Preface

This book has a dual purpose. On the one hand, it is a *geographic atlas*, a collection of geographical maps united by a common theme. In this case, the theme is human impacts on nature. All of the maps in this atlas show either distribution of different kinds of human activities or geographical aspects of their effects on natural components. As for territorial coverage, it is an atlas of the world because all the aspects of human impact on the environment are considered on a global basis.

On the other hand, this volume is a *reference book*. It contains short descriptions of the various kinds of human activity and their effects on specific natural components. It reflects scientific knowledge on these problems as it stood during the late twentieth to early twenty-first century. The extremely limited volume of text allowed us to provide only minimal necessary information. More detailed information can be found in the references listed at the end of each chapter.

At the same time, this volume is an *illustrated atlas*, meaning that text and maps are accompanied by photographs showing specific examples of human effects on the environment. As the saying goes, "One picture is worth a thousand words". In the atlas, there are 300 photographs taken in 70 countries and all oceans.

As to the *sources*, they can be divided into three *categories*: (1) some citizens of different countries—chiefly, scientific associates who sent me the needed illustrations in the form of slides, photographs, or separate electronic files; (2) some organizations; and (3) sites of different international, national, and local organizations. I am grateful to the authors and organizations granting permissions for the use of the photographs in this book. It seems to me sometimes that collecting permissions was more difficult than writing the text of the book. Lists of copyright holders for maps and photographs are given in an appendix.

The book also includes about 65 maps. They were obtained for the atlas in a variety of ways: (1) maps found in different sources (books, articles, Internet sites); (2) maps synthesized on basis of two, three, and more sources; and (3) maps prepared by the author specifically for this book. In this case, a search of list of objects was carried out at first, the coordinates were determined, and, after that, the objects were automatically plotted on the map using the program ArcGIS for

Desktop. All of maps in the atlas are presented in the same projection (Robinson projection).

The author wishes to express his gratitude to Academician P.Ya. Baklanov, Director of the Pacific Geographical Institute, FEB of RAS (Far-Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences), for every possible support over many years in conducting the investigations.

The support and assistance of current and former colleagues at the Pacific Geographical Institute are also gratefully acknowledged; included are Mr. V.B. Primak, Dr. S.M. Krasnopeev, Prof. A.M. Panichev, Dr. V.V. Aramilev, Prof. A.V. Moshkov, Mr. A.V. Vlasov, and Mr. V.A. Solkin.

Numerous colleagues from Russia have also contributed indirectly to this book, including Mr. V.A. Kantor, Prof. S.P. Gorshkov (Moscow State University, Moscow), Prof. S.A. Bulanov, Dr. E.V. Trofimova, Prof. A.A. Tishkov (all from the Institute of Geography, Moscow), Ms. E.I. Udilova (Greenpeace/Russia, Moscow), Dr. M.V. Khotuleva (Ecoline EA Centre, Moscow, Russia), Mr. E.V. Kovalev, Ms. L.O. Kudryavtseva, Mr. A.A. Lapin, and others.

The author has had the unique opportunity of becoming acquainted and collaborating with numerous international colleagues. Of particular note are Dr. I. Kelman (Centre for International Climate and Environment Research, Oslo, Norway), Prof. C. Tisdell (University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia), Prof. H.J. Walker (Louisiana State University, United States), Dr. S.F. Trush (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Hamilton, New Zealand), and Prof. B. Braun (Geographical Institute of Köln University, Germany).

Of major importance to the author are the positive attitude and helpfulness of Ms. L.P. Slavinskaya for assistance in preparation of the manuscript for publication, and Ms. E.V. Oleinikova for preparation of electronic versions of maps.

Special thanks to Ms. D.M. Miller (Boulder, Colorado, USA) for close editing of the manuscript and her persistence in overcoming differences between the Russian and English, which, as I hope, allowed the book to become clearer for the Western reader. The author would like to thank the translator, V.M. Karpets (Pacific Geographical Institute, Vladivostok, Russia).

The author will be very grateful to all who, after discovering errors, uncertainties, etc., in the book, send information concerning them to me at **sgovor@tig.dvo.ru**. In addition, e-mailed photographs illustrating impacts of humanity on the environment also would be helpful.



http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-24955-1

Human Impact on the Environment
An Illustrated World Atlas
Govorushko, S.
2016, XV, 352 p. 365 illus., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-24955-1