

Preface

The international group of scholars studying Russia's engagement in international environmental politics is fairly small, perhaps because fieldwork in Russia entails challenges of its own. In any case, members of this group tend to know each other quite well. Anna Korppoo and Nina Tynkkynen have shared an involvement in these issues that date back to their Master's degree studies at the departments of Regional Studies and Environmental Policy as well as Slavonic Philology in the 'red' University of Tampere in Finland. When Anna relocated to the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway in 2011, we recognized the interesting synergies with the research work of Geir Hønneland, who had lengthy experience of studying Russian environmental policy in the making, starting from his years as Russian-language interpreter for the Norwegian Coast Guard in the Barents Sea, back in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Putting together our knowledge of three issue areas of environmental policy that Russia had been negotiating at the international level seemed to form a comprehensive whole, as well as confirming our individual findings on how Russia looks at such processes.

It was Anna who took the practical initiative to this book project by arranging the first meeting in Oslo in June 2012. The process began smoothly: we found an interested publisher and worked on preparing our individual case studies. The writing process included several meetings in Oslo; we also organized a panel to discuss our topic at the Annual Conference of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) in Cambridge, UK, in the spring of 2013. The process, collaborating with scholars who have similar experiences of working in Russia and with the Russians, as well as the support that such a comparative approach to the cases gives to individual conclusions, has been a source of great inspiration and joy for all of us.

Anna has had main responsibility for Chapter 3 on climate politics, Nina for Chapter 4 on environmental protection in the Baltic Sea, and Geir for Chapter 5 on the Barents Sea fisheries management. Throughout the process, we have read and commented on each other's manuscripts and discussed them in order to facilitate detailed inter-case comparison. Chapters 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been written jointly by all three of us. We have aimed at standardizing the three case studies to some extent, while allowing

some freedom for theme-specific needs. Russian-language words and text (mostly references) have been transliterated in line with the widely-used US Library of Congress system. Translations from Russian sources, mostly in the case-study chapters, are those of the authors themselves.

Many people have helped us during the writing process. First of all, we would like to mention our great colleague Jonathan Oldfield at the University of Birmingham, who kindly read through the book proposal as well as the entire manuscript of the book and offered useful comments. He also chaired our panel at the BASEES conference. We wish to express our gratitude to Jon for his support and professional – as well as more personal – inspiration during the process. Further, our warm thanks go to our language editor Susan Høivik and technical editor Maryanne Rygg, who once again worked tirelessly to improve the quality of our original text. Thank you also to commissioning editor Emily Mew and the production team at Edward Elgar for professional and swift management of the publication process. Further, our thanks go to our Russian colleagues and interviewees who have shared their expertise and views with us over the years, making a great contribution to our own knowledge bases.

This book fit in so well with our existing projects that several funders of our ongoing projects should be mentioned. Anna's work has been financed mainly by her post-doctoral research project 252853 of the Academy of Finland and her NORKLIMA (Climate Change and Impacts in Norway) project 207810 under the Research Council of Norway. Nina's work was funded by her Academy of Finland projects 131901 and 139686 as well as the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies. Geir's work draws on several projects on Russian fisheries management, notably project 20110701 under the Research Council of Norway's HAVKYST (The Oceans and Coastal Areas) programme. Finally, the Fridtjof Nansen Institute has provided Anna and Geir with in-house funding for drafting the publication proposal as well as for finalizing the writing process.

As this project has stretched over a period of almost two years, it has overlapped with many important moments in our personal lives, some happy, some less so. Our final and most special thanks go to our spouses Juan Carlos, Veli-Pekka and Kristin and our families for all their support.

In Oslo and Tampere

Anna Korppoo, Nina Tynkkynen and Geir Hønneland