



PAGE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION
ON GREEN ECONOMY



PAGE 2020 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

PART II: Comprehensive Summary of Country Progress and Global Work



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[Part I – Summary Report \(Separate Document\)](#)

[Part III – Consolidated Financial Report \(Separate Document\)](#)

[Part IV – Monitoring framework \(Separate Document\)](#)

1. PROGRESS IN PAGE COUNTRIES

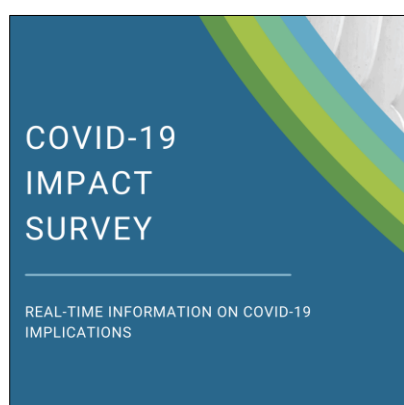
PAGE has delivered inspiring results in line with its four key outcomes and its sustainability criteria for graduating countries. An overview of PAGE's country level COVID-19 response is provided below, followed by a summary of the main progress by country and at the global level in 2020.

PAGE COUNTRY LEVEL COVID-19 RESPONSE

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the first priority of PAGE was to stay connected to all the members of the Partnership, beginning with a [statement of fellowship](#) and hope for our collective future from the PAGE Management Board.

Throughout 2020, assessment, monitoring and engagement across partners culminated in [commitments for targeted green recovery support for 14 countries](#), with work beginning in 2021. This specific support mechanism is in addition and complementary to ongoing PAGE work in these countries and the additional funding was made possible through a contribution of US\$ 7 million from the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany.

PAGE enhanced collaboration on all levels and strengthened the existing bonds throughout its various bodies – between the PAGE Funding Partners, Management Board, Global Technical Team, Country Teams and the PAGE Secretariat – to aid the speed and success of the COVID-19 response within the Partnership. Below are key examples of the ways in which this deepened support unfolded and contributed to the formation of country-specific green recovery proposals.



COVID-19 Impact Survey:

Acting quickly to gather immediate insights from PAGE Partner Countries, a COVID-19 Impact Survey was sent to national counterparts at the start of April 2020. Beyond data collection on immediate health impacts, lockdown measures and key policy responses, the survey collected real-time and projected information from PAGE National Coordinators on how the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting day-to-day work, the implications for planned activities, and the potential impact on the green economy

agenda in their respective country. This quick assessment enabled PAGE to prepare for adaptation in planned work, notably the rapid reprogramming of activities to support an economic recovery that is green and sustainable.



A Rapid Needs Assessment Survey for Green Economic Recovery from COVID-19 Crisis:

Conducted between April and May 2020, the Rapid Needs Assessment took inputs directly from countries on COVID-19 impacts with an overall objective to gain insights on smart strategies and gaps where country support would be most essential in green economic recovery planning. The assessment, based on systematic exchange with government and UN partners, helped identify support strategies that would integrate sustainability objectives in

line with SDGs and climate and biodiversity targets. From this, six priority areas were identified:

1. Assessing the economic, social and environmental impacts of COVID-19, including on commitments to green economy efforts, SDGs, NDCs and other global sustainability frameworks
2. Supporting policymakers and the development of SDG-aligned policies and recovery packages
3. Strengthening public demand for a green and inclusive economic recovery
4. Ensuring collective national ownership of green recovery policies by all stakeholders
5. Supporting capacity-building in the development and implementation of green economic recovery policies
6. South-South and Triangular Cooperation, assisting non-PAGE countries, Technical support for tangible projects on GE solutions with the private sector and MSMEs, and increased focus on resource mobilization at the country level

These insights guided PAGE when providing guidance in developing tailor-made green recovery support proposals later in 2020, described in the specific country sections below.

GRADUATING COUNTRIES

1.1 Mongolia

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Over the past 25 years, Mongolia has transformed into a vibrant democracy, with triple the level of GDP per capita, increasing school enrolments, and dramatic declines in maternal and child mortality. With vast agricultural and mineral resources, and an increasingly educated population, Mongolia is quickly moving towards its long-term development goals. At the same time, it continues to face significant environmental challenges, including land degradation, air and water pollution and increasing carbon dioxide emissions. Confronted with these challenges, the country has shown firm commitment to alternative growth based on environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.

PAGE's work in Mongolia commenced in 2013, with its first action to support conception of the National Green Development Policy (NGDP). This set the tone for strong evidence-based policy analysis, resulting in reforms across a range of sectoral and thematic areas, including sustainable public procurement, finance and trade, green economy learning, green jobs, green buildings, and industry and waste management.

