Preface

This volume originated as a Festschrift for Herman Daly, the central figure in modern ecological economics. While we had discussed the project through 2005–06, it took concrete shape only after Herman's friend and colleague, Robert Goodland, threw his weight behind the project and also joined the team as an editor. We formally launched the project in 2007 at the biennial conference of the United States Society for Ecological Economics. We had hoped to complete the project by the time of the 2009 conference. Robert’s home in northern Virginia had for several years served as the site where ecological economists and kindred spirits were at their convivial best. Robert had graciously agreed to host the launch party for the Festschrift volume at his home. However, numerous unexpected delays kept us from wrapping up this book as quickly as we would have like. When we finally started to edit the volume and work through the publication process, we were enveloped with a sense of great sadness at Robert’s passing away. We have greatly missed Robert’s wisdom and comradeship during the last two years.

Robert’s oeuvre is best reflected in the many ways in which he tried reforming the World Bank and making the institution sensitive if not always responsive to its ecological and human rights record around the world. At the Bank, Robert worked closely with Herman Daly whom he had helped recruit. We are grateful to Herman for graciously agreeing to allow us to reprint his Goodland obituary essay that was first published in the journal, Ecological Economics, 100, 208–9 in 2014. The honoree of a Festschrift volume writing an obituary essay for one of its editors is a predicament no project should have to deal with. However, we believe that in Robert’s case there can be no better way to acknowledge and celebrate his many contributions. We also thank Ecological Economics for the permission to reprint the essay.

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