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Preface

This book contains the papers presented at the First International Conference on Environmental Economics and Investment Assessment, held in Mykonos, Greece, in 2006. The conference was organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology in collaboration with the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens.

The current emphasis on sustainable development is a consequence of the general awareness of the need to solve numerous environmental problems resulting from our modern society. This has resulted in the need to assess the impact of economic investments on the environment. The book addresses the topic of Investment Assessment and Environmental Economics in an integrated way, in accordance with the principles of sustainability considering the social and environmental impacts of new investments. Methodologies to address these important problems are presented by considering fundamental issues of sustainability.

The usual assumption, that it is difficult to achieve the growth of enterprises in an environment-friendly manner seems to be not only an important issue for developed countries, but for all regions of the globe. In this book many constructive and progressive approaches and proposals are presented to ensure sustainable entrepreneurial activities and investment plans.

The contributions comprise the following broad subject headings: Economy and the environment; Environmental policies, planning and assessment; Cost benefits analysis; Natural resources management and Environmental performance.

This book will be of interest to government officials, politicians, environmental experts, economists, research scientists in the area of environmental economics, operations researchers, senior management in all kinds of companies and regional government.

The Editors are grateful to all the authors for their excellent contributions and in particular to the members of the International Scientific Advisory committee for their reviews of the abstracts and the papers and their help on ensuring the high quality of this book.

The Editors
Mykonos, 2006

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