain potential sources of radioactive pollution of adjoining land. One source of particular concern is the concentration of medium- and low-level liquid wastes in open radioactive waste storage reservoirs at these enterprises. At present none of Russia's nuclear power stations has a full complement of equipment for the preparation of solid and liquid radioactive wastes for disposal. One of the most serious shortcomings remains the failure to solve problems connected with the operation of nuclear submarines, the management of radioactive wastes and spent nuclear fuel at Russia's naval stations, and the operation of the nuclear ice-breaking fleet.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Information:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: As well as creating a standardized system of waste management at the regional level, the intention is to prepare proposals for the establishment of the computerized information and data base necessary for the taking of decisions on improvement of the environmental situation with respect to the handling of wastes, develop a standardized organizational structure, and expand cooperation in waste management at the federal and regional levels.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: With the exception of the Moscow facility, which has a developed infrastructure including a scientific research and experimental complex working on the development and introduction of new technologies for the reprocessing of radioactive wastes and on environmental techniques and systems, the equipment and technology in use at these sites is not up to modern standards, and their storage capacity is either exhausted or extremely limited. A number of the facilities require new sites for the disposal of wastes. Questions of the funding of these facilities and their activities have not yet been resolved. The radioactive waste disposal facilities are also responsible for the reception and isolation of wastes resulting not from the nuclear fuel cycle but from accidents in operations involving sources of ionising radiation or radioactive materials. Their technical management is the responsibility of the Moscow scientific production combine Radon. The system for control of the whole process of radio-isotope production in the country is not perfect, so that not all spent sources of ionising radiation reach the disposal facilities, and instances of their uncontrolled release into the environment occur.

Financing:

Hazardous Wastes: The Wastes programme provides for the funding of measures costing a total of about 1,000 billion roubles for the disposal of hazardous wastes.

Solid Wastes: The Wastes programme provides for the funding of measures costing about 2,000 billion roubles for the disposal of solid wastes.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Cooperation:

Hazardous Wastes: The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was signed in 1989 and ratified in 1994. The latest information was provided to the Basel

Convention Secretariat in 1996. The CIS countries have signed an agreement on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. Under this agreement the parties will implement agreed measures to regulate the import of wastes into each of their territories and the transit through their territories of hazardous or other wastes. A regional centre for study and transfer of technology has been established.

Solid Wastes: The CIS countries have signed an agreement on control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

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CHAPTER 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: Decision-Making: The Government has recently drawn up a number of State programmes and drafted laws to improve the status of women and expand the involvement of public organizations, including women's organizations, in the decision-making process. Policies and strategies are being drawn up for achievement of equality in all aspects of society. Status: Although the representation of women in Government, Parliament and managerial posts is still insufficient, there has been a considerable increase in the activity of women's organizations. Machinery is being developed to accord greater attention to the interests of women in State sustainable development policy and to assess implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women. Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Curricula and educational material are being revised with a view to promoting dissemination of gender-relevant knowledge. Financing: The shortage of funds for the implementation of State programmes often obstructs measures designed to improve the status of women, with a resulting increase of unemployment amongst women, deterioration of the health system, etc. Cooperation: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was signed on 17 July 1980 and ratified on 19 December 1980 by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (in force for the Russian Federation as the successor State of the USSR).

Children and Youth: Decision-Making: A State committee on youth affairs has been created and it is making some efforts to increase the involvement of young people in the State decision-making process. However, there was hardly any representation of youth in the State Commission of the Russian Federation to Develop the Concept of Sustainable Development, and there has been little involvement of young people in the discussion of many State documents relating to the environment and sustainable development. Programmes and Projects: The Government adopted the Youth of Russia and Children of Russia programmes. Status: Over the past five years activities have been carried out to improve the situation of young people and develop a dialogue between youth organizations and the Government. Among the most important for youth issues are: Young People for the Environment and Sustainable Development and Youth Inter-Week. Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The goal of ensuring that by year 2000 more than 50% of youth, gender balanced, have access to appropriate secondary education or vocational training has been reached. There is a desire for cooperation on the part both of the State and of youth organizations, so that there is some justification for thinking that such cooperation will be developed in the future.

