

## BOX 1.2 | Contribution of ecosystem goods and services to national economies

Environmental income is important not only to the poor, but to national economies as well, although it is often overlooked in official statistics. The wildlife tourism industry is among the most important and rapidly growing sectors of the international tourism industry. In Kenya, wildlife tourism presently brings in approximately US\$200 million every year, and is the country's largest earner of foreign currency. Each year in the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, tourism raises as much as \$60 million annually, and provides income for an estimated 80% of the islands' residents. The harvest of wild species can also make major contributions to national economies. Exports of medicinal plants are worth US\$8.6 million annually to Nepal, where an estimated 1,500 species are used in traditional medicines. Among industrialized nations, Iceland's marine fisheries serve as a model for responsible management and, in 2003, marine products represented over 60% of the country's exported goods, by value. Increasingly, the demand for goods produced from sustainably managed ecosystems are creating new economic opportunities. Sales of certified organic coffee beans, for instance, which generally come from coffee plants grown under more traditional, tree-shaded and biodiversity-friendly conditions, are currently growing faster than sales of any other specialty coffee.