Preface and acknowledgements

In the recently conducted United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20–22 June 2012, the participants emphasized the 'political outcome document'. This document contains a list of 283 practical measures for implementing sustainable development, ranging from renewing political commitment to engaging major groups and other stakeholders, and capacity-building (http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/, accessed October 2012). It is interesting to note that the major thrust of Rio+20 was on 'implementing' sustainable development goals. To successfully implement sustainable development goals, appropriate plans must first be developed and then effective decisions taken. This book on sustainable development planning aims to help readers to achieve and/or improve this capacity.

We are grateful to our readers for widely accepting the first edition our book. In evolving the second edition we initially went back to the authors and gave them the option of contributing a new chapter and/or substantially revising the chapters from the first edition. As a result, four completely new chapters have been added to the second edition, replacing the old chapters. Three other chapters have been substantially revised where necessary. The new and revised chapters were independently reviewed to improve their rigour. The final decision was made by the editors.

As in the first edition, the second edition has three parts. Part I, Modelling for Sustainable Development, has five chapters. It deals with an updated review of sustainable development planning. This part has two new chapters: 'Modelling sustainable development' and 'Measuring sustainable development'. These are burning R&D issues in sustainable development literature. Readers will find these chapters highly informative. Part II of the book, Case Studies, consists of nine chapters. The case studies range from environmental management to aquaculture to infrastructure development. All these chapters have been thoroughly revised. Two new chapters have been included in this part, replacing the old chapters. Part III of the book suggests future directions of modelling and decision support in sustainable development planning in view of the reviews in Chapter 1 and various other chapters in the book. Various modelling types, including two modelling tools – fuzzy logic and agent-based

modelling – have been suggested to develop decision support systems for sustainable development planning.

We are extremely grateful to all the contributors of the second edition, whose production has been delayed for a number of reasons. We thank all the authors for their patience.

Thanks to all the people at Edward Elgar who offered us many suggestions and kept us on track. Mr Joshua Joannes Bon prepared the final typed version of the manuscript. Thank you, Joshua.

Finally we extend our gratitude to our family members for bearing with us during yet another long-winded project.

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