Information Letter

On June 5-6, 2025, Moscow will host the International Forum **"BRICS Countries: Environmental Aspects of Development and Cooperation."**

Forum Objective: A constructive discussion of key issues related to environmental development and cooperation among BRICS countries, as well as the most important organizational aspects of implementing the **"BRICS+ Environmental Platform"** project.

Forum Organizers: University of World Civilizations, National Committee for BRICS Research, Free Economic Society, Eurasian Information and Analytical Consortium, Karelian Research Centre of RAS, International Research Institute for Management Issues, MIREA – Russian Technological University, National Information Agency "Natural Resources," National Research Institute of Public Health, Research Institute "Center for Environmental Industrial Policy," Russian Academy of Ecology, Russian Research Institute of Economics, Policy, and Law in Science and Technology, Russian Union of Scientific and Engineering Associations, "Russia's Heritage" Foundation.

Program Committee:
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Organizing Committee:

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Participants *– Leading Russian and foreign experts with significant experience in researching and/or solving the problems discussed at the Forum will be invited to participate; representatives from relevant ministries and agencies, interested business structures, political parties, and public organizations, as well as the media.* ***Student and postgraduate participation with reports and presentations is not planned****. The participation of young scientists and specialists as listeners and participants in discussions is encouraged.* ***Leading specialists may participate in person, online, or by correspondence.***

The main task of the speakers is to present their own vision of the key issues of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries, and specific recommendations for solving them, and/or to present an ongoing or proposed project of significant importance for ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries.

The Forum will focus on the following areas:

• National interests of BRICS countries in ecological development;

• Civilizational and national aspects of environmental protection and ensuring ecological security;

• Priorities and strategies for ecological development of BRICS countries;

• Priority tasks in science and education related to ecological development in BRICS countries;

• Goals and objectives of ecological cooperation among BRICS countries;

• General principles of ecological cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Priorities and strategic areas for ecological cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Major barriers hindering the development of ecological cooperation;

• Program and project mechanisms for implementing ecological cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Coordination of research and development work of special significance for ecological development in BRICS countries;

• Participation of cities and regions in shaping and implementing the BRICS ecological agenda;

• Prospects for implementing the “BRICS+ Ecological Platform” megaproject;

• Legislative, legal, financial, economic, scientific, informational, and personnel support for ecological cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Prospects for coordinated use of innovative potential, intellectual and informational resources of BRICS countries in ecological development and cooperation;

• Prospects for ecological cooperation among BRICS countries with EAEU countries, CIS countries, SCO, and the Global South.

• The use of expert knowledge and scientific information in the development and implementation of priority programs and projects in the field of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries.

The list of thematic priorities of the Forum is provided in the attached explanatory note on the “BRICS+ Ecological Platform” megaproject.

Forum working languages: Russian and English.

Forum schedule: June 5, 2025 – plenary session, June 6, 2025 – sectional work. Participant registration – from 9:15.

Responsible for the preparation and conduct of the Forum: from the University of World Civilizations – Vice-Rector for Scientific Work, **Maria Aleksandrovna Bulavina**, **Vladimir Ivanovich Gerasimov** – senior researcher.

Forum materials will be published in the UWC editions, on the highly visited informational and analytical website “Greater Eurasia: Development, Security, Cooperation” http://ukros.ru, and other Internet resources. The Forum materials will also be available in e-library.

Participation in the Forum and publication of materials are free of charge.

Attention for out-of-town participants: transportation and accommodation costs in Moscow are covered by the sending party or the participants themselves.

Please send participation applications to coopinion@mail.ru (with a mandatory copy to coopumc@yandex.ru) **by May 15, 2025**, in the following format.

APPLICATION
for participation in the International Forum
“BRICS Countries: Ecological Aspects of Development and Cooperation”

Full name	
Academic degree, academic title, position	
Place of employment	
Proposed topic	
Forum session topic	
Participation format: • In-person with a report – **only for leading experts;** • In-person without a report (for all interested); • Online with a report – **only for leading experts;** • Online without a report (for all interested); • correspondence participation with a report – **only for leading experts.**	
Contact information (phone, e-mail).	