Mongolia was the first country where PAGE started to phase out its support since 2018 accompanied by the development of a comprehensive sustainability plan. PAGE's support has culminated in several achievements including: integration of IGE goals and targets into national economic and development planning; sectoral and thematic reforms in green buildings and construction, green finance, waste management and sustainable procurement; and strengthened institutional capacity of government institutions, the media, universities, research institutes and businesses. **In turn, this work has contributed to SDG 4 (Quality Education), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).**

Following graduation, Mongolia stays in the partnership as an alumni country, sharing knowledge to help replicate its achievements on a global scale.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant economic and social impacts for Mongolia, including a 9.7 per cent contraction in economy in the first half of 2020. The UN Mongolia Socio-Economic Response Plan for COVID-19 states that the contraction is further exacerbating socio-economic vulnerabilities of herders, women and low-skilled youth. The tourism sector, the third largest contributor to the economy, and a rapidly growing sector prior to the pandemic, has been most severely impacted. To help the country recover greener and better from the COVID-19 crisis, the new ruling Government, formed after the August 2020 general elections, adopted the Government Action Plan for 2020-2024, which considers "sustainable tourism based on nature, history and cultural heritage" as key to economic recovery. This provides a new entry point for PAGE support for a green recovery. Another important area for PAGE support on green recovery are the government's plans to reform energy subsidies, which will be critical to creating fiscal space, redirecting incentives and achieving Mongolia's ambitious climate targets.

Progress in 2020

Supporting implementation of sectoral and thematic IGE policies (Outcome 2):

Supporting green recovery by promoting community-based eco-tourism sector: A targeted green recovery programme for Mongolia was developed in November 2020 in collaboration with the government, PAGE agencies and the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC). PAGE will support Mongolia to develop a roadmap, national standards and an investment plan to further develop the community-based eco-tourism sector, which is particularly relevant to vulnerable women and low-skilled youth. The work will help to

diversify the economy away from the mining sector and to manage more sustainably other natural resources by offering nature-based solutions for its recovery and creating green jobs. It is anticipated that rural herding communities, as custodians of nomadic lifestyle and culture, will be the main beneficiaries.

The proposal outlines the engagement of individual community groups enabling them to host cultural and adventure tourists, linking the communities through innovative technology, leveraging private sector collaboration and investment, putting in place respective standards, certification and quality assurance processes and providing targeted capacity-building.

Starting in 2021, PAGE will conduct a market assessment to identify market gaps and opportunities for promoting sector growth and decent job creation; establish mechanisms for facilitating public-private collaboration; develop a sustainability and green/eco-tourism business criteria and service standards; and enhance the capacity of local institutions to train SMEs, youth entrepreneurs, and community-based groups in green business standards and development.

Reforming energy subsidies: PAGE together with the UNRC Office has initiated a strategic workstream around energy subsidy reform in Mongolia. The country, as many former socialist economies, has a relatively high degree of subsidization. In 2019, energy subsidies accounted for 1.2 per cent of GDP or 2.5 per cent of total government budget expenditures and 5.4 per cent of local budget expenditures. The removal of subsidies will be critical for achieving Mongolia's ambitious climate targets (to reduce CO₂ emissions by 12.3 per cent by 2024 and by 22.7 per cent by 2050) and its commitment to increase the share of renewable energy to 30 per cent by 2030. The current context with the low oil price and the need to rebuild fiscal positions with the COVID-19 crisis provides a particular opportunity to reduce fossil fuel subsidies. Reforming inefficient subsidies can free up public resources which can be used to support much needed investments in areas such as health and education and provide social protection for vulnerable groups while encouraging long-term investment for a low carbon economy. In 2021, PAGE will develop a technical study to assess how to reform energy subsidies through the rationalization of tariffs and support renewable energy development in Mongolia. The study will draw on good practices from other countries in reforming energy pricing and tariffs, bring lesson from experimental case studies on renewable and how to mitigate impacts on vulnerable and lower-income households.

Measures to support sustainability of results in collaboration with other initiatives

PAGE continues exploring synergies with complementary initiatives to sustain policy work and capacity development initiated during the core phase.

Environmental budgeting: With initial funding from PAGE, UNDP is supporting a pilot on SDG-based environmental budgeting. UNDP Mongolia worked with the Ministry of Finance

(MOF) to introduce a gradual integration of SDGs into the budget cycle both horizontally (coverage of sectors) and vertically (processes to ensure state and local budget decision-making using SDGs). In 2019, an initial expenditure trend analysis was conducted and the exercise to align budgeting with Sustainable Development Vision 2030 (SDV)/SDG priorities and indicators was launched covering three areas: special protected areas; desertification and land degradation; and water resource management.

This work was continued by UNDP in 2020, involving i) on-site mission trips to selected provinces to monitor the implementation of the SDG budget at local government levels, ii) policy objectives mapping to update the approval of the long-term development policy vision document Vision-2050 and iii) the completion of a Fiscal Analysis of the Environment and Tourism Sector. Additionally, in 2020, the application of the SDG budgeting methodology and template was expanded by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) to develop seven budget programmes along with performance indicators for the 2021 fiscal year. Key achievements of the project include:

- **New budget formulation process within the MET:** Prior to the project, the environmental budget was input-driven and developed primarily by finance experts. Now, policy units are engaged in the budget preparation process from the very beginning, formulating the sector priorities before budget decisions are made.
- **New budget negotiations process with the MOF:** Prior to the project, the MOF used standard practices for reviewing inputs during the budget proposal review stage. Now, the MOF meets separately with the MET to discuss sector priorities, new policy initiatives, expected results and outputs, and if additional funding is being sought.
- **Increased accountability on expected results:** Instead of the Citizens Budget being decided solely on financial allocations, the Citizens Budget section on environment now presents information on expected results and how much will be spent for those results.

