




## Russia

Basic Data in a nutshell		
Area	17,075,200 sq km	
Coastline	37,653 km	
Administrative division	47 oblasts, 21 republics, 5 autonomous okrugs, 8 krays, 2 federal cities, and 1 autonomous oblast	
Capital	Moscow	
Population / habitat density	141,377,752 = 8 habitants / sq km	
Population growth rate	-0.484%	
Languages	Russian, many minority languages	
Economy	<u>Agriculture products:</u> grain, sugar beets, sunflower seed, vegetables, fruits; beef, milk <u>Industries:</u> complete range of mining and extractive industries producing coal, oil, gas, chemicals, and metals; all forms of machine building from rolling mills to high-performance aircraft and space vehicles; defense industries including radar, missile production, and advanced electronic components, shipbuilding; road and rail transportation equipment; communications equipment; agricultural machinery, tractors, and construction equipment; electric power generating and transmitting equipment; medical and scientific instruments; consumer durables, textiles, foodstuffs, handicrafts	
Terrain	broad plain with low hills west of Urals; vast coniferous forest and tundra in Siberia; uplands and mountains along southern border regions	
Climate	ranges from steppes in the south through humid continental in much of European Russia; subarctic in Siberia to tundra climate in the polar north; winters vary from cool along Black Sea coast to frigid in Siberia; summers vary from warm in the steppes to cool along Arctic coast	
Natural Resources	wide natural resource base including major deposits of oil, natural gas, coal, and many strategic minerals, timber	
Biodiversity hotspots (according to Conservation International)	Caucasus	
Read more: - CIA World Factbook: <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/</a> - Human Development Reports: <a href="http://www.undp.org">www.undp.org</a> - biodiversity hotspots: <a href="http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx</a> - Library of Congress/Country Study of Russia: <a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/rutoc.html">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/rutoc.html</a>		

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; Biodiversity hotspots of Conservation International)

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(Source: CIA World Factbook)

**Siberia** is vast region constituting almost all of Northern Asia and for the most part currently serving as the massive central and eastern portion of the Russian Federation. Geographically, it includes a large part of the Eurasian Steppe and extends eastward from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, and southward from the Arctic Ocean to the hills of north-central Kazakhstan and the national borders of both Mongolia and China. It makes up about 77% of Russia's territory (13.1m sq km), but only 30% of Russia's population (42.2 m people, 2.7 habitants per sq km). 90% of the siberian population is concentrated on 10% of the territory. Siberia is characterised by an extreme continental climate with long cold winters and short hot summers. The average annual temperature is about 0°C.



Selected indicators of development status	
HDI *)	0.802 (rank 67 of 177)
Life expectancy at birth	<i>male</i> : 59.12 years <i>female</i> : 73.03 years
GDP per capita (UNDP, 2005)	10,845 US\$/year
GDP composition by sector	<p>56,30%      4,60%      39,10%</p> <p>■ agriculture ■ industry □ services</p>
Infant mortality	11.06 deaths/1,000 live births
Adult literacy rate (15 years and older)	99.4%
Population using an improved water source 1990/2004	94% / 97%
Children underweight for age (under age 5)	3%
Population below poverty line (2 US\$/day)	12.1%
Gini-Index for income distribution **)	0.399
Official Development Assistance (ODA)	
Total amount / per capita (UNDP, 2005)	No data available = anchor country
% of ODA in GDP 1990/2005	No data available = anchor country
Read more:	
- Human Development Reports: <a href="http://www.undp.org">www.undp.org</a>	
- UNDP Statistics for Russia: <a href="http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_RUS.html">http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_RUS.html</a>	

(Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2007; CIA World Factbook)

\*) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative index of social development status. The HDI is calculated on the basis of life expectancy, the literacy rate and real purchasing power per capita. The HDI is expressed as a value between 1 (high) and 0 (low)

\*\*\*) The Gini coefficient is a measure of personal income distribution within a country or region. It is expressed as a value between 0 (distribution fully equitable) and 1 (distribution fully inequitable)



## Biological Diversity in Russia is ...

...the diversity of ecosystems:

Five natural zones:

- cold desert, permafrost soil and the treeless tundra zone in the polar region
- boreal forest (dominated by conifers) in the cold temperate taiga zone
- deciduous and mixed forest in the temperate zone
- winter cold steppes and semi-desert in the zone with dry climate
- forest of leathery leaves at the coast of the Black Sea

- The East European Plain encompasses most of European Russia
- The West Siberian Plain, which is the world's largest, extends east from the Urals to the Yenisei River