Reports for publication, formatted as scientific articles, with a length **of 10 to 30 thousand characters** (including spaces), should be sent at a convenient time for the authors to coopinion@mail.ru (with a **mandatory copy** to coopumc@yandex.ru) **by July 10, 2025**. The page format should be A4. The font should be Times New Roman, size 12. The line spacing should be one and a half. The paragraph indent should be 1.25 cm. **Footnotes and references to sources should be placed on each page. A list of references at the end of the article is not required**. Tables and figures should be embedded in the article text (tables and figures should not be presented in landscape format). Tables must have titles above the table field, and figures should have captions below the figure. When using several tables and/or figures in the article, numbering is mandatory. The colors used in diagrams and figures should be distinguishable in black and white images. Each figure **should be grouped. After the title of the article, a list of keywords should be provided in English that fully reflects the article's content. Abstracts are not required.**

Materials containing elements of plagiarism will not be published.

For collaboration and interaction with colleagues and interested organizations, authors may include, in a 1-page note, their email address, a brief outline of their professional interests, and the priority thematic areas of their organization.

Proposals for cooperation with the Forum organizers should be sent to coopinion@mail.ru (with a **mandatory copy** to coopumc@yandex.ru).

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Appendix

Explanatory Note on the Megaproject "BRICS+ Environmental Platform"

1. General Context

In the emerging global socio-economic space, cooperation among BRICS countries is a key factor in strengthening their political independence, economic competitiveness, and the success of national cultural and socio-economic development.

Particularly important is the cooperation of BRICS countries in addressing global environmental issues, including climate change, deforestation, desertification, biodiversity loss, acute shortages of certain natural resources, and environmental pollution. These global environmental problems can be tackled through the joint efforts of developing countries, with BRICS seen as a "driving force" for the necessary changes in creating a safe and comfortable future for the planet. In this context, the development and expansion of the BRICS+ union acquire particular geo-economic and geopolitical significance as a platform where partnership interaction formats between countries from various local civilizations are tested, and principles for forming a new fair and sustainable world order are honed.

Practically, it is advisable to ensure the exchange of accumulated experience and involve each country's specific natural resource potential, human capital, original nature-saving technologies, and the financial mechanisms to support them.

There are grounds to believe that the effectiveness of solving global environmental problems by BRICS countries largely depends on systematic and coordinated interaction among the subjects of ecological development. The subjects, in this context, are organizations and individuals who are called upon and/or capable of making a significant contribution to ecological development and cooperation at the international, national, regional, municipal, and sectoral levels.

For the effective implementation of existing intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in environmental protection and ecological security among BRICS countries, it is essential to complement the already established vertical departmental ties within BRICS cooperation with intensive horizontal ties between leading organizations and experts of BRICS

countries who are engaged in the development and implementation of projects of significant importance for ecological cooperation among BRICS countries.

In this regard, the creation of the BRICS Environmental Platform is not only advisable but also extremely necessary. The platform can become an international strategic partnership, assuming a significant part of the responsibility for the pace, results, and prospects of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries.

The platform will represent a networked communication and activity environment that fosters intensive, coordinated, and effective interaction among the expert community, government bodies, business structures, research and specialized educational organizations, civil, political organizations, and the media on key issues of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries. The platform's activities will largely be focused on the development and implementation of specific programs and projects.

The initiators of the development of the Platform are the participants and organizers of the II International Scientific and Practical Conference "BRICS Countries: Development Strategies and Cooperation Mechanisms in a Changing World" – University of World Civilizations, National Committee for BRICS Research, Russian Center for Scientific Information, Eurasian Information and Analytical Consortium, International Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies, International Research Institute for Management Problems, MIREA – Russian Technological University, Russian Research Institute of Economics, Politics, and Law in Science and Technology, Institute of Economic Strategies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. This initiative was supported by the participants and organizers of the Second International Scientific and Practical Conference "BRICS Regional Cooperation: Modern Problems of Ecology and Natural Resource Management," which took place on September 18-20, 2024, in Petrozavodsk, the participants of the expert survey (118 respondents), as well as the participants of the strategic session on this project, held on November 27, 2024, as part of the VIII Scientific and Practical Conference – Forum of Russian Analysts and the VII International Scientific and Practical Conference "Greater Eurasia: National and Civilizational Aspects of Development and Cooperation."

2. Main Goals and Objectives of the Platform

The main goal of the Platform is to create a modern communication and operational environment for constructive interaction between the scientific and expert community, legislative and executive authorities, public and political organizations, business structures, and the media, focused on strategic planning tasks in the field of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries.

Special attention in the Platform's activities is expected to be given to knowledge generation, ensuring the competitiveness of research and development, innovations and technologies of particular importance for the priority areas of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries, the production of new ecological products and services that have no analogs in the global market, and engaging all relevant stakeholders in ecological cooperation at international, national, regional, local, and sectoral levels. Particular emphasis is placed on attracting talented youth and promising young scientists and specialists to this activity.