Green Economy Policy Review: In 2019, Mongolia was selected as a pilot country to apply the Green Economy Policy Review methodology, developed by UNEP's Economic and Trade Policy Unit in the framework of the EU funded project 'Inclusive Green Economy Policy Making for SDGs'. The policy review serves to conduct a mid-term review of the NGDP, a national plan which started in 2014 and goes on until 2030. Its findings are currently being discussed with the MET.

The review found that out of the 2020 targets, for which data was available, seven indicators reached more than 70 per cent of their set target, while three indicators reached more than 90 per cent of their target. While the alignment with the SDGs and Mongolia's 'Vision 2050' is relatively high, common challenges and obstacles for achieving the targets included slow economic growth, insufficient financial incentives for green development, low stakeholder awareness, lacking coordination among government institutions, a weak institutional memory due to government restructuring and limited investment in infrastructure development.

Outreach on Mongolia's ambitious climate policy: As a follow up to the 'Climate Ambition Summit 2020', in Mongolia, the MET and the United Nations Mongolia organized the Partnership for Ambitious Climate Action online forum on 22 December 2020. The Head of the PAGE Secretariat was invited to speak at the forum, which involved all important stakeholders to initiate collective support and commitment to the NDC target of 27.2 per cent reduction in GHG announced by the President of Mongolia at the Summit.

Financing for agricultural and livestock value chain: With additional funding from PAGE, UNDP is supporting the design and set-up of a private equity impact investment fund targeting cashmere and adjacent fibre value chains to build climate-resilient livelihoods in the pasturelands of Mongolia and China. To effectively support the Country Office in ensuring the Mongolia-China Sustainable Fibers Fund (MCSFF) quality, an experienced international consultant was engaged to assist UNDP with a concept note that will help outline the feasibility of the fund. In December 2020, the consultant completed background analysis of the MCSFF Concept Paper, including Risk Matrix Preparation, Fiber Value Chain analysis in China and Mongolia, and in 2021 will prepare an MCSFF proposal request and provide support to contract a fund manager.

The fund will support companies that advance climate-resilient livestock management and help reverse pasture degradation, complementing efforts funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). This work also builds on the PAGE Mongolia Sustainability Strategy and aligns with the national Green Growth Action Plan and SDV.

Integrating green economy into national training programmes: UNITAR has translated the introductory e-course on green economy to Mongolian in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as well as the Mongolian State University of Life Sciences, Otgontenger University, National University of Commerce and Business, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, and the National Academy of Governance. The Mongolian version features relevant case studies from the national context and was launched on 2 October 2020 at an event during the Mongolian Green Technology Exhibition. The course has been promoted through a social media campaign involving the course partners as well as the UN Country Team. The MET is aiming to have all of its staff take the course and get certified and is also recommending the course to other Government agencies.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Mongolia in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.2 Peru

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Located on the west coast of South America with more than 50 per cent of its territory covered by forest, Peru has an abundance of natural resources that serve as the backbone of its economy. Decades of resource-driven growth have degraded the environment, resulting in water and air pollution, soil erosion and deforestation, affecting all segments of society, particularly the most vulnerable. In recent years, Peru has made significant efforts to not only offset the balance between economic growth and environmental preservation, but to turn its sustainability concerns into drivers of government policy and long-term prosperity. This is no more prevalent than in its Bicentennial Development Plan of 2011.

Against this backdrop, PAGE commenced work in Peru in 2014, with the aim of promoting efficient use of resources, environmental quality, and green jobs creation. PAGE has since supported the integration of green growth into national planning, assisted the implementation of green sectoral and thematic policies and built both, individual and institutional capacity to support long-term change. As an important milestone, Peru approved a National Competitiveness and Productivity Policy, including a chapter on sustainability in 2018. Other key achievements include sectoral and thematic reforms in green jobs, green industry, teleworking and urban transport; introduction of IGE courses into national curricula and strengthened capacity on forward looking policy analysis.

This in turn has supported achievement of the OECD Declaration on Green Growth and several SDGs, including SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

In 2019, PAGE started a gradual phase of its support from Peru, accompanied by the development of a sustainability plan. In 2020, work continued through the GIZ led Green Economy Transformation (GIZ-GET) project, to enhance national capacity and ownership and generate lasting results.

