State of SEIS implementation in 2018 Country Factsheet THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Russian Federation has been making progress in establishing SEIS, through the implementation of the SEIS principles and three pillars: Content, Infrastructure and Cooperation. The Russian Federation participates actively in the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (WGEMA) and the UNECE Joint Task Force (JTF) on Environmental Statistics and Indicators, which support countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in establishing SEIS by 2021. The present document provides an overview of the state of SEIS implementation in the Russian Federation and offers recommendations on how to effectively achieve the SEIS 2021 target.

KEY MESSAGES

Content

- The Russian Federation has achieved progress in making UNECE environmental indicators available and accessible.
- 32 out of 49 (including seven placeholders) UNECE environmental indicators were available in 2018.
- State reports on the state and protection of the environment in the Russian Federation (National Reports, SoERs) are prepared and published annually. From 2013 to the present time, environmental indicators recommended by the UNECE and OECD have been used as a basis for determining eco-efficiency indicators.
- Environmental indicators are used as forecasts for environmental policy targets.

Infrastructure

- A common national platform (Common Interdepartmental System of Statistical Information¹) was established to facilitate access to information, although environmental data is arguably incomplete and is available only in Russian.
- A national list of SDGs indicators was elaborated, and a dedicated section on SDGs indicators is available on the website of the Federal State Statistical Service (Rosstat).

Cooperation

- The Russian Federation shows good cooperation between relevant federal executive authorities.
- Russia actively participates and supports the UNECE indicator-related processes and SEIS projects.
- The President of the Russian Federation signed decree on Strategy for Environmental Security of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025, one of the main objectives of which is to intensify international cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

THE SEVEN SEIS PRINCIPLES² AND STATE OF THEIR APPLICATION IN RUSSIA³

According to the SEIS principles, information should be:

Managed as close as possible to its source

Collected once and shared with others for many purposes

Readily available to easily fulfil reporting obligations

Easily accessible to all users

Accessible to enable comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale and citizen participation Fully available to the general public at the national level in the relevant national language(s) Supported through common free open software standards



fully applied

partially applied

application is limited

¹ Common Interdepartmental System of Statistical Information (<u>CISSI</u>)

² More information on SEIS principles is available at: <u>https://www.eionet.europa.eu/seis/principles</u>.

³ Evaluation is based on expert opinion; there are possible changes or clarifications after discussions with Russian counterparts.

MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION – OVERVIEW

	The Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) 📥 🌢 🔯 💋 📫 🎟 隢
responsible for collecting, producing,	The Federal Service Surveillance Natural Resource Management (Rosprirodnadzor) 📥 🌢 🕮 💆
managing and sharing environmental data and information	The Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring of Russia (Roshydromet) 📥 🌢 🌡 🖄
	The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Minprirody) 🔎 📭 🔁
	The Federal Water Resources Agency (Rosvodresursy) 🤶 🌐
	The Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor)
	The Federal Foresty Agency (Rosleshoz) 💋
	The Federal Agency on Fishing (Rosrybolovstvo) 💋
	The Russian Ministry of Agriculture (Minselkhoz Rossii) 😤 📫 💋
	The Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) ${f m}$
	Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoznadzor) 💋
	Russian Academy of Sciences, NGOs 💻 🖄
Accessibility and	WHERE?: On the <u>State Statistics Service</u> , <u>Common inter-ministerial statistical information system</u> , <u>Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring of Russia</u> , Minprirody websites, websites of the various conventions.
environmental information, data and indicators	In <u>National reports</u> , the Statistical Yearbook (<u>environment</u>), <u>seasonal</u> , <u>monthly and annual</u> <u>bulletins</u> , <u>thematic reports</u> , <u>evaluation reports</u> , <u>environmental reviews</u> , reports by the agencies and ministries (for instance Rospotrebundzor, Rospydromet, etc.)
	In national implementation reports to MEAs (<u>UNFCCC</u> , <u>UNCCD</u> , <u>UNCBD</u> , <u>BRS</u> , <u>Minamata</u> , <u>Joint</u> <u>Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste</u> <u>Management</u> , etc.)
	IN WHAT FORMATS?: Reports (e.g. SoER, including in interactive version), additional information provided, metadata provided, visuals (tables, graphs, maps, diagrams)
	IN WHICH LANGUAGES?: Russian and English (partially)
	UNECE environmental indicators (32 indicators)
Environmental indicators in use	SDGs (there is a potential to use, 90 SDGs' indicators are being developed, including 15 environmental indicators)
	OECD Green Growth indicators (potential needs to be studied)
	Reports to MEAs
air water climate cha	ange 🔤 waste 🖉 biodiversity 🕮 land cover 🔨 soil 🎟 env. statistics 👎 public relations 🖄 information

CONTENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

FROM INDICATOR PRODUCTION TO USE

STATE OF PRODUCTION AND SHARING OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Within the framework of the 2016 UNECE report⁴ on the progress in establishing SEIS, the Russian Federation published most of the UNECE indicators online. The information was located principally on the one platform, presented in both text and visual formats; however, there was no clear contact information, and the indicators were published only in Russian, creating an obstacle to access by international users. Data for the report was collected as part of a desk study conducted between August and December 2015. The following parameters of the quality of indicators were analysed: availability on the internet, updates, methodology used, provided analysis and indication of sources (the results presented below in the table).

⁴ <u>Eight Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, Batumi, Georgia, 8-10 June 2016, Report on progress in establishing the Shared</u> Environmental Information System in support of regular reporting in the pan-European region.

Indicators		U	м	A	S
A. Air pollution and ozone depletion					
A1: Emissions of pollutants into the atmospheric air					
A2: Ambient air quality in urban areas					
A3: Consumption of ozone-depleting substances					
B. Climate change					
B1: Air temperature					
B2: Atmospheric precipitation					
B3: Greenhouse gas emissions					
C. Water				1	
C1: Renewable freshwater resources					
C2: Freshwater abstraction					
C3: Total water use					
C5: Water supply industry and population connected					
C10: BOD and concentration of ammonium in rivers					
C11: Nutrients in freshwater					
C14: Population connected to wastewater treatment					
C15: Wastewater treatment facilities					
C16: Polluted (non-treated) wastewater					
D. Bloalversity					
D1: Protected areas					
D3: Forests and other wooded land					
F Land and soil					
F1: Land uptake					
G. Energy				l	
G1: Final energy consumption					
G2: Total primary energy supply					
I. Waste					
I1: Waste generation					
I2: Management of hazardous waste					
less than 33% 33 to 67%	over 67% of the maximum possible number				

Rating criteria:

I - Availability of data sets in the internet; U - Time of update; M - Conformity with methodological standards; A - Analysis provided; S - Indication of the source of an indicator.

QUALITY OF SEVEN DATA FLOWS BASED ON RUSSIAN SELF-ASSESSMENT (2018)

The Russian Federation has conducted a self-assessment of 7 data flows underpinning 3 UNECE indicators that were selected for the SEIS mid-term review. The mid-term review was based on SEIS Assessment Framework and a questionnaire with 25 questions on quality, aligned with quality criteria used by the UNECE Statistical Division and EEA, and corresponding to three SEIS pillars:

🖽 Relevance 🛛 🚔 Accuracy 🔲 Timeliness and punctuality 🔲 Accessibility 🎹 Clarity 🚿 Comparability 🍼 Institutional and organisational arrangements
Extract: Data Flow - SO ₂ ^a
User feedback is actively collected. Responses to user feedback are provided. Data is used for many purposes (e.g. state reports, yearbooks, regional reporting.). Quality assurance/quality control is applied.
Use the data produced by themselves and by other producers. Data validation is in place. Revision of data is regularly conducted
(due to methodological change, new data, errors and mandated verifications). Data is systematically compared with other sources.
Reports/SoER, additional information provided, metadata provided, visuals. Data is available at:
Quality assurance/guidelines/quality control procedures are applied to data quality management. Information on data quality, methodology, data sources, temporal and geographic coverages, contacts, information on rights, owner, processor is available. Data flow is made available in Russian.
Internationally agreed procedures are applied. The length of the time series is more than ten years.
Federal law "On the environmental protection", Federal law "on atmospheric air protection ", Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on " Strategy of the environmental safety of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025", Decree of the President of the Russian Federation Federation "On national goals and strategic objectives of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2024",
State program of the Russian Federation on "Environmental Protection».

Atmospheric air: The annual average concentrations of SO₂, NO₂ and ground-level ozone (in 11 cities at 21 stations) are regularly measured by Roshydromet in 221 cities (613 stations). For PM₁₀, monitoring is carried out in a limited number of cities, and with breaks in the time series due to methodological change. Data is available for the period of 1987-2017. Reference is made to the organisation responsible for data collection – the Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet). Graphs and diagrams reflecting pollutant concentrations are also available. The information on the website is published in Russian. There is reference to measuring methods and their conformity with international standards in the Roshydromet report⁵ It is linked to policy context and targets. *Areas to improve:* Data is available in Russian only. This creates considerable obstacles to international users in accessing the information.

