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### **Environmental State Capacity in Eurasia**

This paper examines the concept of a state's environmental capacity in the post-Soviet context. Drawing on the environmental politics literature on the 'environmental state', this paper explores the ability of post-Soviet states to protect their environments. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, all states in the region have had to undertake significant reforms, including designing and building new environmental institutions or re-building existing ones. Some have been successful, others less so. Their experience raises a number of key questions regarding the basic functions a state is required to have in order to address its environmental problems. This includes, for example, certain bureaucratic arrangements, basic legislative requirements, and an effective policymaking process. Other factors come into play, including high-level political will for environmental protection, international support and financing, and the power and influence of industry. Drawing on interviews with NGOs, policymakers, experts and industry representatives from the region, and an analysis of documentary materials, this paper compares the cases of Russia and Georgia to highlight the challenges of building, re-building and sustaining an environmental state.