Acknowledgements

This study is part of the Sustainable Development in the 21st Century (SD21) project. The project is implemented by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, contract number 20465. Support from the European Commission is gratefully acknowledged.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

We thank David Le Blanc, project officer, for guidance and extremely useful feedback on earlier versions of this report. We also thank Ron Coleman and Thomas Prugh for editorial assistance. The ideas in this report have been published elsewhere by the authors and several sections are taken almost verbatim from these prior publications. Parts of the executive summary were crafted in direct discussions and consultations with the Royal Government of Bhutan in preparation of its draft outcome statement for its high-level meeting at the United Nations on 2nd April, 2012. The co-authors all agree on the general concepts and ideas but do not necessarily completely endorse every specific argument. This report is a synthesis and compendium.