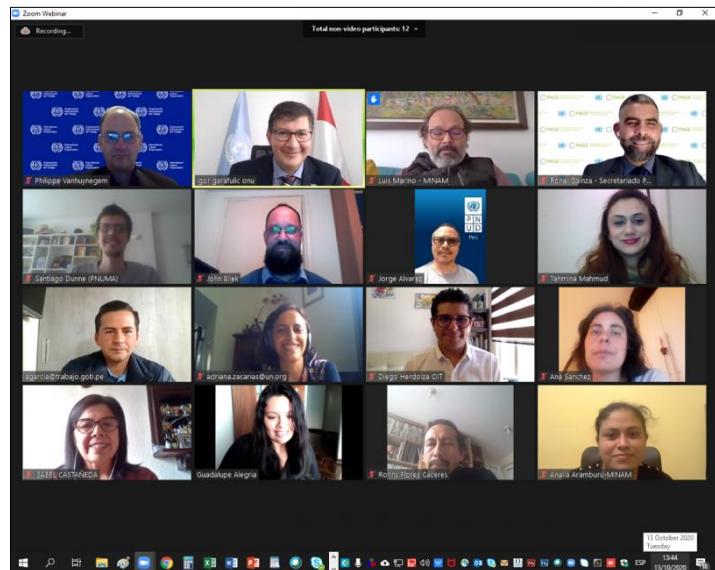
While the Peruvian government has not established a specific mechanism for economic recovery, in 2020 the Ministry of the Environment has been updating the National Environmental Policy. Contributions have been received on issues related to reducing air, water and soil pollution, reducing deforestation, promoting research in universities, fostering good environmental practices among citizens, such as recycling, emphasizing the role of women, including the ancestral knowledge of indigenous populations, implementing measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change, and incorporating the circular economy, among other issues. Furthermore, the National Competitiveness and Productivity Plan, which PAGE is already supporting, could become an intersectoral strategy to support the transition towards an inclusive green economy.

Progress in 2020

Incorporating environmental dimensions into national development strategies (Outcome 1):

Supporting implementation of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Plan: PAGE supported the Ministry of Environment with several studies focused around Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the implementation of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Plan. Four studies, focusing on the areas of fishing, agriculture, waste and energy, were conducted under the regional ILO Green Jobs Programme in order to identify the most relevant issues related to the Just Transition within the framework of the 2020 NDC update process. Draft reports for all four sectors were finalized in December 2020. PAGE provided indirect support to the development of the reports and plans to collaborate further to the Green Jobs Programme by contributing to the finalization and promotion of the reports.

Completing PAGE and engaging stakeholders to sustain PAGE results and green growth: On 13 October, under the title '[On the Road to Green Growth](#)', PAGE organized a virtual closing ceremony of the five years of support to Peru. The webinar was hosted by ILO and the UN Resident Coordinator of Peru and was attended by four national ministries, the PAGE Secretariat and all PAGE agencies. The webinar celebrated the country's five-year engagement within the



partnership, by featuring videos from each PAGE agency on their interventions, a presentation on the outcomes showing the way forward for green growth through national processes based on the sustainability plan. Among the discussion of successes, the event referred to PAGE's success in building national capacity for policy analysis the ongoing application of PAGE's Integrated Green Economy modelling tool for assessing NDC policies in Peru, supported through complementary work of UNEP funded by the European Commission. As well as marking the phase-out of the five-year PAGE programme in Peru, the ceremony presented a starting point for green recovery discussion in Peru. The ceremony was originally planned for March and postponed to October due to COVID-19 and the associated lockdown in Peru.

Securing sustainability in the implementation of sectoral and thematic IGE policies in collaboration with other initiatives (Outcome 2)

Supporting sustainable finance and investment: UNDP with additional PAGE funds and in collaboration with BIOFIN supports the mechanism for Public Works for Tax Deductions. This mechanism, currently still being underused, holds a great potential for funding green infrastructure with private sector funds. It is expected that by 2021 equivalent to 1 per cent of GDP could be mobilized for infrastructure projects through the Public Works for Tax Deductions mechanism, part of which can be directed to investment in greener, biodiversity friendly projects. To help realize this potential, PAGE through BIOFIN funded an initial study to prioritize the companies that would be interested in using the mechanism of investments through Work for Taxes (WxT) to finance projects related to biodiversity and green economy.

The study, completed in 2020, has served as an input for the systematization of public investment projects in biodiversity and ecosystem management that BIOFIN carried out, with the objective of defining a potential portfolio of projects that contribute to closing investment gaps in biodiversity and ecosystem services. 23 companies were prioritized, out of which 50 per cent wish to use the mechanism to finance natural infrastructure for nearly US\$ 15 million. With BIOFIN support, the government has now developed a portfolio of environmental projects to be financed by WxT. Building on this, UNDP signed a MoU with the private sector association ALOXI (gathering 30 private companies) on 16 September 2020 to establish a framework for cooperation. Furthermore, a webinar attended by 744 participants was organized on 16 September by Forest Trends with BIOFIN to improve the awareness of the private sector on this mechanism.

Scenario analysis for deforestation free palm oil production: In 2019, UNDP with additional funds under PAGE, started to support the development of demand-driven Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) in Peru. The TSA is an innovative economic valuation approach designed to provide sector-focused economic information to decision makers, to develop more sustainable policies and better-funded implementation plans. The TSA focuses on deforestation-free palm oil production as part of a broader TSA that includes sustainable cacao and coffee production in the Amazon and supports the formulation of national coffee, cocoa, and oil palm action plans. A draft TSA report and policy brief on cacao and palm oil was completed in 2020 and are in final stage of review. The government, and cacao and palm producers, including the Peru National Palm Oil Board 'JUNPALMA', welcomed the initial study results and policy recommendations.

Supporting sustainable finance and circular economy: In 2020, PAGE continued to work in close collaboration with GIZ, specifically through the Green Economy Transformation (GIZ-GET) Project. As the country reaches the end of the first phase of PAGE engagement, the project is helping to consolidate achievements and has supported the elaboration of the country's Sustainability Strategy for PAGE. Going forward, the project will take a lead role in assisting Peru in the process of transitioning to a greener economy and enhancing its sustainability.

