Foreword

The state of the environment is a major worldwide concern today. Pollution in particular is perceived as a serious threat in industrialized countries, where the quality of life historically has been measured mainly in terms of growth in material output. Meanwhile, environmental degradation has become a serious impediment to economic development and the alleviation of poverty in the developing world.

The last 25 years of global change have produced a fundamental shift in the way individuals and communities, business and governmental enterprises, regulatory authorities, and nongovernmental organizations think about the natural environment and economic development. No longer regarded as mutually exclusive objectives, economic development and environmental protection are increasingly perceived as interdependent and equally urgent goals. A healthy economy must control pollution to sustain a healthy population. Alleviation of poverty requires continued economic growth. Sustainable economic development requires protection of the environmental resources that are essential to continued human habitation of the planet.

But how can a person or a nongovernmental organization concerned about environmental protection help to develop suitable solutions that also provide for sustainable economic development? How can business organizations seeking profit, and communities seeking enhanced prosperity, protect the natural environment and its essential resources while accomplishing those goals? How can environmental lawyers, risk management consultants, and dispute resolution professionals contribute to the development of enduring and sustainable solutions?

Environmental Dispute Resolution: An Anthology of Practical Solutions is a useful handbook for anyone interested in the answers to such questions. Editors MacNaughton and Martin provide in their first chapter a practical framework for analyzing environmental conflicts and disputes. In their concluding chapter, they describe how 20th-century lessons learned in conflict management, environmental dispute resolution, environmental management, and knowledge management can be applied to improve results significantly in situations where environmental protection and economic development objectives are (or are perceived to be) in conflict. In between, chapters containing superbly practical tips from a broad range of talented authors illustrate the wisdom of this strategic approach to sustainable dispute resolution.

Not just a compilation of randomly ordered chapters, Environmental Dispute Resolution: An Anthology of Practical Experience provides comprehensive and thoughtful treatment of the topic for the serious student, as well as
highly practical guidance in specific substantive contexts to those who may wish to focus on one or a few of its chapters. This useful handbook provides a tool kit of diagnostics, systems, strategies, and methodologies proven effective in diverse substantive contexts. It can be read in order, or chapters can stand alone for the reader with a particular substantive or procedural focus. The information in this book will be invaluable to anyone involved with environmental risk management, environmental management systems, environmental dispute resolution, or sustainable development system design and implementation.

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