

Preface

This brief is about economic models—theoretical and statistical—that address environmental issues in developing countries. The brief aims to simplify exposition, beginning each of [Chaps. 3–7](#) with a very simple core model of environmental economics, and then discussing extensions to these core models. An intermediate level of mathematics is used only in the last section or an appendix of [Chaps. 3–7](#). [Chapter 2](#) is an exposition of several types of models and frameworks. [Chapter 1](#) provides an introduction and overview around graphs of select world development indicators.

This brief discusses important problems of developing countries that are not stressed as much as they should be in books on environmental economics: traditional pollution; livelihoods and the commons; biological invasions; and complex ecology. The brief looks at old questions from different angles; the overall philosophy is of careful methodological pluralism, advocated by Richard Norgaard. First, I bring in perspectives from institutional economics. Second, I pay careful attention to issues of causality. Third, I emphasize equity as much as efficiency.

The brief aims to cater to those with a curiosity about environment and development economics—students who have not studied economics previously, economists who work in other areas but are interested in environmental issues, and perhaps even environmental economists interested in a different treatment. The treatment here is brief and selective, not detailed or comprehensive.

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My family and friends saw me through a difficult time while this was being written. They are too numerous to mention individually, but most immediately

Deepu, Ranu, Ma, and Papa will be happy to see this brief published, for diverse reasons.

This brief is for Varsha, for her health and happiness.

Delhi, 29 July 2013

Vikram Dayal

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Dayal, V.

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