Promoting sustainable finance, the GIZ-GET project has supported the multi-stakeholder process involving the Ministry of Environment and the Association of Banks of Peru (ASBANC), among others in preparation for Signature of the Green Protocol, which was signed on 15 October 2020. Professional technical support will be provided to MINAM for the elaboration of its sustainable finance roadmap.

The GIZ-GET project is also supporting MINAM in the process of preparing the launch of the National Circular Economy (EC) Platform. A first survey of circular economy cases for Peru was completed in 2020. From more than 100 companies, 30 cases were detailed and will be visualized in the national platform. Materials, brochures describing the cases and videos explaining the different circular economy business models will be produced. The project has engaged in exchanges to find synergies and work in close coordination with other actors in the field of circular economy, such as the LAC Circular Economy Coalition.

Building institutional and individual capacity (Outcome 3)

Pilot test of university course on Inclusive Green Economy Modelling: Following the 2019 green growth course and a green economy modelling course, a package of teaching materials for a higher education semester-long course on 'Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) Modelling' was developed in August 2020. The package includes: one course syllabus, one facilitator guide, presentations for each of the three course modules, and handouts exercises. The materials were pilot-tested in spring 2020 at the *Universidad de Pacifico*, Peru. 21 students attended the elective course, which will be replicated in the next year. Building on the successful application in Peru, the course materials were made available from September 2020, free of charge, in English and Spanish to higher education institutions around the world to support them in establishing recurrent courses on green economic modelling.

On 15 September, the training materials were disseminated during a webinar held in Spanish to present the package and explore opportunities for running the course at other universities and institutions in Latin America. In total, 43 participants from higher education institutions from PAGE countries in the LAC region joined the webinar. The same materials were disseminated during the English webinar held in November with participants from PAGE Indonesia, Thailand, Kyrgyz Republic, South Africa, Burkina Faso, and Peru. The modelling package can also be a powerful tool to assess different policy options for a green economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Alongside the global launch of the material, the Ministry of Production of Peru shared its experience with the application of the Integrated Green Economy Modelling (IGEM) tool for assessing NDC policies in Peru.

Capacity-building for green entrepreneurship: PAGE is supporting the development of a specialization programme on Green Enterprises, based on the Green Business Booklet of the ILO 'Start and Improve your Business' and other experiences in the region. This programme will consist of two modules and is targeted at both entrepreneurs (from MSMEs) who already have a business and want to green their business, and for entrepreneurs who

want to start a green business. After the development of this program, a Training of Trainers Pilot Programme will be organized to replicate these efforts. The programme will be piloted virtually in early 2021.

Further supporting the collaboration with GIZ, PAGE Peru will engage GIZ in the Training of Trainers Pilot Programme on green entrepreneurship in order to receive its inputs, as well as coordinate with GIZ on the development of joint proposals regarding green finance, circular economy, and creation of green jobs and entrepreneurship.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Peru in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.3 Senegal

Country context and PAGE portfolio

In recent years, Senegal has established itself as one of West Africa's economic hubs and in the process, made significant strides towards improving the well-being of its population. Nevertheless, with approximately 50 per cent of its territory classified as semi-arid, the country is especially vulnerable to climate change, which is expected to intensify environmental threats such as desertification and water scarcity. As a large share of the population relies heavily on natural capital for their livelihood, committing to a green and inclusive economy is key to developmental success.

Recognizing the importance of sustainability, Senegal adopted the 'Plan Senegal Emergent' (PSE) in 2014, outlining a new development model designed to accelerate its progress towards emerging market status and facilitate its transition to a green economy in the mid to long-term. This was bolstered by the adoption of a National Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2015.

In this context, the Senegalese Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) requested PAGE support in early 2014. PAGE intervention has focused on the operationalisation of the PSE and its five-year Priority Action Plan (PAP 2014-2018), specifically two pillars integral to green economy transition: 'Structural Transformation of the Economy and Growth' and 'Human Capital, Social Protection and Sustainable Development'. Since 2018, the reinforcing IGE objectives in the elaboration of the PSE II and the second PAP to span 2019-2023 has become an area of attention for PAGE support.

Since 2019, PAGE has started a gradual phase out of its support from Senegal, with a sustainability plan in development to further embed PAGE results and take the green economy agenda forward.

To date, PAGE work in Senegal has already culminated in several achievements, including: the integration of Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) into national policies; sectoral and thematic reforms across green jobs, sustainable construction, waste management, green industry and sustainable use of revenues from oil and gas; establishment of a national multi-stakeholder platform, and enhanced green entrepreneurship. **As such, PAGE work has contributed to the achievement of several SDGs, including SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals).**

In order to cope with the health, but also social, economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19, the State of Senegal has embarked on a process of economic recovery with the development of a Programme for the Relaunch of the National Economy (PREN) and the adjustment of the *Programme d'action prioritaire* (PAP) of the (PSE) for 2019-2023, with the definition of new priorities in the current context. This economic and social revival of the country should allow a change of paradigm and prove to be an opportunity for the greening of the Senegalese economy with the consideration of the environment in all sectors of activity, as well as providing new entry points for PAGE.

