

ATLAS OF DIGITAL GEOECOLOGICAL MAPS OF RUSSIA

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Following disintegration of the former USSR and consequent loss of some traditional mineral sources, an urgent problem of supplying Russia with mineral resources has been posed. This requires the re-evaluation of existing mineral and raw material base and formation of new terrestrial and production complexes. The increasing part in Russia play the information about the environment state and possible hazardous environmental effects arising in the development of new territories. At present time the Russian territory is characterized by substantially varying contamination, damage and depletion of natural resources. Progressing degradation of ecological situation in Russia resulted in formation of ecologically-strained areas with catastrophic environmental conditions. Further industrial development of such regions may result in irreversible environmental changes and ecological catastrophe. All these reasons have required the creation of the atlas of digital geoecological maps which may display most comprehensively the ecological situation in Russia. On conducting the zoning of Russian territory we grouped all environmental indications to 4 blocks: natural settings, unique natural objects, anthropogenous changes and social and economic factors. The 1:5,000,000 computer-generated maps were compiled for all these indications using the quantitative scale in the indication estimation and significance indices. On integrating these maps we produced the summary map of ecological situation as applied for the development of mineral and raw material base of Russia.