The main objectives of the Platform include:

- ensuring BRICS countries' leadership in setting, discussing, and constructively solving the most important ecological development problems;
- conducting fundamental and applied research on ecological development issues in BRICS countries;
- participating in the development and implementation of concepts, projects, and programs for ecological development in BRICS countries;
- supporting eco-oriented economic growth and the implementation of eco-efficient technologies to prevent and reduce the negative impact on the environment;
- supporting the restoration of damaged natural ecological systems;

• formulating proposals for improving the legal and regulatory framework for ecological cooperation among BRICS countries;

• developing adequate systemic and analytical tools for forecasting the development of cooperation and interaction among BRICS countries, including computer modeling;

• coordinating, stimulating, and supporting network interaction among organizations interested in developing and strengthening cooperation among BRICS countries in the field of environmental protection and ecological safety;

• providing informational, scientific, and expert-analytical support for the development and implementation of ecological policies in BRICS countries;

• providing information and analytical support for cooperation among BRICS countries in the field of environmental protection and ecological safety;

• ensuring broad and timely access to the most significant research results on ecological development issues;

• analyzing the state, trends, factors, and outcomes of ecological development in BRICS countries;

• stimulating ecological modernization with regard to the specifics and development options of various industries and economic sectors;

• expanding scientific and industrial cooperation among the entities involved in ecological development and cooperation;

• supporting the improvement of national environmental management systems and ensuring ecological safety, improving the legal framework for environmental protection, and ensuring the rational use of natural resources;

• improving government environmental monitoring systems and forecasting natural and technological emergency situations, as well as climate change;

• studying, analyzing, and supporting the use of advanced practices in ecological development, including scientific and technological developments, the possibility of creating them based on shared scientific equipment centers, unique scientific installations, as well as creating digital twins;

• creating a scientific and technological foundation in the field of rational natural resource management and ecological safety;

• developing and implementing technological solutions that ensure resource conservation and reduce the negative impact of economic and other activities on the environment, preventing pollution;

• developing adequate systemic and analytical tools for forecasting ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries, including in the financial sphere;

• supporting the integration of science, education, industry, and the agro-industrial complex based on the creation of integrated structures focused on the development, serial production, and implementation of innovative ecological products and services, including cooperation with small high-tech innovative enterprises;

• supporting the creation of new high-tech markets for ecological products and services;

• improving methods and institutional mechanisms for ecological forecasting, scientific and innovative project expertise, and evaluating the effectiveness of implemented programs and projects;

• providing comprehensive informational support for promising fundamental and applied research in the field of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries;

• supporting the integration and coordination of research on priority thematic areas directly related to the development and implementation of priority national ecological development projects and programs;

• integrating information resources from scientific research and information centers of BRICS countries on relevant ecological development issues;

• stimulating intensive exchange of expert knowledge between professional communities for interdisciplinary understanding of complex ecological development problems;

• supporting the improvement of training systems in the field of environmental protection and ecological safety;

• creating new monitoring, evaluation, and forecasting systems for the state of the environment;

• improving industry regulation to introduce promising ecological technological solutions;

• ensuring environmentally safe waste management;

• conducting independent expert assessments of developing programs and projects in the field of ecological development;

• involving citizens, public organizations, non-profit organizations, and the business community in solving environmental protection and ecological safety issues;

• supporting the popularization and promotion of scientific and technological achievements in ecological development; advancing expert knowledge through the media to form a scientifically grounded public opinion on ecological development issues;

• forming ecological culture, developing ecological education and awareness;

• identifying promising young scientists and specialists in ecological development; supporting the strengthening of youth's role in the development and implementation of strategies, national priority ecological projects, and programs.

3. Thematic Priorities of the Platform

The preliminary list of thematic priorities of the Platform includes:

• National interests of BRICS countries in ecological development and cooperation;

• Civilizational and national aspects of environmental protection and ensuring ecological safety. The role of ecological traditions in the civilizational and national identity of the peoples of BRICS countries;

• Ecological aspects of socio-economic and scientific-technological development strategies of BRICS countries;

• Priorities for ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Ensuring ecological safety and the regulatory framework for the development of natural resources;

• Exchange of experiences in environmental legislation and the development of intergovernmental environmental protection standards;

• Human ecology: the preservation of the nation as a strategy for successful development;

• Ecological safety in the system of national priorities of BRICS countries;

• Prevention and elimination of the consequences of natural and technological disasters;

• Interaction between the state and society in implementing ecological policies, the development of eco-oriented social networks;

• Innovative solutions in rational natural resource management and ecological safety;

