

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-61322-4 — Assessing the Conservation Value of Freshwaters

Edited by Philip J. Boon , Catherine M. Pringle

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Assessing the Conservation Value of Fresh Waters

Fresh water has many uses, such as for drinking, hydroelectric power and recreation. This creates conflict between conservation and exploitation. This book explores various aspects of conservation evaluation, including the selection of important areas for protection, responding to threats from catchment development and determining the restoration potential of degraded water bodies. Aimed at academic researchers, graduate students and professionals, chapters are written by pairs of UK and US authors, who compare methods used for evaluating rivers and lakes for conservation in these countries that share a long history of freshwater science, but approach nature conservation very differently. Sweden, Australia and South Africa are also examined, and there is a chapter on developing countries, allowing discussion of the role of social and economic conditions in conservation ethics.

PHILIP J. BOON works in the Policy and Advice Directorate at Scottish Natural Heritage. He is founder and Chief Editor of the journal *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*.

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The world's biological diversity faces unprecedented threats. The urgent challenge facing the concerned biologist is to understand ecological processes well enough to maintain their functioning in the face of the pressures resulting from human population growth. Those concerned with the conservation of biodiversity and with restoration also need to be acquainted with the political, social, historical, economic and legal frameworks within which ecological and conservation practice must be developed. The new Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation series will present balanced, comprehensive, up-to-date, and critical reviews of selected topics within the sciences of ecology and conservation biology, both botanical and zoological, and both 'pure' and 'applied'. It is aimed at advanced final-year undergraduates, graduate students, researchers and university teachers, as well as ecologists and conservationists in industry, government and the voluntary sectors. The series encompasses a wide range of approaches and scales (spatial, temporal, and taxonomic), including quantitative, theoretical, population, community, ecosystem, landscape, historical, experimental, behavioural and evolutionary studies. The emphasis is on science related to the real world of plants and animals rather than on purely theoretical abstractions and mathematical models. Books in this series will, wherever possible, consider issues from a broad perspective. Some books will challenge existing paradigms and present new ecological concepts, empirical or theoretical models, and testable hypotheses. Other books will explore new approaches and present syntheses on topics of ecological importance.

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of Fresh Waters:
An International Perspective*

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Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page ix</i>
1 Introduction	
Philip J. Boon and Catherine M. Pringle	1
2 Background, philosophy and context	
Philip J. Boon and Catherine M. Pringle	6
3 Freshwater conservation in action: contrasting approaches in the USA and the UK	
Catherine M. Pringle and David Withrington	39
4 So much to do, so little time: identifying priorities for freshwater biodiversity conservation in the USA and Britain	
Jonathan Higgins and Catherine Duigan	61
5 Responding to environmental threats within the UK and North America	
Christopher A. Frissell and Colin W. Bean	91
6 Evaluating restoration potential	
T. E. L. Langford and C. A. Frissell	117
7 Methods for assessing the conservation value of rivers	
Philip J. Boon and Mary Freeman	142
8 Methods for assessing the conservation value of lakes	
Laurie Duker and Margaret Palmer	166
9 System Aqua – a Swedish system for assessing nature conservation values of fresh waters	
Eva Willén	200

viii · Contents

10	Evaluating Australian fresh waters for nature conservation	
	Jon Nevill and Andrew Boulton	218
11	Evaluating fresh waters in South Africa	
	Jay O’Keeffe and Christa Thirion	237
12	Evaluating fresh waters in developing countries	
	Robin Abell and Mark Bryer	255
13	Conclusions	
	Catherine M. Pringle and Philip J. Boon	280
	<i>Index</i>	285
	Colour plate section between pages 182 and 183	

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x · **Contributors**

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