Indigenous People: Decision-Making: Indigenous people participate in national policies as advisors. In recent years a legislative framework has been created for more active participation of indigenous peoples in the taking of decisions affecting the development of their lands. However, only time will tell how this legislation will be implemented in practice. Programmes and Projects: The post-Rio period has seen the development of State programmes to improve the lives of indigenous peoples, for example the programme Economic and Social Development of the Indigenous Peoples of the North up to 2000. The indigenous peoples inhabiting this territory were actively involved in the programme's development. The Association of Indigenous and Minority Peoples of the North was given consultative status in the State Committee on Questions of the North. With the support of the Russian Government this Association has become a permanent participant in the Arctic Council. However, the legislation and programmes involved in resource management strategies at the national and local level are not yet sufficiently.

Non-governmental Organizations: Decision-Making: There is no permanent machinery for dialogue, although some efforts are being made. A consultative council of NGO leaders has been set up under the Ministry of the Environment, and NGO representatives are sometimes included in official delegations to major international negotiations and in State commissions drafting important documents connected with sustainable development. Status: Recent years have seen the adoption of a number of laws, which will enable NGOs to play a more active role in the decision-making process. NGO activity has increased noticeably since Rio, and in society at large and in State organs there is a steadily growing realization of the importance of the NGO role in achieving sustainable development. The development of a dialogue and cooperation between State organs and NGOs is proceeding, but not yet on a systematic basis. The Russian Federation assumes that the lack of supplementary legislation and the

lack of democratic traditions in society, as well as the defects of the system for dissemination of information, impede the more active involvement of NGOs in the decision-making process.

Local Authorities: Decision-Making: In the post-Rio period there has been much discussion in Russia of questions of sustainable development, and the Concept of Russia's transition to sustainable development has been established. The content of this Concept is taken into account in the development of national, local and regional plans for socio-economic development and in the adoption of economic and other decisions at all levels. Individual sustainable development plans are being drawn up in a number of regions. The State provides methodological support, developing the strategy for Russia's transition to sustainable development. The Government support local agenda 21 initiatives but very weakly. Cooperation: At present virtually all regions are developing local plans for sustainable development, and some of them are receiving assistance from international or overseas organizations, World Bank, United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Workers and Trade Unions: Status: In the post-UNCED period workers' trade unions have begun to take a more active part in Agenda 21 implementation. However, the country's serious economic problems (unemployment, inflation, late payment of wages, decline of workers' living standards) mean that the problems of sustainable development are relegated to the background. Cooperation: Relevant ILO Conventions have been ratified

Business and Industry: Decision-Making: State policies on reuse, recycling, and reduction of waste are in the development stage. Status: Since Rio (1992), leading businessmen have begun to take a greater interest in the development of State sustainable development policy and have themselves begun to take initiatives to air the principles of sustainable development in business circles. A few large- and small- and medium-sized enterprises have adopted sustainable development policies. However, although UNCED brought about some increase in the interest of business in problems of the environment and sustainable development, the economic crisis and the decline in industrial activity have confronted most enterprises with the problem of survival, so that the problems of the environment and sustainable development are not yet priorities for them. Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: A number of conferences have been held, including a special section on business and the environment at the All-Union Congress on Environmental Protection. Publicity is given to positive examples in this area and a number of other publications have been issued, including Russian Green Pages containing information about companies, which are actually taking environmental considerations into account in their production processes or are facilitating the solution of environmental problems by other means.