Progress in 2020

Supporting further integration of green economy into policy actions (Outcome 1):

Green Economy Days gathering stakeholders across sectors: Key actors and stakeholders across sectors in Senegal participated in the [third edition of the 'National Green Economy Days'](#) in Dakar on 11 and 12 February 2020. Organized by the Government of Senegal, under the leadership of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and in collaboration with United Nations agencies and



national partners involved in the implementation of the PAGE in Senegal, the Green Economy Days were a forum to present the strategy to further anchor the green economy in Senegal. Involving partners from government, private sector, academia and civil society discussion covered national green employment policies; the updated version of the Green Economy Assessment; recent studies on green skills and green jobs, along with a methodology for the statistical estimation of green jobs; circular economy; and programmes for future skill development – all with a view to develop a roadmap for the continuation of green economy activities in the country.

The green economy days also provided an opportunity to present the green economy training module developed by the National School of Administration (ENA) for Senegalese government officials, to the participants. The gathering addressed key questions on how to further institutionalize the National Platform on the Green Economy in the years to come.

National Platform for Green Economy endorsed by government: Following the Green Economy days, the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development signed a Decree on 20 May formally establishing National Platform on the Green Economy and confirming its organizational modalities.

Green Recovery - Embedding green economy within economic recovery processes: To promote the integration of the green economy dimension into the economic recovery process, in 2020 PAGE Senegal submitted a proposal for green recovery funding. PAGE support to Senegal will aid in embedding green economy principles within ongoing economic recovery processes, notably the adjustment of the Priority Action Plan of the second phase of the Plan Senegal Emergent Priority Action Programme (PAP). To inform the process, PAGE will partner with the Economic, Social and Environment Council to develop a green recovery strategic orientation document focused on green taxation, sustainable public procurement, and youth entrepreneurship. PAGE will mobilize stakeholders and engage the media in the dissemination of the policy orientation document and green recovery response measures. Additionally, and in line with Senegal's recovery plans, PAGE will provide technical support to sectoral programmes targeting the sustainable management of forests and the plastics recycling sector, as well as in the development of a sustainable public procurement system to further support the greening of the recovery.

Supporting implementation of sectoral and thematic IGE policies (Outcome 2):

Waste management: With the aim of organizing waste collectors into cooperatives, ILO and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) conducted a 'Rapid assessment of the waste management market in Senegal' and a follow on 'Rapid assessment of the potentials of a cooperative approach in waste management in Senegal'. Both assessments were completed in November. Senegal suffers from problems linked to the poor management of solid waste: pollution of the air, surrounding waters affecting specifically the poor urban population of Senegal's cities. Waste pickers are mainly low-income women and men who migrate from rural areas to collect, sort and sell waste from the streets or landfills, working in unprotected conditions and increasing health risks. Providing a new setting with an associative or cooperative form, could stabilize waste picker's income and improve social protection and market access as well as occupational health and safety. The studies in the waste sector will contribute to the implementation of the restructuring plan for the Mbeubeuss landfill planned in the Project for the Promotion of Integrated Management and Economics of Solid Waste in Senegal (PROMOGED).

The assessments will be validated at a national workshop co-organized by ILO and UNIDO in early 2021, in line with UNIDO's planned work on green industry focusing on circular

economy and the plastics value chain. The workshop will bring together all operators of the plastic value chain and to discuss the creation of a new industry around plastic with a high employment and income potential. For the implementation of the workshop, PAGE reached out to the EU Delegation for support, building on the collaboration established among EU, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and UNIDO in the 2019 High-level Regional Conference on Circular Economy held in Dakar.

Sustainable consumption and production: Complementing the work of PAGE, the Directorate for the Environment and Classified Establishment of the MEDD with the support of UNEP organized a series of events on sustainable consumption and production in Senegal in 2020. This activity is in line with the UNEP programme 'Strengthening Institutional and Technical Capacity for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)' and occurred in collaboration with a group of One Planet Network partners, set up to support Senegal on SPP. Thereby, UNEP is leading the group which comprises the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the China Environmental Certification Centre, ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), and independent SPP experts. The organized events included:

- An e-learning course in the form of a webinar on the SCP hotspot analysis tool (SCP-HAT) for the promotion of sustainable consumption and production on 4 May;
- A webinar on SDG 12 and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production on 17 July, for around 30 participants representing sector ministries, civil society, universities and associations; and
- A two-day face-to-face training workshop on 27-28 August, featuring online presentations from UNEP, as well as three presentations by the PAGE Senegal National Coordinator on the green economy foundations, the role of green economy in the promotion of sustainable development as well as green economy case studies from Senegal. This was complemented by a presentation of the Directorate of Green Finance and Partnerships of the Ministry on national green economy policies highlighting the PAGE programme and opportunities for collaboration with other structures. Representatives of the ministries in charge of trade, economy, agriculture, fisheries, industry, water resources management, and energy participated as well as civil society actors, and regional directorate followed online.

