



Supporting Developing Countries and LDCs - Inclusive Green Economies

INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMIES AS A MEANS TOWARD POVERTY REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Preparations for Rio+20 involved extensive consultations on how to achieve sustainable development at the global, national, and community levels, including through inclusive green economy approaches. These debates have helped highlight different perspectives on green economy policies within and across countries, institutions, and stakeholder groups.

As recognized by the Rio+20 Outcome document, green economy policies can be **an important means to reducing poverty** and supporting more **sustainable development**. At the same time, there are different green economy approaches, models and tools available to each country depending on context and needs.

Integration, Implementation, Inclusion, Cohesion

Twenty years ago, the Earth Summit introduced the idea of sustainable development. At Rio+10, dialogues moved from the aspirational “where should we go” to the practical “how should we get there.” Today, the question is how to accelerate and upscale **implementation** of better **integrated, inclusive, and coherent** national sustainable development given emerging social, economic, and environmental challenges and opportunities.

Responding to Country Evidence and Experiences

Many countries have expressed their aspirations and are already putting in place policies to help green economies as a means for sustainable development. As part of Rio preparations and related initiatives, a range of country experiences has been gathered on these national plans.

Green economy in Rio+20 Outcome Document

The Rio+20 Outcome Document affirms that green economy approaches should:

- serve as tools for reducing poverty and supporting more sustainable development;
- promote inclusive economic growth and create opportunities for employment and decent work for all;
- maintain the healthy functioning of Earth’s ecosystems;
- contribute to the Millennium Development Goals;
- improve the livelihoods and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable groups;
- mobilize the full potential and ensure the equal contribution of both women and men;
- engage all stakeholders and major groups, including civil society and the private sector;
- respect human rights and national sovereignty;
- derive from integrated planning processes, enabling environments, and effective institutions at all levels; and
- be supported by the UN and partners upon request through capacity development and technical assistance.

These include Rio+20 reports and consultations organized by over 80 countries, results from a survey of UN country teams on Rio+20 themes, and innovative work under the Poverty Environment Initiative and MDG Acceleration Framework.

This rich set of evidence and country-based experiences highlights the need and priorities for better integrated, inclusive, and coherent sustainable development policies, including through green economy approaches. It also suggests ways that the UN system and partners can respond to these opportunities by **unpacking the green economy toolkit**, strengthening **capacities**, sharing **knowledge**, and forging stronger **partnerships**.

For more information:

<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/JXA00>

The Green Economy Joint Programme

The UNDP-UNEP-DESA Green Economy Joint Programme (JP) is responding to country demand in collaboration with sister agencies and partners. The JP works at the global, regional, and national level to: 1) enhance political engagement and mobilize public support for post-Rio implementation; 2) build capacities and strengthen advisory services on inclusive green economy policies, tools and measures; and 3) promote integration of green economy themes as a key element of UN Country Team programming.

The JP is implemented in two phases. Phase one has supported Rio preparations and immediate post-Rio follow-up in 2012. Phase two runs from 2013-2014. The JP has an initial focus on: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen.

Unpacking the Green Economy Toolkit

Transitions to greener economies can be made without having to choose between strong growth, social progress, or environmental sustainability. Through careful planning, greener economies can be designed in ways that limit any potential harm, while increasing access to new economic investments, reducing inequalities and promoting social well-being.

To ensure that countries can achieve these goals they need to be informed by the best available information and analysis. Decision-makers need access to **a practical set of policy tools and measures** that respond to the needs of different country contexts.

The Rio+20 Outcome Document recognizes these needs and encourages UN agencies and partners to help meet this demand by coordinating information on toolboxes, best practice models, and methodologies to track the success of inclusive green economy approaches.

The JP builds on several initiatives led by multilateral and bilateral institutions, sister agencies and civil society partners to unpack the green economy toolkit. Some of these tools include: *diagnostics* for integrated environmental, social and economic assessments; *data*, such as the SEEA framework and human development indices; *environmental fiscal reform*, *green innovation*, *industrial* and *employment* tools; and tools for *financing*.

Integrating into national, regional and global development frameworks

Green economy approaches need to be integrated into existing national, regional, and global frameworks including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Rio+20 included discussions on a new set of Sustainable Development Goals, with links to the MDGs and post-2015 development framework.

The Green Economy Joint Programme supports governments and stakeholders explore options for using green economy tools to achieve and track progress towards the MDGs and related global goals.

Capacity Development, Knowledge Management

Capacity development and knowledge management are central to more inclusive, integrated green economy policies. The JP works to strengthen capacities at the individual, the organization, and the enabling environment, or "system level". It helps strengthen functional and technical capacities key to stronger institutional governance and coordination, leadership, accountability, and knowledge management.

Partnerships and South - South Exchange

The JP recognizes the role of partnerships and South-South collaboration. As encouraged by the Rio+20 Outcome Document, the JP facilitates knowledge exchange of inclusive green economy experiences within and across regions. JP activities are informed by and feed into the Green Growth Knowledge Platform and Green Growth Best Practices Initiative (www.ggkp.org)

With support from the Government of the Netherlands, the Green Economy Joint Programme strives to build on existing initiatives and draw on the expertise of sister agencies and other development partners at all levels. Integrated solutions for more inclusive, greener economies require long-term integrated approaches supported by multi-disciplinary networks of collaboration. New partnerships are welcomed.

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