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**Title Russian Environmental Policy in Arctic**

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Theme OTHER - Topics relevant to Arctic Observing

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Abstract - text box

With the acceleration of the global warming process, the Arctic region attracts the attention of many countries, especially Russia. As a historical power, Russia is a dominant force in the North Pole. On the one hand, this is due to the huge potential (minerals, logistics capabilities, biological resources) found in the Russian part of the Arctic. On the other hand, Arctic is an energy, ecological and civilizational reserve of mankind, a virtually untouched part of the planet that requires a reverent and thoughtful attitude to itself. In 2008, Dmitri Medvedev, the former President of the Russian Federation, approved the document that outlining the national interests of the Russian Federation in the Arctic and the solution of the country's socio-economic development problems and it includes the main national interests of Russia such as active usage of energy resources, the protection of the Arctic as a zone of peace and cooperation and the use of the North Sea as a national transport system. Then, on February 8, 2013, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin approved "the Russian Federation's strategy for the development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and the national security up to 2020". This document aims to clarify, complement and embody the provisions of Russia's Arctic state policy adopted in 2008. International cooperation in the Arctic is of great importance for Russian Federation. Thus, Russia can manage its natural resources and infrastructure potential in the Arctic quickly and effectively and provide comfortable conditions for the citizens of the country who is living in this region. The Arctic region is one of the most fragile ecosystems on the planet. It is important to pay special attention to it, because the environmental problems of the Arctic threaten to grow from a regional scale to a global one. On 11 March, 2019 Russia's Natural Resources and Environment Ministry has forwarded the list of 118 potential Arctic projects to the Russian government. The main measures for the implementation of the state policy in the sphere of environmental safety in the Arctic zone of Russia is the establishment of special regimes of nature use and environmental protection, including monitoring of its pollution, reclamation of natural landscapes and disposal of toxic industrial waste. In view of the specific nature of the Arctic, the organization of activities in this region requires the development of environmental policy based on interdisciplinary scientific and international cooperation.

Keywords: Arctic, Russia's Arctic policy, environmental policy, international cooperation