- most of Russia consists of two plains (the East European Plain and the West Siberian Plain), two lowlands (the North Siberian and the Kolyma, in far northeastern Siberia), two plateaus (the Central Siberian Plateau and the Lena Plateau to its east), and a series of mountainous areas mainly concentrated in the extreme northeast or extending intermittently along the southern border
- Russia possesses the largest wetland systems in the world, with lakes and wetlands, connected by 120 thousand rivers, covering 15% of the territory
- forest area (2005): 8,087,900 sq km (47.37% of the national area)
- 70% of the total land area was naturally covered by forests
- Russian forests account for about 22% of the world's forest resources and 40% of the most valuable coniferous stands

...the diversity between and within species:

- About 80% of the Arctic species are represented in Russia
- more than 12,500 species of wild-growing vascular plants
- 320 species of mammals, 732 species of birds, 80 reptiles, 29 amphibians, 343 freshwater fishes, 1,500 marine fish species

## Efforts to protect Russian biodiversity:

- The current system of especially protected natural territories (EPNT) in Russia has been established for about 100 years
  - 13,628 protected areas (2005) which cover 11.7% of the total land area
  - 1.48% of total land area (252,030 sq km) are strictly protected (according to IUCN categories I and II in 2003)
  - 35 Ramsar Sites (i.a. Lake Khanka, Parapolsky Dol, Utkholok), 40 biosphere reserves (i.a. Great Volzhsko-Kamsky, Daurisky, Baikalskiy) and 23 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (i.a. Virgin Komi Forests, Kizhi Pogost)
  - 65% of the territory is considered virtually untouched by economic and other human activities, whereas 20% of the territory has suffered considerable human impact
  - The most threatened biomes are the European steppe and the broad-leaved forests, which have almost disappeared
- the Russian Federation has laid down provisions for the creation of 9 new state nature reserves and 12 national parks by 2010



## Read more:

- biodiversity hotspots: <http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx>
- CBD Country Profile: <http://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=ru>
- Global Environmental Outlook of the UNEP (GEO-4): [http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4\\_Report\\_Full\\_en.pdf](http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf)
- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation: <http://www.mnr.gov.ru/part/?pid=398>
- Federal Forestry Agency: <http://www.rosleshoz.gov.ru/english>
- Third National Report to the CBD (Russian Version): <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ru/ru-nr-03-ru.pdf>
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan NBSAB (2001): <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ru/ru-nbsap-01-p1-en.pdf>
- National Clearing House Mechanism (CHM): <http://www.ruschm.ru/>
- Biodiversity in German Development Cooperation: [www.gtz.de/biodiversity](http://www.gtz.de/biodiversity)
- WWF Russia: <http://www.wwf.ru/eng>
- Earthtrends Country Profiles: [http://earthtrends.wri.org/country\\_profiles/](http://earthtrends.wri.org/country_profiles/)
- UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>
- UNESCO Man and Biosphere: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/>
- Ramsar Sites: <http://www.ramsar.org/sitelist.pdf>

(Sources: Biodiversity hotspots of Conservation International; CBD Country Profiles; World Resources Institute – Earthtrends; UNDP 2005; Library of Congress, Washington/USA)

### Russias' current environmental challenges are:

air pollution from heavy industry, emissions of coal-fired electric plants, and transportation in major cities
industrial, municipal, and agricultural pollution of inland waterways and seacoasts
deforestation
soil erosion
soil contamination from improper application of agricultural chemicals
scattered areas of sometimes intense radioactive contamination
groundwater contamination from toxic waste
abandoned stocks of obsolete pesticides

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; CBD Country Profiles; Library of Congress, Washington/USA)



### Cultural diversity in Russia is based on...

...different ethnic groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Russian 79.8%</li> <li>- Tatar 3.8%</li> <li>- Ukrainian 2%</li> <li>- Bashkir 1.2%</li> <li>- Chuvash 1.1%</li> <li>- other or unspecified 12.1%</li> </ul>
...different religions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Russian Orthodox 15-20%</li> <li>- Muslim 10-15%</li> <li>- other Christian 2%</li> </ul>
Read more: - Library of Congress/Country Study of Russia: <a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/rutoc.html">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/rutoc.html</a>	

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

<b>Ecological Footprint</b>	4,4 global ha/person
<b>Biocapacity</b>	6,9 global ha/person

Within the global comparison, Russia ranges on place no. 18 - see bar chart,  
[http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator\\_detail.cfm?country=RU&indicatorid=13](http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?country=RU&indicatorid=13)

(Source: [www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org))