

A note from Dr R K Pachauri

We live on a truly unique and wonderful planet. It nurtures life, is home to an amazing variety of flora and fauna, and has a breathtaking variety of landscapes. However, in our quest for industrialization and urbanization, we have polluted our air and poisoned our waters, cut down trees to make way for human habitation, and have even caused the melting of polar ice caps.

Protecting our planet and preserving it for future generations in the face of rampant resource depletion is crucial. One way to effect this change is to allow children to appreciate the earth's unique features—vast oceans, hot and cold deserts, lush green forests teeming with life, rivers and lakes that have been our lifeline since ancient times, lofty mountains, and the two extensive icy poles.

This series, while offering a glimpse of our beautiful yet fragile planet to young minds, seeks to both entertain and enrich their thought processes. These books inform readers about the dangers facing landforms and oceans and their inhabitants, and I hope that they will inspire the future custodians of our planet to safeguard it.

R K Pachauri

Director-General. TERI

Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change