

Resolution
**2nd International Conference “Regional cooperation within the BRICS:
modern environmental and nature management issues”**

September 18–20, 2024,

11 Pushkinskaya St., Petrozavodsk, Russia

The 2nd International Conference “Regional cooperation within the BRICS: modern environmental and nature management issues” organized by the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences with support from the Russian National Committee on BRICS Research took place in Petrozavodsk (Republic of Karelia, Russia) on September 18-20. Thematically, the conference focused on discussing regional cooperation within the BRICS and identifying prospective avenues for future interactions between the participants in the fields of science, nature management and environmental safety.

The conference gathered more than 200 participants from 30 Russian regions and from seven other countries: Belarus, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, South Africa. Representatives of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Government of the Republic of Karelia, scientific centers, higher educational institutions, business community, NGOs participated in the plenary and thematic sessions.

Over 100 presentations on global and regional climate change, carbon balance monitoring, study of water bodies and terrestrial ecosystems under global warming and human impact were delivered during the plenary and thematic sessions; topical issues of protected area designation and nature conservation, as well as development of industrial ecology and green economy were discussed. Some of the presentations were in poster format, available also on KarRC RAS website. An electronic book of abstracts will be published based on the results of the conference.

The conference framework included three associated events:

- Workshop for young scientists and specialists “Monitoring carbon pools and fluxes in natural ecosystems”, organized with support from the Key Innovative Project of National Importance “Unified national system for monitoring climate-active substances”;
- Roundtable for experts in social and political sciences “BRICS+ as a platform for scientific cooperation in the Arctic: challenges and prospects of joint research”
- Thematic session “NGO potential and international activities in addressing sustainable development tasks in the current situation”.

The opinions and proposals expressed during the conference highlight the need to unite efforts of BRICS+ countries in shaping a common understanding of current environmental problems and forging unified approaches to sound and safe environmental management, envisaging assessment of the state of man-modified natural systems, identification of ecological and socio-cultural factors and possible consequences (both positive and negative) of proposed strategies, plans and programs for the development of these systems, and taking them into account in decision-making related both directly and indirectly to these strategies, plans and programs.

Conference participants deem it necessary to:

1. Support the establishment of a BRICS+ environmental platform intended to boost multilateral international collaboration between the partner countries in the scientific and practical sphere. Create a BRICS+ unified information system (knowledge base), accessible to all the participants, aimed at combining efforts and improving the quality of existing and emerging models

for forecasting the environmental situation to facilitate decision-making in the event of possible catastrophic events. Support the initiative of horizontal thematic networking among BRICS+ scientists and specialists interested in doing joint research and sharing information on environmental and nature management issues.

2. Inventory the existing methodological approaches to environmental assessment used in BRICS+ countries. Based on the results of the analysis and additional research, work out common methodological approaches recommended for use by all participating countries in assessing the state of the environment, greenhouse gas emissions, development and adoption of mitigation plans for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to provide the background for environmental management decision-making.

3. Consider regions of BRICS+ countries as possible pilot areas for developing ad hoc programs aimed at enhancing the performance of the evaluation methods proposed by the scientific community and implementation of the proposed solutions.

4. Promote networking among members of the expert community in order to forge common approaches to reducing the environmental burden, and to jointly develop and implement conservation techniques within the BRICS+ Green Agenda.

5. Join efforts in the conservation of biodiversity, unique natural systems, water resources, as well as in environmental remediation.

6. Recognize the potential value of cross-border cooperation on environmental assessment and use of common methodological approaches to environmental management in these territories.

7. Channel efforts to enhancing the environmental culture of the BRICS+ population, involving citizens, organizations and business communities in the practical activities that build awareness of scientific research related to the environmental agenda.

8. Aspiring to create a favorable environment for joint scientific research and strengthen coordination in financing, to propose to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to discuss with foreign partners the possibility of creating a common financial instrument within the BRICS+ that would support scientific and practical projects of significance for the participating countries, including the facilitation of mobility of specialists in ecology and sustainable environmental management.

9. For the purposes of Arctic development, recommend that Russian participants collaborate with partners from BRICS+ countries in securing a balance between economic development of the Arctic and nature conservation;

10. Seeking to implement the proposals for boosting BRICS+ collaboration, consider the possibility of setting up within the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences of an office of the National Committee on BRICS Research, to be in charge of promoting regional cooperation in environmental and nature management issues.

11. In the framework of the decisions made by the conference previously, affirm that the forms of interactions in the period between conferences will be joint workshops, roundtables, online events for discussing relevant lines of cooperation, as well as the development of joint task-specific projects.

12. Seeking to facilitate streamlined interactions, recommend that the Karelian Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences considers the possibility of creating a web resource containing information on BRICS regional scientific cooperation networks. Inquire about possible funding sources for this project, including via the National Committee on BRICS Research.