"For sustainable development to become a reality, we must factor in natural capital into economic decision-making at all levels. By showcasing examples of success, this publication makes an important contribution to our understanding of how countries around the world can embark on a more sustainable future for all."
Joyce Msuya, Acting Head of UN Environment and Assistant Secretary General, UN

"This collection of papers contains foundational material on a largely unchartered field of enquiry. On working through the chapters readers who have struggled all these years to understand the notion of sustainable development will wonder how and why it could have been that the field remained unexplored despite its central importance in people's lives."
Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, Cambridge and Leader, Global Review of Biodiversity and Economy, HM Treasury, UK

"By highlighting advances in the science and practice of evaluating ecosystem services, this volume will help to improve decisions that affect natural capital. The case studies presented provide excellent examples of how this has been accomplished in countries throughout the world."
Maureen Cropper, Distinguished University Professor and Economics Chair, University of Maryland, USA

This book highlights the latest advances in the science and practice of using ecosystem services to inform decisions for economic development in the context of the developing countries.

The development of the ecosystem services paradigm has enhanced our understanding of natural capital as an indispensable form of capital asset along with produced and human capital. This book addresses what could be the possible pathways to mainstream natural capital assets into development policies and what is currently known about the economic values of ecosystem services. A series of innovative tools to help policy makers and planners account for natural capital and ecosystem services in sectoral and macroeconomic policies have been explored and their application at the national and regional scale has been demonstrated. Several detailed case studies are presented in which the understanding of ecosystem services values has successfully informed decisions, including examples from Chile, South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Vietnam and the Aral Sea in Central Asia. These provide the critically important insights, lessons learned and means and mechanisms for policy makers to incentivize protection and discourage degradation of ecosystems and the services they provide.

Mainstreaming Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services into Development Policy is designed to help decision makers at all levels, including governments, businesses, multilevel development banks and individuals to integrate ecosystems and their services into their decision making.

Pushpam Kumar is Chief Environmental Economist and Senior Economic Advisor, UN Environment Programme. He works on the issues of Inclusive Wealth Index, Natural Capital, Climate Change, Environmental Burden of Disease, Human Capital and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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