



The criteria for the evaluation of natural disasters in Russia

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Russia is a very vast country, it covers areas with different kinds of landscape and climate – from subarctic tundra in northern parts to semideserts in southern, from arctic to subtropical climate. Of course, in different types of regions there are different types of natural hazards. But still some of them can be found in every region (eg. low temperatures or heavy showers). In Russia the words “natural disasters” are very closely connected to “material damage”. It means that every natural phenomenon that can cause a catastrophic situation should suit 2 types of criteria: geographical and social-economical. Geographical criteria can be meteorological or meteo-hydrological, etc.

In 1990 the Ministry of Emergency situations and natural disasters was organized in Russia and these criteria were fixed. Since that time there were no changes.

The problem is that actually there is no spatial differentiation in geographical criteria of manifestation of natural hazards in Russia. In fact you have the same criteria in Yakutsk in Siberia and Sochi on the Black Sea coast. This fact can cause many problems.

Statistics show natural disasters which were caused by natural hazards, which do not suit proper geographical criteria – but there is still material damage and even people’s death.

That’s why we propose to distinguish (according to statistics) different parameters of natural hazards, which can cause natural disasters and material damage in different parts and climatic zones of Russia. Also we have to reconsider these criteria according to today’s climate situation.