Building institutional and individual capacity (Outcome 3):

Facilitating sub-regional exchange on green economy and climate change: PAGE is collaborating with the West African Regional Learning Platform on Climate Change, a programme initiated by UN CC:Learn in partnership with the Agrhyment Regional Centre. The platform facilitates experience sharing, training and dialogue between countries and institutions in the region on learning on inclusive green economy and climate change. Activities include webinars, expert debates, training and the development of learning materials adapted to the context of the region, helping to strengthen synergies and collaboration. Through this platform, Senegal shared experiences on the development of IGE policy and learning materials with other countries and institutions in the region. The first

webinar, held on 18 August 2020, was jointly facilitated by representatives of PAGE Senegal and PAGE Burkina Faso, and was followed by two other webinars on 23 September and 13 October 2020.

The three webinars allowed four countries, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Togo, and Mali, to present their experiences, including case studies, success stories and learning resources developed in their respective countries. Representatives of eight other countries from the region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte-d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo) also participated in the webinars, bringing in their own experiences, asking questions and learning from each other. The webinars provided a platform for ENA to present the series of green economy modules developed in collaboration with PAGE. Further activities such as the launch of regional debates and radio programmes on climate change and IGE are planned from January 2021 onwards.

Women's renewable energy training: Led by UNDP, PAGE conducted a three-day training workshop from 11-13 December 2020 for Mékhé women on renewable energy, to help women use clean energies and improve their health and household environment. The training was attended by 20 young women.



Identifying measures to support sustainable results: PAGE has been working with national counterparts to finalize a national sustainability plan that identifies programme results and recommends measures to sustain the benefits of work beyond the partnership. This includes a communication impact story pack to promote IGE and PAGE's successes in Senegal.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Senegal in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.4 Ghana

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Ghana has achieved strong economic growth over the past two decades, reducing poverty and improving social indicators. The 2006-2009 food, fuel and financial crisis prompted the government to transition to more sustainable growth. This was recognized in the 2010

publication 'Ghana goes for Green Growth', together with the National Energy Policy that included a strategy for renewable energies.

These ideas were taken forward in the 2013 National Climate Change Policy that envisaged a climate-compatible economy that achieves sustainable development through equitable low-carbon growth. The subsequent Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda II (2014-2017) and National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (2018-2021) further refined out Ghana's vision by providing an overarching policy framework for transformative change. Further, the UN Secretary General's appointment of Ghana's President as co-chair of the Group of 16 Eminent Advocates for the SDGs in 2016, demonstrated the country's strong political will to achieve sustainable development and green growth.

This policy framework provided the entry point for PAGE engagement since 2014. In line with the existing policies and Ghana's decentralized planning approach, PAGE focused on planning and monitoring processes of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs). PAGE has supported the further integration of IGE into sub-national planning processes, select sectoral and thematic policy reform processes and related capacity development across institutions and levels of government.

In 2019, PAGE started a gradual phase out of its support from Ghana and completed the development of sustainability plan to further embed PAGE results and take the green economy agenda forward. So far PAGE work has contributed to the following achievements: the mainstreaming of IGE into sub-national planning and reporting; inclusion of climate change education in basic schools across the country; initiation of thematic policy reforms across sustainable finance, green jobs and resource efficiency; as well as individual and institutional capacity-building. **This in turn contributed to the achievement of SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).**

Following COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) of the United Nations and the Government of Ghana's Coronavirus Alleviation Programme (CAP) provide two important policy documents to guide the programme of the government to respond to and recover better from the crisis. The SERRP focuses on two thematic areas of digitization and green economy, helping to unleash the benefits inherent in digitization for green economic opportunities, whilst the CAP includes key support mechanisms for industry and businesses.

In line with these objectives, PAGE will provide further support to green recovery in 2021, through analyzing and strengthening green financing opportunities, while supporting local governments, MSMEs and the informal sector in their recovery and response to COVID-19. The support will build on and drive complementarities with the substantial technical knowledge and expertise developed with government partners and institutions to

strengthen the recovery of the country from COVID-19. It will enable the leverage of resources and expertise to further the One-UN and whole system approach and support to the government.

Progress in 2020

Integrating green economy principles into local and national policies (Outcome 1):

Mainstreaming climate change and SDGs into local and national planning (Outcome 1): In December 2020, PAGE assessed the impact of previous PAGE trainings on mainstreaming green economy in development planning at the local level, looking specifically at the trainings on SDG metadata and on mainstreaming of climate change in development plans of MMDAs. Led by UNDP, in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), the assessment used selected sampling and interviews across the country to identify the level of incorporation and the available capacities of the MMDAs and their relevant staff.

Two regions (Western and Ashanti) that had not benefited from the pilot training of the MMDA staff and the former three regions of the North (Northern, Upper East and Upper West) that had selected staff trained in the mainstreaming were selected for the assessment. An online questionnaire was used to gather real-time information and data from respondent. Focus group discussions based on selected questions from the questionnaire were also used to discuss specific actions that could be implemented at the district and national levels to institutionalize capacity support for the MMDAs.

Lessons learned from this process will be disseminated through national dialogues to inform training models, guidance and policies on mainstreaming, monitoring and reporting on climate change and the SDGs. The preliminary results from the assessment found that MMDAs have embedded climate change and green economy components and specific actions in their medium-term plans and Annual Progress Reports, however some districts had made more significant progress in these actions compared to others. It was recommended that support for the MMDAs in mainstreaming climate change and green economy should be complimented with resource mobilization and training for political heads of the MMDAs. As Ghana reaches the point where PAGE phases out of its support, the institutionalizing of capacities will help to ensure sustainability of PAGE efforts.

