

Acknowledgments

World Resources 2008 is the 12th volume in a series that dates from 1986. It has evolved from its initial objective as the comprehensive assessment of environment and development trends to a book that provides serious policy analysis of the critical issues arising from human dependence and impact on the environment.

The *World Resources Report* is the work of a unique and continuing partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), The World Bank, and the World Resources Institute.

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We continue to be thankful for our colleagues in Norway at UNEP/GRID-Arendal for their ongoing involvement in this work, both through their direct contributions of materials, and for their support of outreach efforts to ensure that the findings of the report reach broad and appropriate audiences.

Though we expressed our gratitude in the previous edition of *World Resources*, we wish to acknowledge again the intellectual contribution of Jon Anderson, formerly at USAID, and his colleagues and their publication *Nature, Wealth and Power*, and the members of the Poverty Environment Partnership and their publication *Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management*. Their thinking about poverty remains relevant and important.

In particular, we want to acknowledge the contribution of Crispino Lobo, Executive Director of the Watershed Organisation Trust of India, to our work. His wisdom, practical experience, and documented successes in community-led watershed regeneration have inspired us and informed our theory and writing.

Individual Contributions

The development of *World Resources 2008* had more fits and starts than normal. The patience, goodwill, and understanding of our partners is appreciated well beyond what mere thanks can convey. Peter Gilruth of UNEP, Kirk Hamilton of the World Bank, Charles McNeill of UNDP and Marianne Fernagut of GRID-Arendal have all brought a new dimension to the word partnership, and we do thank them.

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We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge those who started with this volume but had to move on: Alex Acs and Ethan Arpi did early research and writing and Jen Lesar gave us organization and discipline. Dena Leibman laid the early groundwork for this report.

In addition to Greg Mock, our principal writer, we have been fortunate to be able to draw on a small team committed to the project, adaptable to the unpredictability of our schedule, and possessed of good editorial judgment: we owe much to Polly Ghazi and Karen Holmes.

This report began with modest goals and anticipated a length shorter than previous volumes. Thanks to the informed and unstinting engagement of Manish Bapna, with the dedication of Dan Tunstall, Emily Cooper, and Greg Mock, we have produced a much expanded report whose length, we hope, is justified by its value.

That has made the task of our reviewers that much more demanding—more to read under an unconscionably tight time-frame. Their generosity of time and their detailed and thoughtful comments and advice have greatly improved this work. We acknowledge their valuable contributions in the following section, listing each of them by chapter.

Despite all the good advice, careful reviews, and valuable contributions of others, at the end, the WRR staff has to accept final responsibility for the content of this report...and we do.

World Resources 2008 Reviewers

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Chapter 1

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Box 1.2

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Box 1.3

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Update: Namibia

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Update: Fiji

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Chapter 2

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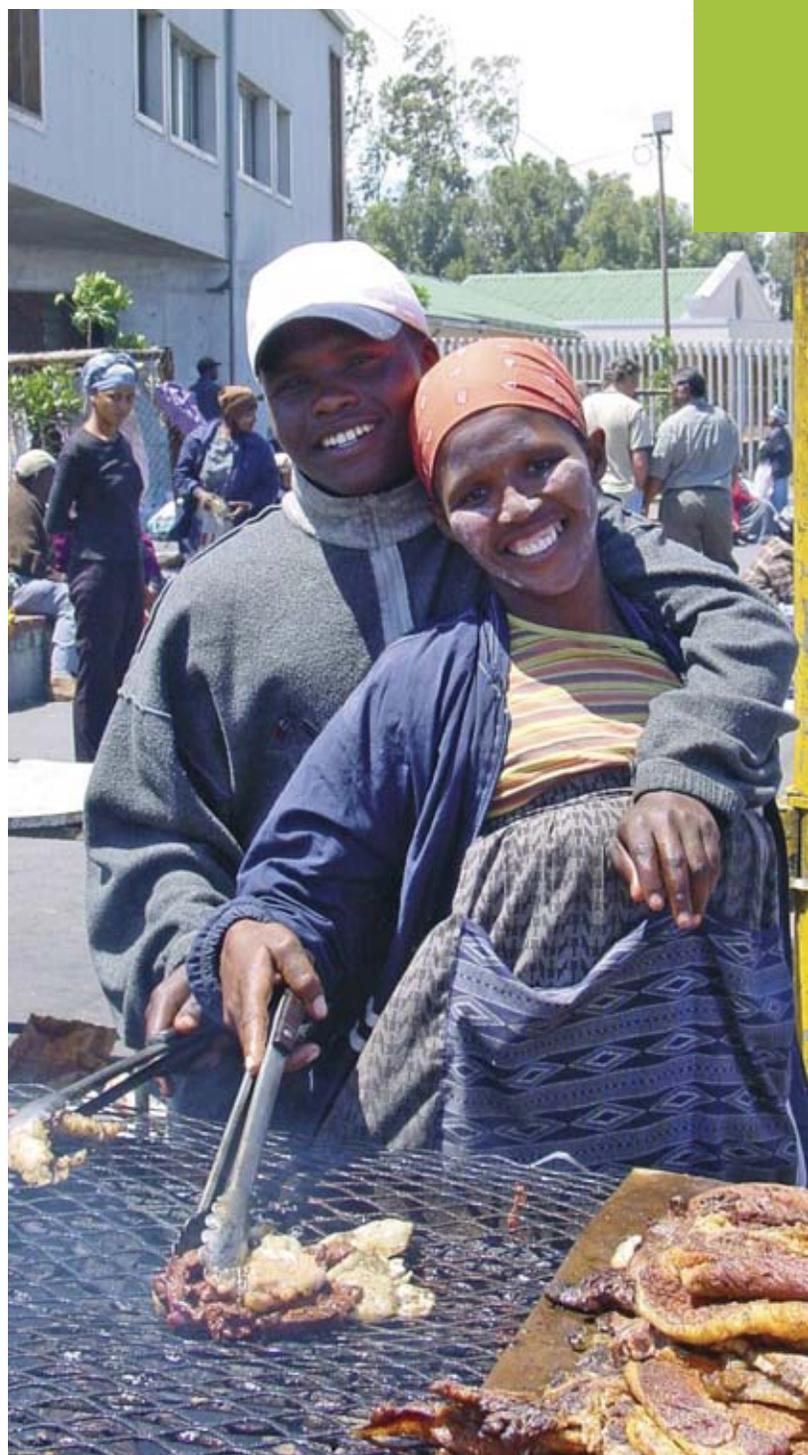


