

Foreword

This book is designed to provide a quick overview of the Sustainable Development Department (SDS). The accompanying CD-ROM provides more in-depth information about particular SDS resources. The text is available in the CD-ROM, along with interactive links to additional information. Some of these links open a web browser on the specific page in the SDS Internet site where additional information on that topic is available (a connection to the Internet is required to view this additional information). Other links launch an annotated bibliography of SDS publications pertaining to the particular topic or area of interest. For viewers interested in greater detail, each bibliographical entry includes a link to the page on the SDS website from where the publication can be downloaded in its entirety.

The annotated bibliography is fully cross-referenced. Thus, under the topic of “natural disasters” are included publications that approach this subject from the point of view of the natural environment, risk financing, the impact on microenterprises, etc.

Interactive navigational icons in the CD-ROM also allow the viewer to pull up publications by type and author, as well as by topic. This means that a viewer may choose to see the summaries of certain types of publications (say, strategies or best practice papers) regardless of subject area. Alternatively, the viewer may choose to see the bibliography for a particular author, regardless of topic or type of publication.

The annotated bibliography includes summaries of approximately 400 publications, special programs, and resources in other media (such as videos). Links to the SDS website and other web pages put a world of additional information at the viewer’s fingertips. This includes draft working papers, conference agendas and presentations, information on forthcoming events, and staff bios. (The total number of publications in the SDS web site exceeds 800.)

This packet of information addresses the need for a systematic, current and comprehensive listing of the technical information available at the Sustainable

Development Department. Here, policymakers, program and project managers, executing agencies, Bank staff, and other interested parties, can find descriptions of products that range from best practice and technical studies, to sector strategies and policies, databases, videos, and Bank-supported regional programs. Some of the topics covered include poverty, social development, education, health, urban development, social inclusion, gender, infrastructure, financial markets, enterprise development, information and communication technology, natural disasters, environmental management, rural development, science and technology, state reform, and civil society.

The products identified here reflect part of the support that SDS offers to the Bank's work program and to the region. It builds on the three previous editions of the SDS Resource Guide (1999, 2001 and 2003) as well as the previous annual editions of the SDS CD-ROM Library (1999-2004), which this booklet and CD-ROM replace.

It is our hope that this integrated and interactive module will make SDS resources more easily accessible.

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