

Foreword

Making an end to poverty, furthering sustainable and inclusive development, and assuring human rights are the main targets of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as laid out by the United Nations in 2015. Although I am likely biased as a hydrologist, I believe that the access to sufficient water of sufficient quality is paramount to achieving the SDGs. Prof. Abhijit Mukherjee has mobilized a large number of experts and specialists in water-related issues from all over the world to write about the role of water in sustainable development.

The resulting book provides a long-awaited overview of the connection of water with all the SDGs. This book sets out with a broad overview of the global water crisis and the role of water resources in sustainable development and health. Next, it zooms into the six targets of the SDG 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation.” These are important issues related to safe drinking water, water and sanitation, environmental pollution, cooperation in the context of transboundary water resources, and water for ecosystems. After these detailed exposés, this book expands its view again by focusing on the importance of water for the remaining 16 SDGs.

The strength of this work is its multifaceted character. The authors range from water scientists to domain experts to practitioners to experts with knowledge about regional and local water scarcity hotspots. The chapters thus cover the range between global perspectives to regional and local case studies. Finally, because of its aim to cover all the SDGs, this book is inherently an interdisciplinary endeavor. Interdisciplinarity, and transdisciplinarity when it comes to case studies aiming at solutions, is essential if one seeks for transformative pathways to a sustainable use of water resources in the context of the SDGs. With 2030 quickly approaching, it is important to have a valuable resource that transforms water knowledge to achievable SDGs along with inspiring examples. This book is providing all of that.

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