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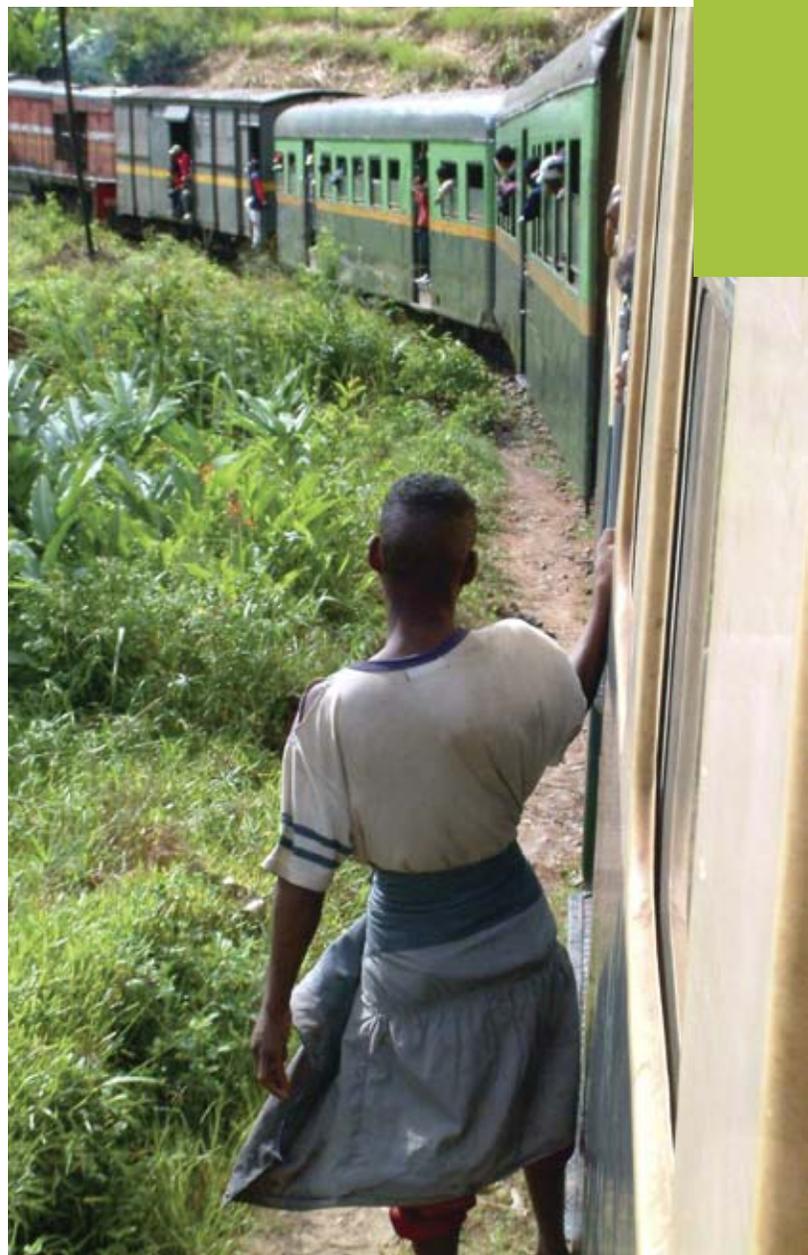
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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals. Our focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of:

- Democratic Governance
- Poverty Reduction
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Environment and Energy
- HIV/AIDS

UNDP helps developing countries attract and use aid effectively. In all our activities, we encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women.

