Preface to the second edition

Over the years, I have not lost my enthusiasm for ecological economics and the conservation of nature. Therefore, I was delighted when Edward Elgar told me that he would be interested in publishing a second edition of *Economics of Environmental Conservation* and suggested a practical method for producing the new manuscript. The first edition of the *Economics of Environmental Conservation* was published in 1991 by Elsevier Science Publishers. Even though fundamental environmental issues have not changed since then, there have been many developments in ecological economics and in policies affecting biological conservation and environmental management.

Every chapter in the first edition has been revised, updated and in most cases, slightly lengthened to accommodate new concepts and issues that have evolved since the completion of the previous edition. For example, coverage now includes a more comprehensive and integrated overview of property rights as an element in conservation; more attention to the total economic value concept; consideration of the implications of environmental Kuznets curves (the term had not been introduced in 1991); recently highlighted limitations of economic techniques for environmental valuation are included as well as some coverage of new valuation techniques, such as choice modelling; there is more discussion of relationships between tourism, conservation and economic environmental valuation; and in view of growing globalisation, influences of globalisation on environmental conservation and sustainability are explored. The multidisciplinary nature of the work has been retained and presentation of ideas has been kept as simple as possible in order to maintain accessibility.

The importance of studying relationships between economics and our ecological and environmental circumstances has increased since the first edition of this book was published. The volume of global production and the level of the world’s population have risen considerably and have placed growing demands on the Earth’s natural and environmental resources. This upward trend is likely to continue for a few decades yet. Humankind is exerting more influence than ever on existing patterns of biodiversity and the evolution of life forms. Humans are doing this both indirectly by altering habitats, and directly by genetic selection and the development of genetically modified organisms. The latter aspects are given greater attention in this edition.
Revised and new material in this edition benefited indirectly from a number of new, and sometimes not so new, contacts over the years that have helped to retain my interest in this area. These include Ed Barbier, Jeff Bennett, Andrew Dragun, Darwin and Jane Hall, Ulrich Hampicke, John Hatch, Andreas Hohl, Kristin Jacobsson, Dale Squires, Irmi Seidl, Timothy Swanson and Dayuan Xue. I also thank Dr Clevo Wilson for encouraging me to work on this new edition and Hemanath Swarna Nantha for suggesting and supplying some useful source materials for this revision. Indirectly, the revision benefited as a result of an Australian Research Council Grant for studying the economics of conserving Australia’s tropical wildlife, joint investigations on the economics of conserving Asian elephants with Dr Ranjith Bandara of The University of Colombo, and research with other doctoral students, joint research with Dr Clevo Wilson and my lectures in ecological and environmental economics to postgraduate and undergraduate students at The University of Queensland.

I am especially grateful to Edward Elgar for supporting the publication of my work and to the staff of Edward Elgar Publishing Limited for their friendly and efficient approach to publishing my work and making it widely available.

Typing required for the second edition has been done by Sue Hickey and I am grateful for her help as well as the support by the School of Economics at the University of Queensland. Once, again I thank my wife, Mariel, for her support. She has almost become used to my habit of writing at home in the early morning, even though she finds it a problem when she really wants to chat.

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