• Prospects for the coordinated use of innovative potential, financial, intellectual, and informational resources of BRICS countries in ecological development and cooperation;

• Priority tasks in science and education related to ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Global and regional climate changes caused by anthropogenic and natural factors, their ecological, social, and economic consequences;

• Development of adaptive strategies for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in the context of climate change;

• Monitoring and assessing the transformation of the natural environment in the context of climate change;

• Prioritization and ecological-economic evaluation of climate projects: harmonizing approaches within BRICS;

• The participation of cities and regions in forming and implementing the BRICS ecological agenda;

• Implementation of priority regional programs and projects for resource conservation and environmental protection in BRICS countries. Regional specifics of national ecological projects;

• Implementation of “smart cities” and “ecologically sustainable cities” programs and projects in BRICS countries;

• Cooperation among BRICS countries in the development of protected natural areas;

• Legislative, legal, financial, economic, scientific, informational, and personnel support for ecological cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Prospects for coordinated use of innovative potential, intellectual and informational resources of BRICS countries in ecological development and cooperation;

• Prospects for ecological cooperation among BRICS countries with EAEU countries, CIS countries, SCO, and the Global South.

• • Using expert knowledge and scientific information in the development and implementation of priority programs and projects related to ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Value-based and worldview foundations of ecological culture;

• Ecological culture and ecological education. The system and structure of ecological education and awareness;

• The environment and public health;

• Biodiversity conservation;

• Ecological issues of the atmosphere;

• Ecological problems of water resources;

• Forest conservation and restoration;

• Desertification and soil degradation;

• Rational natural resource management;

• Methods for forecasting natural and technological emergencies;

• Environmental protection regulation and ecological legislation;

• Responsible subsoil use;

• The development of eco-industry as an independent sector of the economy;

• Energy efficiency. Renewable energy sources;

• The development of a low-carbon economy;

• “Green” construction;

• Ecologically clean transport;

• Nature-like technologies;

• Ecologically clean production technologies;

• Ecologically clean materials and products;

• Water purification and water reuse systems;

• Waste disposal, recycling, and burial;

• Digitization of natural resource management;

• The use of artificial intelligence and big data analysis in processing monitoring results and predicting ecological processes;

• Financial support for ecological development and cooperation.

The list of thematic priorities will be refined based on expert surveys and an analysis of the informational needs of the main users of the Platform.

4. Key Areas of Work within the Platform

The main areas of work carried out within the Platform include:

4.1. Development of the English-language Portal “ECO BRICS+”:

• Creation of a modular portal structure that allows for expanding its functionality without changing the entire system;

• Maintaining databases with information about participants, specialists, programs, projects, and technologies;

• Ensuring interactive user engagement through forums, private communication, news feeds, and other features.

4.2. Expert Analysis:

• Conducting expert surveys on key issues of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Providing consulting and expert support for projects and research in the field of environmental protection, rational natural resource management, and ecological safety;

• Preparing conclusions and recommendations for decision-makers in the field of ecology and cooperation among BRICS countries.

4.3. Creation of Communication Platforms:

• Establishing modern communication platforms for expert discussions on urgent ecological development and cooperation issues within BRICS countries with the participation of leading specialists, government and public organizations, business representatives, and media;

• Preparing and conducting events aimed at forming a positive public attitude toward environmental protection and ecological safety activities;

• Forming international interagency expert working groups on prospective areas of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Public defense of innovative projects and programs in the field of environmental protection and ecological safety.

4.4. Scientific Research Activities:

• Developing theoretical and methodological foundations for the study of prospective ecological cooperation among BRICS countries;

• Conducting scientific-technological forecasting, foresight studies, and expert activities;

• Participating in the development and implementation of concepts, projects, and programs for international cooperation in ecological development;

• Conducting applied and fundamental analytical developments on ecological development and cooperation issues.

4.5. Infrastructure of BRICS Countries:

• Forming joint analytical, expert, informational, and technological infrastructures within BRICS countries for the development and implementation of concepts and strategies, national priority projects, national target programs, as well as joint BRICS projects on ecological development and cooperation, including creating a unified expert community, analytical structures, information communication systems, and network structures;

• Integrating the informational resources of research and educational centers, leading universities, and other organizations on urgent ecological development and cooperation issues among BRICS countries;

4.6. Organizational and Methodological Work:

• Organizing and conducting conferences, seminars, meetings, contests, exhibitions, presentations, and other events;

• Creating problem-oriented and informational-reference databases and knowledge-sharing platforms.