Visit the UNDP Web site at <http://www.undp.org>

WORLD BANK GROUP

Founded in 1944, the World Bank Group consists of five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); International Development Association (IDA); International Finance Corporation (IFC); Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The World Bank is the world's largest source of development assistance, providing nearly \$30 billion in loans annually to its client countries. The Bank uses its financial resources, its highly trained staff, and its extensive knowledge base to individually help each developing country onto a path of stable, sustainable, and equitable growth. The main focus is on helping the poorest people and the poorest countries, but for all its clients the Bank emphasizes the need for:

- Investing in people, particularly through basic health and education
- Protecting the environment
- Supporting and encouraging private business development
- Strengthening the ability of the governments to deliver quality services, efficiently and transparently
- Promoting reforms to create a stable macroeconomic environment, conducive to investment and long-term planning
- Focusing on social development, inclusion, governance, and institution building as key elements of poverty reduction.

Visit the World Bank website at <http://www.worldbank.org>

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

UNEP, established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment. To accomplish this, UNEP works with a wide range of partners, including United Nations entities, international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

UNEP work encompasses:

- Assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends
- Developing international and national environmental instruments
- Strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment
- Facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technology for sustainable development
- Encouraging new partnerships and mind-sets within civil society and the private sector

Visit the UNEP website at <http://www.unep.org>

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

The World Resources Institute (WRI) is an environmental think tank that goes beyond research to find practical ways to protect the earth and improve people's lives.

Our mission is to move human society to live in ways that protect Earth's environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations.

Because people are inspired by ideas, empowered by knowledge, and moved to change by greater understanding, WRI provides—and helps other institutions provide—objective information and practical proposals for policy and institutional change that will foster environmentally sound, socially equitable development.

WRI organizes its work around four key goals:

- People & Ecosystems: Reverse rapid degradation of ecosystems and assure their capacity to provide humans with needed goods and services.
- Access: Guarantee public access to information and decisions regarding natural resources and the environment.
- Climate Protection: Protect the global climate system from further harm due to emissions of greenhouse gases and help humanity and the natural world adapt to unavoidable climate change.
- Markets & Enterprise: Harness markets and enterprise to expand economic opportunity and protect the environment.

Visit WRI online at <http://www.wri.org>

WORLD RESOURCES 2008

United Nations
Development Programme

United Nations
Environment Programme

World Bank

World Resources
Institute



ISBN 978-1-56973-600-5



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NATURE IS AN ESSENTIAL YET ELUSIVE ASSET FOR THE WORLD'S POOR. It routinely provides subsistence livelihoods for poor rural households but little prospect for creating opportunity, wealth, and security—the foundations of well-being. This need not be so.

The reality of poverty today is that almost half the world's population lives on less than \$2 per day and that some 75 percent of them, almost 2 billion, live in rural areas largely dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. *World Resources 2008* argues that properly designed enterprises can improve those livelihoods and, in the process, create resilience—economic, social, environmental—that can cushion the impacts of climate change, can keep communities rooted, and can help provide needed social stability.

The report builds on *World Resources 2005: The Wealth of the Poor*, which showed that ecosystems can become the focus of a powerful model for nature-based enterprise that delivers continuing economic and social benefits to the poor, even as it sustains the natural resource base. Evidence shows that poor rural families empowered with secure resource rights can increase their income stream from nature significantly with prudent ecosystem management.

World Resources 2008 explores what is necessary to allow such nature-based enterprises to scale up so as to have greater impact—geographically, economically, politically. It identifies three critical elements: community ownership and self-interest; the role of intermediate organizations in providing skills and capacity; and the importance of networks—formal and informal—as support and learning structures. It outlines specific actions that governments at all levels can take to encourage and support such change.

When these three elements are present, communities can begin to unlock the wealth potential of ecosystems in ways that actually reach the poor. In so doing they build a base of competencies that extends beyond nature-based enterprises and supports rural economic growth in general, including the gradual transition beyond reliance on natural resource income alone.

