

SOIL ATLAS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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Soil is a principal natural resource, crucial to human activities as well as ecological functions. Soil performs a multitude of environmental, economic, social and cultural functions and thus plays a vital role in conserving biodiversity and supporting global environmental systems.

In more than a century since the shaping of modern pedology by the great V.V. Dokuchaev, Russian soil scientists have gained immense information about soils of Russia. Russia – the largest country of the world – encompasses over 11% of the world area of soils. It is exceedingly important in this context that the Faculty of Soil Science of Moscow Lomonosov State University has coordinated the creation of the first “Soil Atlas of the Russian Federation” by bringing together over 70 specialists in soil science and neighboring sciences from 18 institutes. The Atlas composed of nine chapters, consists of about 280 soil and various thematic maps and schematic maps, referenced data, explanatory texts supported by unique pixs.

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8.2. Regions the Russian Federation (Land use maps of 8 federal okrugs on scales of 1:3 – 1:10 M; soil maps of 83 subjects of the Russian Federation on a scale of 1:2.5 M; tables of subjects of the Russian Federation composition of the soil cover and tables of an administrative division of Russia land use pattern for January 1, 2006)

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The Atlas (except the subsection 8.2. “Regions the Russian Federation”) contains maps and schematic maps for all area of Russia on scales of 1:15, 1:30, 1:40 and 1:60 M.

“Soil Atlas of the Russian Federation” provides a comprehensive overview of the current status of soil knowledge in the country. This publication designs to describe and explain importance of soil and land resources to the human live and the human welfare, to appreciate better the contribution of soil to biodiversity, its global ecosystem functions, to focus upon soil protection to ensure future food security and environmental quality.

The Atlas is popular science information publication. All its material is presented in a form that easily allows readers to gain valuable information on soil issues whether they be policy and decision makers, scientists, teachers, students or the general public.

“Soil Atlas of the Russian Federation” will be a worthy addition to cartographic issues which cover nature resources of Russian.