Water: Data includes the annual average of BOD_5 (biochemical oxygen demand) and the concentration of NH_4 in 1192 water bodies (rivers, canals, streams, lacks, reservoirs) since 1980 until present date, without breaks in time-series. Information is available in the report prepared by the Hydrochemical Institute⁶ and Roshydromet. The report refers to the organisation responsible for the collection of BOD5 and NH4 data – a network of Roshydromet. Information is presented in graphs, maps and diagrams. Data on the website is published in Russian only, with the last update as of 2017. Reference is made to measuring methods.

<u>Areas to improve</u>: Information is not presented in any language other than Russian. There is no conformity of measuring methods with international standards.

Biodiversity: There is data relating to the total territory of protected areas, including the share of protected areas of federal, regional and local importance and their different category of protected areas (state natural reserves and national parks), their shares in total national territory. Information is available from 1991 to the present related to the state natural reserves and national parks, from 2014 - for all federal, regional and local protected areas. Data is presented in graphs and tables, showing area change over time in total and per category. The information is available in Russian and English and is linked to policy context and targets.

<u>Areas to improve</u>: Reference is made to measuring methods. Only some categories of national protected areas are classified according to the IUCN (e.g. natural reserve, national park, wildlife preserve, natural park).

⁵ State of atmospheric pollution in the cities of the Russian Federation in 2017 (<u>Yearbook</u>, 2018, in Russian) provides data that correspond to UNECE environmental indicators.

⁶ Quality of surface water in the Russian Federation in 2017(<u>Yearbook</u>, 2018, in Russian) provides data corresponding to UNECE environmental indicators.

Summary of self-assessment

Regarding seven self-ranked data flows underpinning three environmental indicators, the Russian Federation has reported on a long-time series of continuous water-related datasets since 1980 up to present, for air-related datasets and protected areas since 1991 up to present. The country reported the availability of metadata for the collected datasets, including information relating to data sources and quality. Data flows are disseminated annually. User feedback is actively collected. Datasets are used for many purposes, including for instance a report on the state of the environment, environmental yearbooks and overviews. Quality assurance procedures are in place. Most of the information is available in Russian only, except for the protected areas, for which data is available in Russian and English. Published data is illustrated with diagrams, graphs and maps.

The Russian Federation has ranked its performances at **91.67%** - a very good performance.

USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Use of environmental indicators in environmental assessments, state of the environment reports and other thematic environmental reports or statistical bulletins

The Russian Federation produces no indicator-based environmental reports. However, since 1992, the Russian Federation delivers State report on the state and protection of the environment of the Russian Federation⁷, prepared by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (from 2013 to the present time, environmental indicators recommended by the UNECE and OECD have been used as a basis for determining eco-efficiency indicators); a Statistical Yearbooks on environmental indicators, which are progressively used in visual materials (time-series graphics, tables, maps). Environmental indicators are also linked to environmental policy targets and are used as policy-monitoring tools. In 2017, the Russian President signed an order on "Environmental Protection Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025"⁹, which will assess the level of environmental security with the use of environmental indicators.



*Abbreviations as used in the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators are accessible at https://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html.

⁹ Decree №176 from 19.04.2017 of the President of the Russian Federation on Strategy on Environmental Security of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025. (2017, in Russian)

⁷State-of-the-environment and protection of the environment report (<u>National Report</u>, 2018, in Russian) provides data that corresponds to UNECE environmental indicators.

⁸ Statistical Yearbook "Environmental Protection in Russia", Statistical bulletin "Main indicators of the protection of the environment" (<u>Statistical bulletin</u>, 2018, in Russian)

Use of environmental indicators for reporting on international obligations under MEAs One of the SEIS principles states that environmental information and indicators should be readily available to easily fulfil reporting obligations, including under MEAs. UNECE environmental indicators are used in different formats and to differing extents for national implementation reports under the UNFCCC¹⁰, UNCBD¹¹, UNCCD¹², and the Protocol on Water and Health under the Water Convention¹³. The indicators are also used, to a smaller extent, for reporting on three BRS Conventions¹⁴ and the Minamata Convention.¹⁵



* Abbreviations as used in the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators are accessible at https://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html.

Use of environmental indicators for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Green Growth Russia is actively developing a national set of SDGs indicators in order to measure the progress made towards the achievement of the SDGs. In 2017, the Russian government adopted the national SDGs indicators¹⁶, which included 90 indicators (including 15 environmental indicators). Responsibility of work coordination was assigned to Rosstat. 75 indicators are thus currently being developed, including 14 proxy-type indicators. The development of 15 additional indicators is envisaged for the timeframe 2018-2020. A dedicated section on SDGs' indicators is available on the website of the State Statistics Service¹⁷. While the OECD Green Growth indicators are not being developed in the Russian Federation, the environmental information that Russia is producing and publishing corresponds to some OECD Green Growth indicators.



