

Markandya, A., Harau, P., Bellù, L.G., Cistulli, V.: **Environmental Economics for Sustainable Growth.** – Edward Elgar Publ., Glos - Northampton. ISBN 1 84064 306 4 (cased) and ISBN 1 84064 812 0 (paperback). 567 pp., GBP 95.00 (hb.), GBP 40.00 (pb.).

This book was prepared „in association with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank“. Let us first have a look at the structure of the book. It starts with Contents. Then, lists of figures (76 in the whole text), tables (133), and boxes (27) follow. Next, the Foreword written by F.A. Leautier, Vice President of The World Bank, and Acknowledgements are included. The text is divided into 15 chapters and the book ends with a detailed Index.

Chapter 1 “Introduction and structure”, describes the general purpose of the book: “it is designed primarily for trainers and practitioners, but also for government advisors involved in formulating and implementing environmental policies in developing countries and economics in transition”. And also “The book offers three perspectives that are essential to any successful economic policy that has claims to meeting the goals of sustainable development: - Economists’ methods, which seek to maximize human welfare within the constraints of existing resources and technologies....- Ecologists, who stress preserving the integrity of ecological subsystems, which are critical for the overall stability of the global system....- Sociologists, who emphasize the human nature of key actors and patterns of social organization which are crucial in devising viable means of attaining sustainable development.”

The next 14 chapters are divided into two parts. The Part I is devoted to the economy-wide policies and their potential impact on the environment. It includes seven chapters (pp. 15-290). The Part II is entitled “Environmental valuation methods for policies and projects” and contains also 7 chapters (pp. 291-556). The authors characterize the aim of the two parts as follows: “...to integrate the economy-wide policies presented in Part I with the analytical tools for monetary valuation of environmental impacts of Part II”. In my opinion, this sentence

expresses the very topics of this interesting book.

As seen from the large number of figures, tables, and boxes, this book is very well illustrated by many examples and detailed explanations. The boxes themselves contain much interesting information. Let me give the titles of some of them: “Agenda 21 on national strategies”, or “Six instruments for land-use management”, “Residential demand-side management for Thailand”, and “”Costs and benefits of air pollution abatement in Santiago, Chile”. And I would like to emphasize that the individual chapters contain some other interesting structural elements. Each chapter starts with a clear description of its Objectives and a brief Summary. This considerably helps the reader to quickly select the appropriate chapter. The list of Cited Bibliography is often supplemented with a List of Other Reading. At the end of several chapters, Questions for Discussion as well as Some Suggested Answers are added. No doubt, that it will help the reader to more actively study the text.

It may well be that the review of this book in this journal could have been quite brief. The book does not deal with any aspects of photosynthesis and the majority of readers will find no interest to browse it. But we, the readers of Photosynthetica, are not only involved in some kind of research on photosynthesis, but we are also biologists, agronomists, physicists, chemists, and finally – members of the human population on the Earth. And it may be, that some of us will acknowledge acquainting with this interesting and valuable book. Let me terminate with the first two sentences from the Foreword: “Environmental issues are not a luxury for the rich. Most often the poor who depend directly on natural resources and environmental goods and services for their livelihoods, suffer most the consequences from environmental degradation”.

L. NÁTR (*Praha*)