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.

Catherine M. Pringle is Research Professor in the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia (UGA). She serves as Chair of the Conservation Ecology Graduate Program at UGA and has been a recipient of their Creative Research Medal.
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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Assessing the Conservation Value of Fresh Waters: An International Perspective

Edited by

PHILIP J. BOON
Scottish Natural Heritage, Edinburgh, UK

and

CATHERINE M. PRINGLE
Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA
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Contributors

ROBIN ABEll

COLIN W. BEAN
Scottish Natural Heritage, Clydebank, UK

PHILIP J. BOON
Scottish Natural Heritage, Edinburgh, UK

ANDREW BOULTON
Ecosystem Management, University of New England, Armidale, Australia

MARK BRYER
The Nature Conservancy, Bethesda, MD, USA

CATHERINE DUIGAN
Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor, UK

Laurie DUKER
LakeNet, Annapolis, USA

MARY FREEMAN
US Geological Survey, University of Georgia, Athens, USA

C. A. FRISSELL
Pacific Rivers Council, Polson, USA

JONATHAN HIGGINS
The Nature Conservancy, Chicago, USA

T. E. L. LANGFORD
Centre for Environmental Sciences, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK.

JON NEVILL
OnlyOnePlanet Consulting, Hampton, Australia

JAY O’KEEFFE
Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa
Contributors

MARGARET PALMER
Nethercott, Stamford Road, Barnack, UK

CATHERINE M. PRINGLE
Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, USA

CHRISTA THIRION
Resource Quality Services, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Pretoria, South Africa

EVA WILLÉN
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Environmental Assessment, Uppsala, Sweden

DAVID WITHRINGTON
Natural England, Peterborough, UK