¹⁰ The Third Biennial Report of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2017, in Russian)

¹¹ The Fifth National Communication of the Russian Federation to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014, in Russian)

¹² National Report of the Russian Federation on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2006, in English)

¹³ The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

¹⁴ <u>The Russian Federation submitted an Electronic Reporting System of the Basel Convention</u> (2016, in English)

¹⁵ International <u>projects</u> under the Minamata convention in the Russian Federation.

¹⁶ Data of the Russian Federation for Sustainable Development Goal indicators (available in English and Russian).

¹⁷ <u>The national web-platform dedicated to the SDGs indicators</u> includes information on the reporting status, related events, the calendar for the publication of data, useful sources and contacts (available in English and Russian)

The potential use of UNECE indicators for the OECD Green Growth indicators in the Russian Federation

- 1. CO_2 productivity (1.1) **
- 2. Energy productivity (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)

3. Material productivity (non-energy) (3.3, 3.4)

- 7. Freshwater resources
- 8. Forest resources

14. Environmentally induced health problems

Climate change: B3* Energy: G3 Agriculture: F2 Waste: I1 Water: C1, C2 Biodiversity: D3 Air: A2, A3

* Abbreviations as used in the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators are accessible at

https://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html.

** Abbreviation as used in the list of OECD Green Growth indicators.

Use of indicators in the pan-European volume of GEO-6¹⁸

The 6th Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-6), produced in 2016 by UNEP and UNECE, covers the Russian use of environmental indicators in the regional context.



^{*} Abbreviations as used in the Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators accessible at https://www.unece.org/env/indicators.html.

¹⁸ United Nations Environment Programme. <u>Global Environment Outlook GEO-6. Assessment for the pan-European region.</u> 2016.

COOPERATION REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEIS

Institutional cooperation and interaction between Federal State Statistics Service and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation and other producers of environmental data are well established. Environmental monitoring and information collection are mainly based on national procedures under the 2002 Federal Law on "Environmental Protection".

The Russian Federation maintains good cooperation at the regional and international levels in the field of statistical data exchange and statistical methodology development. The Federal State Statistics Service of Russia collaborates with more than twenty international and regional organization on statistical data exchange, for instance, with Statistical Division of the United Nations, UNECE, FAO, Economic Commission.

The Russian Federation actively participates in the work of the Commonwealth of Independent States, including the CIS Interstate Environmental Council, for which the Russian Minister for Natural Resources and Environment is chairing the present term. The main role of the Council is to find solutions to environmental issues as well as improving regional environmental cooperation. Russia also takes part in the CIS Interstate Council for Hydrometeorology, focused on the exchange of the data and development of a collective vision on hydrometeorological security. The Russian Federation, in collaboration with the CIS countries, established the North EurAsia Centre (NEACC)¹⁹ to carry out environmental monitoring and to deliver monthly/seasonal forecasts. The Russian Federation also cooperates with the CIS Interstate Statistical Committee, aimed at fostering the exchange of information and harmonisation of statistical methodology with international standards.

The ENPI-SEIS project (2010-2015)²⁰, implemented by the EEA and funded by the EU, was aimed at enhancing the engagement of the countries of the European Neighborhood in regional cooperation. The Russian Federation was involved in this project as a strategic partnership country. In September 2013, the Russian Federation formally opted to leave the project but continued developing its national environmental information system²¹.

¹⁹ The North EurAsia Climate Centre (NEACC).

²⁰ The main achievements and outcomes can be found in the East Region Synthesis report 'Building SEIS with the Eastern Neighborhood'.

²¹ ENPI-SEIS East Region Synthesis Report, Outcome of cooperation, 2010-2014.

The Russian Federation has been making progress in improving the accessibility of UNECE environmental indicators, which are increasingly being published on the websites of national environmental authorities, statistical agencies and open data portals in compliance with the UNECE requirements. National categories of protected areas partly comply with IUCN categories.

Russia has the potential to achieve the 2021 target on UNECE indicators' availability as well as on SEIS implementation.

Russia has elaborated a national list of SDGs. It has the potential to use UNECE environment indicators to monitor the progress under the SDGs. The country does not produce the OECD Green Growth indicators, and such potential should be further addressed and studied. Some UNECE environmental indicators have linkages to the OECD Green Growth indicators.

