

## FOREWORD

Now that the 1997 Kyoto Protocol is poised to enter into force, what comes next? How can the international community address the growing threat of climate change in a way that is fair and effective?

In *Building on the Kyoto Protocol: Options for Protecting the Climate*, Kevin Baumert and his colleagues analyze a thought-provoking spectrum of possibilities for shaping an international climate change agreement. Seventeen contributors from nine countries offer analyses of options for strengthening the climate protection treaties. They confront the most persistent challenge of climate protection—designing solutions that include both developed and developing countries. The options examined range from the well-known to the novel. Indeed, some approaches put forth in this book have never before been examined in print.

This is a good sign. We need innovation and cooperation if we are to create environmentally sound solutions that are economically and politically viable. From the vantage point of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, a climate treaty with simple timetables for emission reductions may have seemed plausible. Some thought a global carbon tax would provide a simple answer. Today, we have a better sense of the limited capacity of our global institutions and national governments to deal with a problem on the scale of climate change. The linkages between economic development and climate change are complex and resist simple fixes. Several of the approaches examined in the following pages tackle development and climate protection simultaneously. The authors use case studies—Mexico, South Africa, and South Korea, for example—to show how the concepts are applied in national contexts.

What comes after Kyoto? Citizens and governments should not be satisfied with a haphazard round of piecemeal commitments. The dangers of climate change are too great, and those dangers fall disproportionately on

the poor. This book outlines a way forward: a two-track strategy that both meets the short-term interests of governments and sets in motion processes for developing a more coherent long-term framework for climate protection. The final chapter distills key lessons that government negotiators and civil society advocates can use for many years to come as the international community debates how to protect the climate system from dangerous human interference.

The origins of this book also help illuminate its content. It grew out of a unique and compelling collaboration, called the Climate of Trust, founded in 1998 under the leadership of Bonizella Biagini, Atiq Rahman, Nicolás di Sbroiavacca, Agus Sari, and Youba Sokona. Like the current Climate of Trust collaborators convened by WRI, the original partnership firmly believed that it was possible to establish an atmosphere of trust between developed and developing nations, especially with respect to the urgency of addressing climate change. The first Climate of Trust report, *Confronting Climate Change: Economic Priorities and Climate Protection in Developing Nations*, was published in 2000 by the National Environmental Trust and Pelangi. *Building on the Kyoto Protocol* is the next step, and includes some new research partners from both developed and developing countries, to expand the circle of individuals and organizations committed to creating solutions that span the North-South divide.

Most of the authors contributing to this book are from developing country research institutes. While the industrialized countries must take the lead in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, developing countries can and must play a leadership role in shaping durable and workable solutions to climate change at the international level. Indeed their future development prospects may depend on such solutions. By building bridges across the North-South divide for research and analysis, this project helps to reduce that real-world divide; to foster trust and spark a broader dialogue that can serve as the basis for concerted government action.

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