**Chapter 1**

**Sustainable Qatar**

**Logan Cochrane and Reem Al-Hababi**

**Abstract** The Qatar National Vision of 2030 has identified bold and transforma-tional goals for for the country. As envisioned by the State of Qatar, the transition to sustainable Qatar weaves together four pillars of economic, social, human, and envi-ronmental development. Yet, the country face significant challenges, and with these challenges a range of options for future pathways. With the National Vision 2030 being launched in 2008, this volume provides an update on the key sustainability issues, focusing on environmental sustainability from a socio-politicle perspective.

**Keywords** Qatar ·Sustainability ·Development

**1.1 Why Sustainability?**

Global considerations of sustainability has taken diverse forms throughout human history. Indigenous knowledge systems commonly value sustainability as more important than other economic gains, be that in nutrient management practices in agri-cultural systems, water management practices in arid environments, or fishing prac-tices that maintained ecosystem balances. Each of these decision-making processes recognized that the longevity of the system required careful and wise and utilization. Exemplary of this is the Seventh Generation Principle, which guides people to make decisions that benefit people seven generations into the future (a philosophy rooted in the North American Haudenosaunee Confederacy, called the Iroquois by the French). The Islamic tradition provides principles similarly; the Qur’an explains that people are to act as custodians, caretakers, or trustees (6: 165) on the earth, avoiding excessiveness and wastefulness, walking gently on the earth (25: 63).