Scientific and Technological Community: Status: Some efforts are being made at developing, improving and promoting international acceptance of codes of practice and guidelines related to science and technology and its role in reconciling environment and development (in particular, a number of conferences have been held). Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Although on the whole society's awareness of the importance of the problems of protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development is still not sufficient, by means of the kinds of activity mentioned above, scientific and technical circles have been promoting the dissemination of these ideas among the general public and decision-makers, and this activity has facilitated Russia's transition to sustainable development. There is some effort in improving the exchange of knowledge and concerns between the scientific and technological community and the general public. A number of popular publications have been produced, articles have been published in the mass information media, and conferences and seminars have been held, in particular for young people.

Farmers: Status: Farmers take little part in the development of sustainable development policies. Despite the fact that farmers' associations and State organs have done some work on the dissemination of information about the sustainable development of agriculture, this has not been enough to motivate farmers to make rational use of natural resources and introduce efficient farming practices.

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CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under the heading **Financing** in the various chapters of this Profile. However, you will find below some specific data about financing and sustainable development in the Russian Federation.

Decision-Making: Monitoring of the condition of the environment, use of natural resources, and atmospheric pollution, and the solution of other environmental protection problems are the responsibility of the State Environmental Protection Committee, the Federal Forestry Service, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the federal hydrometeorology and cartography services. A new version of the basic regulatory and normative document "Instructional and methodical recommendations for the collection of payment for pollution of the natural environment" has been prepared. A federal coefficient for indexing payments (for 1997) to up to 42 times the base standard amount of payment has been developed, approved and brought to the attention of local territorial executive government organs and environmental protection bodies. In addition, "Recommendations for determining maximum charges for pollution of the environment" have been prepared and approved while new proposals on the inclusion of a separate section in the Tax Code of the Russian Federation, entitled "Environmental taxes", have been prepared. The relevant expenditures are identified in a separate section of the federal budget entitled Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, Hydrometeorology, Cartography and Geodesy. These resources are related to State environmental monitoring activities, organization and maintenance of reserves and national parks under the special-purpose federal programme of support for State nature reserves and national parks up to 2000, and implementation of the special-purpose programmes on Russia's forests and protection of forests against fires.

Programmes and Projects: The federal budget provides resources for implementation of special-purpose federal programmes concerning the improvement of the environment in specific regions and cities of the Russian Federation (Programme for Improvement of the Environmental Situation and Protection of Human Health in the Tula Region for 1993-1998; Programme of Urgent Measures to Improve the State of the Environment, the Public Health Situation and Human Health in Bratsk, Irkutsk Region; Comprehensive Federal Programme on the Protection of Lake Baikal and Rational Use of the Natural Resources of its Basin, etc.).

