

Foreword

Since the 1992 'Earth Summit' in Brazil, there has been increasing recognition worldwide that environmental and economic policies must work together in order to improve the quality of human life. If the environment continues to be degraded, economic development will suffer. Conversely, environmental policies are unlikely to succeed without rapid economic development, especially in poorer countries.

The Commonwealth Secretariat's policy development work on the environment is giving particular emphasis to the integration of economic and environmental policies, in response to the growing interest in this subject in member countries. This paper, prepared for the Secretariat by Professor David Pearce, University College London, and Ms Ece Özdemiroğlu, Economics for the Environment Consultancy, London, provides a comprehensive overview of the key conceptual, policy and practical aspects of integrating economic and environmental policies. Policy-makers confront several complex issues in trying to harmonise economic and environmental objectives. I hope that they will find this paper helpful in dealing with these issues so that the transition to environmentally sustainable development can be accelerated in the Commonwealth.

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