They also acquire greater resilience. It is the new capacities that community members gain—how to conduct a successful business, how to undertake community-based projects, and how to build functional and inclusive institutions—that give rise to greater social and economic resilience. It is the insight that ecosystems are valuable assets that can be owned and managed for sustained benefits that builds the foundation of ecological resilience. Together, these three dimensions of resilience support the kind of rural development whose benefits persist in the face of a wide variety of challenges, environmental and otherwise, that poor communities are sure to face in the future.

World Resources 2008 is the twelfth volume in the series. In conjunction with EarthTrends, it presents a full range of statistics on environmental and development trends.

To order, please visit the WRI web site at <http://www.wri.org>.

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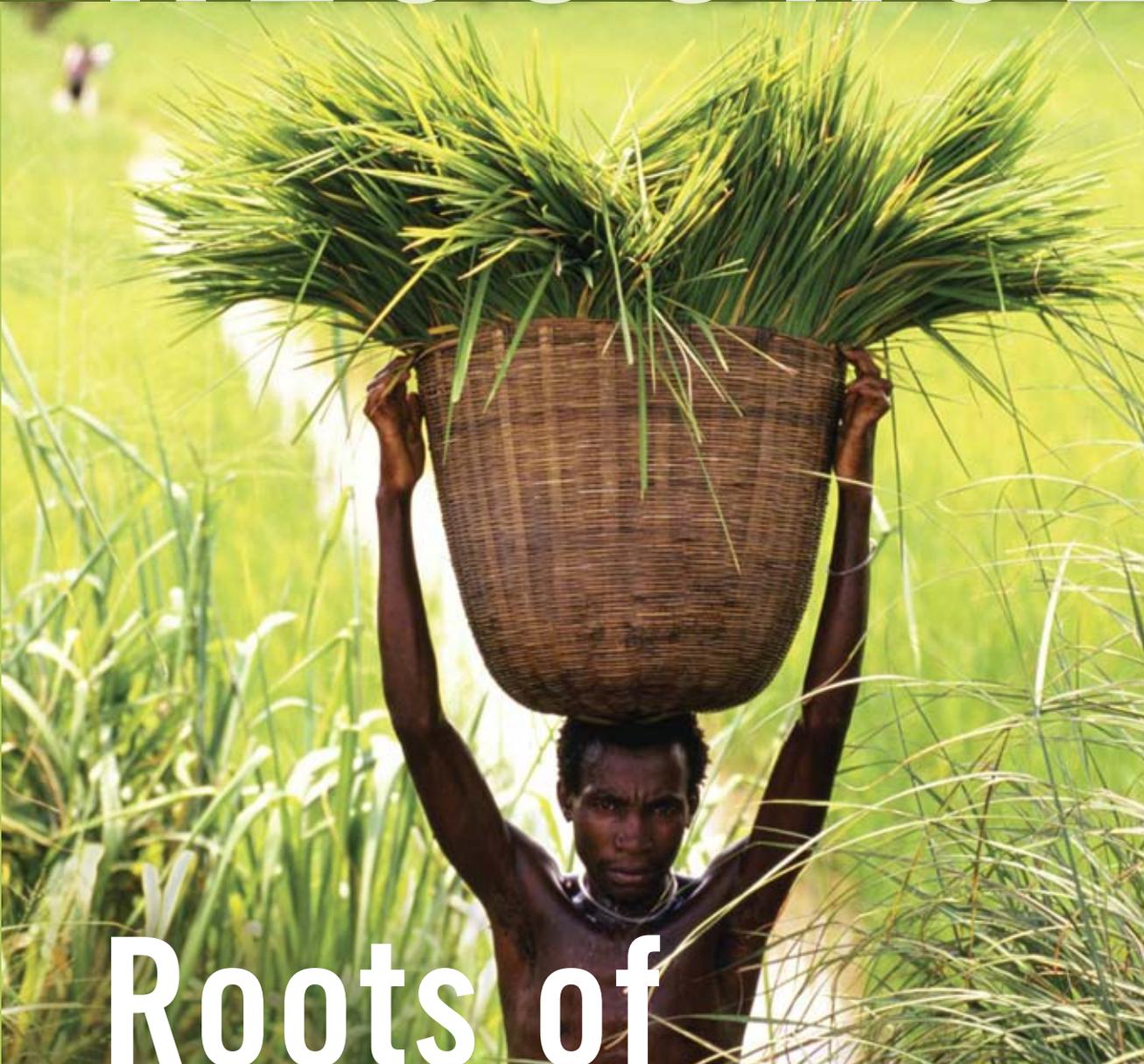
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2008

Roots of Resilience



Roots of Resilience

Growing the Wealth of the Poor
OWNERSHIP • CAPACITY • CONNECTION



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