Status: At present expenditures under the federal budget are presented by ministries and offices in accordance with the budget classification. The expenditures on environmental protection measures are also indicated, as part of their total expenditures. The federal budget makes allocations aiming at the implementation of the programme on the development of the hydrometeorological services of the national economy in 1994, 1995 and up to 2000, which covers the provision of hydrometeorological services for the national economy and the public, the defence of the Russian Federation, hydrometeorological monitoring and the provision of information to the national economy about the emergence of dangerous natural hydrometeorological phenomena. The federal budget allocates resources for topographical-geodesic and cartographic work, remote sounding of the earth, the demarcation of the frontiers of the Russian Federation and the correct use of geographical names, and also for the implementation of the programmes on development of seismological observations and forecasting of earthquakes for 1995-2000 and for the introduction of advanced technology in the cartographic and geodesic services of the Russian Federation. Provision is made for use of the resources of the Federal Environment Fund, which have been incorporated in the federal budget since 1995, to finance additional measures for the construction and re-equipment of environmental protection facilities, the conduct of scientific research and design work connected with the environment, and the preservation of natural resources. Allocations are also made for coastal-protection and flood-prevention works, repair of dams, dredging of river deltas, cleaning of reservoirs, and maintenance of pumping stations and hydrological installations, and for other measures connected with the maintenance, protection and rehabilitation of natural water sources and for the maintenance by these means of a good-quality water supply for household and business consumers.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The work of both the Government Commission on the Environment and Resource Management and the Government Commission on Policy in the Field of Science and Technology has application for the science sector. The Government of the Russian Federation has prepared and approved a draft Concept for Reforming Russian Science for the Period 1998-2000. The implementation of the Concept will make it possible to create a mobile, dynamic scientific and technical complex capable of meeting the demands of the times. In accordance with the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation on State support for the development of science and scientific and technical products (1995), the decision of the Government Commission on Policy in the Field of Science and Technology and the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on a Doctrine for the Development of Russian Science (1996), priority areas for the development of science and technology, as well as a list of critical technologies at the federal level, have been developed and approved, taking into account the sustainable development of the Russian Federation.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: A substantial expansion of the infrastructure of the National Network of Computer Telecommunications for Science and Education has been recently verified. Thus, the number of regions whose scientific and educational organizations gained access to the network of high-speed computer communications channels increased threefold. In accordance with a decision of the Government of the Russian Federation, work is being carried out with the Soros Foundation to link 32 regional universities to the Internet. The infrastructure created under the inter-agency programme is being used for this purpose. In Moscow, a fibre-optical support network with an information-transfer rate of 100 megabits/second has been set up; over 50 leading scientific educational organizations, as well as academic towns in the Moscow region, have links to that network. Within the framework of the National Network, a number of international computer channels through, inter alia, Hamburg, Munich, Bonn and Helsinki have been established for access to European academic networks and the Internet. An agreement has been reached on linking the Russian scientific and educational network (Rbnet) to the American super-high-speed VDNS research net, which is the prototype and scientific "testing ground" for Internet-2.

Information: See under **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising**.

Research and Technologies: Research specifically related to water management includes the following federal target-oriented programmes: Drinking Water for the Population of the Russian Federation; Protection of Cities, Populated Areas, National Economic Installations and Valuable Lands in the Territory of the Russian Federation from Flooding and Waterlogging (Flood-control measures); Comprehensive Management of the Coastal Zones of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov and Adjacent Territories; Improvement of Environmental Conditions in the Baltic Sea Basin. The implementation of this programme is the responsibility of the scientific research establishments that are part of the system of the federal executive bodies and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Financing: Research is funded from the federal budget (in 1997, allocations under the section Basic research and support for scientific and technical progress amounted to 11,290 billion roubles), budgets of the subjects of the Russian Federation and extra budgetary funds.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Decision-Making: The Ministry of General and vocational Education of the Russian Federation has practically completed its work on a new generation of instructional materials that include, on a compulsory basis, questions relating to sustainable development of the Russian Federation. In some regions of the Russian Federation, in institutions providing basic and supplementary education, sustainable development centres (departments) have been established with a view to educating and providing information to the population at the regional level. The Inter-departmental Council on Public Environmental Education, which has been approved by the President, coordinates this work. The Russian Federation's State Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Strategy provides for the creation of an effective system of environmental education and the expansion of activities in the fields of information and education.

Programmes and Projects: In accordance with the decision of the Government of the Russian Federation on measures to improve the environmental education of the population (1994), the Inter-Agency Commission for the Environmental Education of the Population prepared a draft federal target oriented programme, entitled Environmental Education of the Population of the Russian Federation, which is currently in the approval stage.

Status: Educational standards at all levels of education include the study of problems relating to the sustainable development of the Russian Federation and the international community. There is an established essential minimum of knowledge, skills and experience that each student must acquire at the respective level of the educational system. In the context of the emerging Concept of Russia's Sustainable Development, the system for promoting public awareness of matters of sustainable development is undergoing change. Teaching programmes have been created, textbooks are being produced, and arrangements are being made for the training of teachers in this subject. Public environmental organizations of the Russia Federation participate actively in the preparation and conduct of mass events devoted to the protection of water resources (Clean Water, Source, Water Day and others).

Information: Public information on matters of sustainable development is provided under the leadership and coordination of the State Environmental Protection Committee. The problems of sustainable development are now regularly aired by the mass information media and are being extensively incorporated in further education curricula.

