NATURE AND RESOURCES OF THE EARTH IN MAPS
(TO PUBLICATION OF THE NEW WORLD'S COMPLEX GEOGRAPHICAL ATLAS)

Alexander A.Liouty, Elizaveta A.Finko, Dolores S.Asoyan, Nikolay N.Komedchikov,
Tatyana V.Kotova, Larisa V.Loginova, Rimma S.Narskikh, Leniana F.Yanvareva
Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences
29, Staromonetny per., Moscow, 109017, Russia
M.V.Lomonosov Moscow State University, Geographical Faculty
Leninskie Gory, Moscow, 119899, Russia
Fax: (095) 230 2090

Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences in collaboration with other
research institutions of Russia has compiled fundamental complex Atlas "Nature And
Resources of the Earth". It is published in Ed. Holzel (Austria) in 1995.

The atlas includes extensive information and knowledge of the world's nature, resources,
and the most important factors of their changes that have been collected by the Earth
sciences and other natural and social sciences. It provides information to study the key
problems of interaction of the human society and nature in global and subglobal scales, as
well as to seek the ways to mitigate negative man-made effects on the environment.

Atlas "Nature And Resources of the Earth" pertains to the third generation of the
fundamental national atlases of the world. It contains the new-compiled and, mostly, first-
published thematic maps, i.e., 172 maps of the following scales: 1:60,000,000 (52 maps),
1:80,000,000 (38 maps), and 1:100,000,000-1:300,000,000 (82 maps). While compiling the
atlas, the new ideas, methods of calculation and mapping were examined in maps. The
new themes, subjects, and types of maps, including environmental ones, were worked out.

The atlas consists of 4 main sections: 1) The Earth and the Space, 2) Evolution of
Landscape Sphere, 3) Structure and Resources of Landscape Sphere (including the main
components such as Structure and Resources of Lithosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere,
and Biosphere), 4) Anthropogenic Factors of Changes of Landscape Sphere. The atlas is
supplemented by map annotations.

The atlas sections include subsections of space images interpreted thematically (more than
200 images). They compliment and define the map information. The space images are
classified by regional-typological, landscape-zonal, and environmental principles.

The atlas format is 31.0x49.0 centimetres. It is the same as the formats of other
fundamental atlases of the world that have been published and prepared for publication in
the country. As a result, the atlases complement each other and extend the application.

Hence, the atlas containing a great number of various data reviews the geographical
knowledge on the threshold of the third millennium. It is an advance in the development
of the global mapping.