PREFACE

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Our knowledge and understanding of the natural environment and its interaction with our socio-economic systems have significantly expanded over the last couple of decades. However, we have not been able to go beyond incremental gains, which have limited capacity to contain and reverse the unsustainable trends of development. This is manifested through a deepening socio-economic and social-ecological crisis expressed in the form of growing environmental degradation, persistent economic stagnation, increasing unemployment and growing disparities between and within countries. Recognition of these challenges provided the basis for the development of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals at the global level and Agenda 2063 on the Africa We Want by the African Union. Both of these agendas focus on the continuous improvement of human wellbeing while preserving the natural ecosystem as its foundation.

This book project was conceived with the belief that Africa's ability to make any progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfil its aspiration of Agenda 2063 will largely depend on the kind of infrastructure it develops in

the coming years and decades. We also recognise that emerging technologies and knowledge systems coupled with Africa's early stage of development provide the continent with unique leapfrogging opportunities. To this effect, the book provides a transformational framework for Africa's transition to a wellbeing economy that is inclusive, climate-resilient and resource-efficient.

The core chapters of the book cover the main issues and tools which African countries should consider in developing their ecological, energy, industrial, urban and governance infrastructure. The book is a collective product of African scholars who have extensive academic and development experience on the topics covered in the book. While African policymakers and planners are its primary target audiences, the book can also be used as a source reference for academic education and research work.

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