Annually, the SoER is published on the website of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources for public discussion.

In Russia, not all reports are based on the environmental indicators recommended by UNECE. Though SoER, the Statistical Yearbook (environment) and thematic reports provide sufficient environmental information and data. The reports are complemented with analysis and are well visualised. Documents should include relevant material and case studies, and data should be visually represented. There are connections to economic and policy-linked processes. Continue advancing the production and sharing of environmental indicators in compliance with recommendations of the UNECE WGEMA and the JTF on Environmental Statistics and Indicators;

Continue methodological work on existing and new environmental indicators in order for UNECE environmental indicators to be produced, comparable, available and accessible by 2021;

 Maintain cooperation and interaction between environmental information producers in Russia to achieve full SEIS implementation and comparability;

✓ Use IUCN categories to provide data on protected areas.

 Assess in details and/or promote the use of UNECE environmental indicators to monitor the SDGs progress;

✓ Increase the use of indicators for different purposes and monitoring capacities of the progress on achievement of the SDGs and Green

✓ Strengthen communication and the role of environmental assessments (especially SoER) in policy development and decision-making;

✓Increase the production of indicator-based reports in a reader-friendly manner.

✓ Improve the quality and content of reports according to the international standards.

Most of the reports are available in Russian only, creating obstacles to the access of information by a broader public; Data occasionally is disseminated through several web-platforms. The Russian Federation would benefit from having a unified portal with all environmental indicators in both the national language and English.

Reporting under the MEAs remains one of the main tasks for the Russian Federation. The use of environmental indicators for different purposes, including reporting under the MEAs, should be promoted and strengthened. ✓ Make sure that all produced environmental information is gathered in one place and/or made available in different places in both Russian and English;

✓ Make sure information is up-to-date, and information exchange is in place.

✓ Increase use of the environmental indicators for the preparation of the reports under the MEAs;

✓ Improve the quality of the reports under the MEAs (analytical and visual parts), thematic and geographic coverage;

✓ Make sure all produced reports are available on nationally managed websites in the national language and well presented to a broader public.

Apply new tools and guidelines for the reports.

Abbreviations and Acronyms:

BRS - Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (on waste, chemicals and POPs): Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants Belstat - National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus CIS - Commonwealth of Independent States EEA – European Environment Agency **ENI - European Neighborhood Instrument** ENPI-SEIS project – Projects "Towards a Shared Environmental Information System in the European Neighborhood" EU – European Union Eurostat- European Statistical Office **GEO-6-** Global Environmental Outlook IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature MEA – Multilateral environmental agreement Minamata - Minamata Convention on Mercury OECD – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Roshydromet - Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring Rosstat -The Russian Federal State Statistics Service SEIS – Shared Environmental Information System SoER, National report – State-of-the-environment and protection of the environment report SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNCCD - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification UNCBD - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

About the activity:

Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia have long traditions in the fields of environmental information, assessment and reporting. At the Seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011) the participating ministers decided to establish a regular process of environmental assessment and to develop SEIS across the region to keep the pan-European environment under review. The UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators created a platform for the countries to consolidate the shared vision of how to select gradually, calculate, present and use environmental indicators to communicate factors and trends in the overall state of the environment. The European Environment Agency is supporting SEIS development in the EU Neighbourhood region.

This activity, funded by the Russian Federation, aims to support the actions under the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (EMA) Programme. Moreover, it aims at strengthening national capacities in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia in environmental monitoring and assessment and at enhancing the understanding of ECE member States of environmental data sharing and SEIS establishment.

Acknowledgments:

The country profile on the state of SEIS implementation in the Russian Federation for 2018 was prepared by Ms Ksenia Nechunaeva, a UNECE consultant. Lavinia Giulia Pomarico, a UNECE intern, carried out the editorial work. The UNECE Secretariat provided coordination and overall guidance during the preparation of the country profile. The document was prepared upon the request of the Russian Federation made during the Twentieth session of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 3-4 September 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Sources:

Reporting on Progress in Establishing SEIS in the pan-European Region for the mid-term review and for piloting the SEIS Assessment Framework (Russian self-assessment), February 2018; Report on progress in establishing the Shared Environmental Information System in support of regular reporting in the pan-European region, June 2016; Annual report on the state of the Environment in the Russian Federation, 2017; Decree №176 from 19.04.2017 of the President of the Russian Federation on Strategy on Environmental Security of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2025; Yu. A. Izrael Institute of Global Climate and Ecology; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental of the Russian Federation and the Federal State Statistics Service.

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