



Natural Resources and Economic Development

Why is natural resource exploitation not yielding greater benefits for poor economies? In this second edition of his landmark book, Barbier explores this paradox in three parts. Part I offers a historical review of resource use and development, examining current theories that explain the underperformance of today's resource-abundant economies and proposing a hypothesis of frontier expansion as an alternative explanation. Part II develops models to analyze the key economic factors underlying land expansion and water use in developing countries. Part III explores further the structural pattern of resource dependency, rural poverty and resource degradation within developing countries and, through illustrative country case studies, proposes policy and institutional reforms necessary for successful resource-based development. First published in 2005, each chapter in this new edition has been thoroughly revised and updated, with new material, tables, figures and supporting empirical evidence. It will appeal to graduate students, upper-level undergraduates and scholars researching environmental and developmental economics.

EDWARD B. BARBIER is University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Economics and Senior Scholar in the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at Colorado State University. A highly cited author and a leading global expert on international environmental policy, he is also a fellow of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economics.

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Second Edition

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*This country has become rich because nature was
good to us.*

President John F. Kennedy

Speech at the University of Wyoming

Laramie, Wyoming

September 25, 1963

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