Research and Technologies: the Water on earth competition of educational and research projects on the environment, which was the initiative of a public organization, the Association for Education in chemistry, and supported by environmental protection agencies, was held in 1994 and 1995. The competition was continued in a number of regions of the Russian Federation; for example, the Republic of Bashkortostan held the Clean Water competition; Dagestan held the Life for Small Waters competition, and Novosibirsk region held a competition of projects entitled A Clean Ob River.

Financing: Funding for the work of re-educating the public in the problems of sustainable development is provided from the resources of the State budget and international programmes.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 2 or under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.

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CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile. However, you will find below a list of the main International Legal Instruments.

Under the auspices of international legal instruments the Russian Federation is working on the implementation of more than 20 agreements. The priority in this area of activity is fulfilment of Russia's obligations under the following international instruments:

- Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985) and Montreal Protocol (1987);
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992);
- Convention on Biological Diversity (1992);
- Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989);
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973, CITES);
- Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention, 1992);
- Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (1972);
- Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972);
- Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979);
- Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (HELKOM, 1974);
- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (1991).

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 8 or under the headings **Decision-Making** and **Information** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: National policy or strategy for ecologically sustainable industrial development is an integral part of the Russian Federation's State Sustainable Development Strategy.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development resulted in the business sector's increased interest in environmental and sustainable development problems. In spite of a number of positive examples in this field, the economic crisis and the industrial recession have threatened the existence of most enterprises, and environmental protection and sustainable development are for the time being not priority areas for them. However, since the Rio Conference, progressive representatives of business have become more and more involved in the development of a State policy in the field of sustainable development, and have begun to take the initiative to promote the principles of sustainable development among business circles. The principal threats to human health or the sustainable use of natural resources associated with industrial activity are associated with transport, the metallurgical industry, oil-prospecting and the oil-refining industry, energy (lead pollution, radioactive wastes, sulphuric acid discharges).

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Decision-Making: The State Committee of the Russian Federation for physical culture and tourism is responsible for sustainable tourism at the national level. Local bodies of executive power are also responsible for tourism. The Federal Law, Basis for tourist activity in the Russian Federation, regulates licensing, standardization and state regulation in tourism, certification of tourist product. Control is exerted through the framework of taxation and practices in force. Legislation in this area includes: the Federal Law, On specially preserved nature territories of 14.03.95, and the Federal Law, Basis for tourist activity in the Russian Federation of 24.11.96. There is no national strategy or master plan for sustainable tourism and major groups are not involved in decision-making in this area.

Programmes and Projects: The Russian Federation has developed a Special Federal programme called, Development of tourism in the Russian Federation (Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation 177 of 26.02.96). A tourism development programme for the Lake Baikal region is an example of eco-tourism in the Russian Federation.

Status: Under the Federal Law tourism is one of the priority and developing sector of the Russian economy. For the recent 10 years, the number of Russian citizens travelling abroad as tourists increased approximately 4 times while the number of foreign citizens entering Russia for tourism remained stable. A share of tourism earned revenue is used for the preservation of cultural heritage. At the moment, the primary constraints in this area in Russian Federation are the current economic and social problems.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The ecology travel center, a non-governmental non-profit organization, is involved in awareness activities providing lectures, seminars and organized trips for scientists, students, tourists and other interested groups to the Russian specially preserved nature territories.

Information: The State of Environment in the Russian Federation is available to assist both decision-makers and the tourist industry in promoting sustainable tourism. Mapping and inventorying of nature territories are also taking place. Relevant information is available at the Internet.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Financing is provided through direct budget appropriations for special federal programs and development of tourism, preferential credits, tax and custom incentives, assistance from national and international financial organizations, providing favourable conditions for tourism.

Cooperation: There is obligatory coordination with Local Authorities in promoting tourism. In addition, the Russian Federation cooperates with several inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, for instance Council of Europe, UNESCO, World Nature Protection Union, International Game Hunting and Preservation Council.

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