4.7. Information Activities:

• Preparing and publishing informational materials, including special information releases sent to government authorities and management bodies;

• Preparing and publishing informational materials, collections of scientific works, and monographs.

4.8. Commercialization and Financing:

• Supporting the commercialization of scientific and technical results in the field of environmental protection and ecological safety;

• Organizing cooperation with financial institutions, investment companies and funds, and state development institutions to achieve ecological development and cooperation goals among BRICS countries;

• Creating cross-sectoral consortia in the field of environmental protection and ecological safety.

4.9. Education and Personnel Training:

• Training qualified personnel in the field of environmental protection and ecological safety;

• Identifying promising young researchers and supporting the strengthening of youth roles in the development and implementation of ecological development and cooperation projects among BRICS countries;

• Organizing conferences, seminars, and roundtables for young scientists and specialists, as well as schools for young scientists focused on priority areas of ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries.

4.10. Legal Support:

• Providing support related to the protection of intellectual property rights and joint use of knowledge.

5. Distinctive Features of the Platform

1. Focus on the national interests of BRICS countries as expressed in their concepts and strategies for socio-economic and scientific-technological development, national priority projects, national target programs, and the content of bilateral and multilateral declarations, agreements, and treaties.

2. Orientation towards ecological development and cooperation priorities among BRICS countries and the development and implementation of joint strategic projects in environmental protection and ecological safety.

3. Aimed at improving existing and developing new effective mechanisms and structures for ensuring efficient cooperation between BRICS countries in ecological development.

4. Equal partnership among business, science, education, and government.

5. A program-targeted approach to ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries, assuming coordinated use of available material, financial, intellectual, and informational resources to achieve significant results.

6. A systemic analysis as a common methodology. The main characteristics of this methodology are interdisciplinarity, integration of knowledge, expert feedback, and tool-oriented approach. The Platform's activities will involve ecologists, economists, sociologists, historians, lawyers, political scientists, ethnographers, psychologists, medical professionals, cultural scientists, mathematicians, specialists in international relations, innovation, and technological development. The main disciplinary tools will be socio-economic studies, mathematical modeling, systems-analytic work with informational resources, expert and sociological surveys.

7. Interactivity. The information resources created within the Platform are constructed in close cooperation with their users. This process involves constant adjustment to real identified priorities (preferences) of users, reflected both in the substantive-thematic and formal-genre levels.

8. Openness and transparency in the interaction of Platform participants.

9. Involvement of promising young scientists and specialists in research, informational, innovation, and entrepreneurial activities.

10. Accountability of Platform participants for the effectiveness of ecological cooperation among BRICS countries.

6. Potential Benefits for Participating Countries and Their Economies from the Implementation of the "ECO BRICS+" Project

The development of international cooperation and experience exchange between countries contributes to expanding horizons and fostering dialogue among the project participants, strengthening mutual understanding and collaboration in the field of ecology. Potential benefits for the countries involved in the implementation of the "BRICS+ Environmental Platform" megaproject include:

• Improvement of the environmental situation and reduction of negative impacts on the environment, leading to a better quality of life for the population;

• Reduction in healthcare costs related to diseases caused by environmental pollution, resulting in savings for the healthcare sector;

• Attraction of investments in environmentally friendly technologies and projects, fostering innovation and job creation in the ecology sector;

• Strengthening the image of participating countries as responsible and future-oriented, which can attract new investors and partners;

• Development of international cooperation and exchange of experience among countries, contributing to the expansion of horizons and furthering dialogue between project participants.

7. Expected Results

The activities within the Platform will make a significant contribution to the development and implementation of priority projects and programs for ecological development and cooperation among BRICS countries. The information environment created within the Platform will help develop effective mechanisms for cooperation between legislative and executive authorities, leading research centers, and civil society organizations from BRICS countries. The use of the informational products and services being developed will promote the protection of the national interests of BRICS countries, enhance their competitiveness, improve the quality of life for the population, and ensure BRICS' leadership in setting, discussing, and constructively solving the most significant ecological development issues. The Platform could become one of the effective tools for cooperation between BRICS countries in environmental protection and ecological safety.

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The Platform being developed is not politically oriented. Its initiators do not pursue any political goals, but at the same time, the Platform is open for cooperation with any political parties and public movements from BRICS countries that are ready to take responsibility for achieving the goals of ecological development and for the development and implementation of priority projects and programs for ecological development and cooperation. Many political parties and public movements from BRICS countries are natural allies of the Platform.

The future of the Platform and the scope of work carried out within it for the benefit of the peoples of BRICS countries are determined by the initiative of citizens and labor collectives, participation from government bodies, business circles, and mass media.