Preface

This book is based on research completed since 1999. This research began when Clevo Wilson joined the School of Economics at The University of Queensland as a Postdoctoral Fellow and started cooperating with Clem Tisdell in completing several case studies of nature-based tourism and its consequences for conservation. *Nature-based Tourism and Conservation* assembles the results from this research, integrates our published and unpublished findings and draws general conclusions from these. The publication of this book has given us a chance to highlight the broad conclusions that can be drawn from this research and has enabled us to provide some new perspectives on tourism economics. For example, many of the case studies show that neoclassical economics is often inadequate as a means for undertaking valuations of natural tourist attractions and for specifying decision-making processes that occur in tourism economics. In this regard, concepts derived from the consideration of bounded rationality, new institutional economics, behavioural economics and psychological economics are found to be more relevant.

Tourism studies and the subject of environmental conservation are both interdisciplinary in their coverage. Although this appeals to us, it is also a challenge because we are both amateur ecologists. Nevertheless, we have identified some phenomena that do not appear to be covered in the literature on ecology and tourism. For instance, it is shown that ecotourism (that is, tourism careful of the environment) which initially is economically viable, can in the long term fail to conserve a minimum viable population of the species on which it is focused. It often needs to be supplemented by collective action to ensure that a focal species has an acceptable chance of survival.

The research on which this book is based was made possible by financial support from several sources. The Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism provided initial support for the research reported in Chapters 3, 5–6, 10–11 and 14, an early career grant from The University of Queensland was awarded for the work undertaken in Chapters 3 and 12 and an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grant (for our study of the economics of conserving Australia's tropical wildlife) was of considerable assistance for the gathering of data used in Chapters 7, 8 and

15. Chapter 13 was developed as a result of sponsorship by the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust (New Zealand) and its supporters. Chapter 10 was partly funded by research money provided by the School of Economics, The University of Queensland. We are grateful for this support. The usual caveat applies. Nevertheless, it has mostly been our 'free time' that has been used to produce the manuscript for this book.

We wish to thank Evelyn Smart for the word processing and formatting of Clem Tisdell's contribution to this book (mainly chapters 1, 3–9, 13 and a part of 16), Marie Keynes for formatting some of Clevo Wilson's contribution (the remaining chapters), and the School of Economics at The University of Queensland and the School of Economics and Finance at the Queensland University of Technology for allowing us to use their facilities to produce our manuscript. In addition, Clevo Wilson is grateful to Dr Wasantha Athukorala for his research assistance. We are indebted to Dr Peter Dan from the Penguin Parade, staff of the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust (especially David McFarlane) for their assistance and many staff of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for enabling us to conduct the surveys in national parks and providing secondary data. We appreciate the help given by the managers of O'Reilly's Guest House, Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve and Alan Gillanders in assisting us with the distribution of surveys and providing us with secondary data. Also we are pleased to acknowledge those at Edward Elgar Publishing who were directly responsible for the final production of this book and for ensuring the quality of its presentation. Finally, but not least, we thank our families for their encouragement with this project even though it has reduced our time together with them.