Green recovery through green finance, fiscal policies and business innovation: In 2020, when the country suffered the impact of COVID-19, PAGE started to support economic recovery with a focus on sustainability and green recovery, specifically contributing to the development of the Ghana United Nations Development System COVID-19 Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP). In line with this plan and Ghana's Coronavirus Alleviation Programme (CAP), PAGE developed a proposal to support green economic recovery. The proposal aims to revive GDP growth in

line with SDGs, climate ambitions and government policies focused on poverty reduction and macroeconomic stability without placing any additional burden on public spending.

PAGE will support Ghana to strengthen the enabling environment to facilitate greater public and private green finance. PAGE activities will identify opportunities to support green fiscal policies and tax and regulatory regimes that promote employment and disincentivize polluting activities and will support new business opportunities emerging from the crisis. PAGE will also work to integrate green recovery policies into the sub-national recovery plans and facilitate capacity development for enterprises in resource efficiency and sustainable production principles under the 1 District 1 Factory (1D1F) government policy on to build back better from COVID-19.

Supporting implementation of sectoral and thematic IGE policies (Outcome 2):

Green jobs: PAGE, together with the ILO SIDA Partnership project, has been supporting the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations on a National Strategy for Green Jobs. The strategy brings together employment and environmental objectives, acting as an instrument of policy coherence across the two policy fields. The strategy helps to operationalize Ghana's National Employment Policy in its references to green jobs and environmental sustainability. As a first step, a national study on skills for green jobs was conducted by PAGE, identifying needs, gaps and recommendations to meet the human capacity demands of a green economy in Ghana. Following finalization of the study in 2020, PAGE assisted the development of the strategy, with a particular focus on the elaboration of its programmatic component and validation. The strategy was developed through broad consultations and inputs from a range of line ministries, workers' and employers' organisations, civil society and academia. It has four strategic objectives on policy coordination, skill development, sustainable enterprises, and sectoral approaches. The strategy was discussed and validated by stakeholders in a workshop in October 2020.

To further advance analysis on green jobs, PAGE is also supporting the construction of an economic model with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to measure the impacts on jobs of Ghana's NDC and develop a set of labour market policies that could complement the policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation currently under development. Data collection was completed in 2020, and work will continue in 2021.

The analysis on job impacts is also being linked to the support PAGE is providing to Ghana for a green and inclusive economic recovery from COVID-19. PAGE is working with the Ministry of Employment and Labour to expand the assessment on the impacts of COVID-19 with a focus on the impact on jobs and the labour market to provide insights on how mitigation measures could be designed to be carbon-neutral.

Forestry: Outside of PAGE, but complementary to its work, UNDP Ghana is supporting the Forestry Commission to develop an investment plan for the implementation of Ghana's REDD+ strategy and targets in line with the country's NDCs. In 2020, an inception

report and first draft of the investment plan was developed and shared with stakeholders for inputs. Both documents will be finalized in early 2021. Forestry remains one of the priority sectors for the government's NDC and UN support.

Resource efficiency: Building on previous PAGE work, including a resource efficiency demonstration in the steel sector and a workshop in April 2019 to present findings, in 2020 PAGE conducted an additional resource efficiency demonstration in the palm oil sector. Using the lessons learned from these two sectors, PAGE is exploring opportunities to support the Government in its ambition to develop a national industrial efficiency policy and programme. The aim is to show that significant resource savings, including energy, water and materials, can result from such a policy. In 2021, UNIDO will explore the option of implementing this activity through leveraging a regional programme implemented in Ghana which is also focusing on energy audits.

Integrating IGE into training delivered by national institutions (Outcome 3):

Considerable efforts were made in 2020 to embed IGE training programmes into national curricula and learning institutions as set out below:

- **School curriculum:** Since the launch of Ghana's National Climate Change and Green Economy Learning Strategy in 2016, the country has taken important steps to integrate climate change into the general education system. PAGE and UN CC:Learn have jointly supported the Ghana Education Service (GES), together with the EPA and MESTI to integrate climate change into all subjects of the new primary school curricula. This objective was supported by the training of primary school teachers on green economy and climate change concepts, utilizing training materials developed by PAGE in 2019. Between September and October 2020, 200 additional primary school teachers were trained on using the materials in class (adding to a total of 800 primary school teachers from 15 out of the 16 regions in Ghana). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the trainings were conducted on a virtual platform via Zoom. Taking this work forward, the Ghana EPA and GES are looking for partners to bring climate change and green economy literacy to secondary education, and work with teachers training institutes to strengthen these issues in the standard training programme.
- **Tailored training programme on green finance:** PAGE, in a collaboration with the University of Ghana Business School (UGBS), started in 2019 to develop a course on green finance targeting public officials and other stakeholders involved in financial, economic and specific policy design and implementation. This was continued in 2020 with the development of the competency framework, and technical review of the syllabus and course materials. The course enables participants to discuss current green economy trends and the green finance sector in Ghana, understand better the role of the private sector in the transition to green economy, analyze risks and returns in green investment, as well as regulatory challenges and opportunities in green finance. The course materials were completed in 2020 and a pilot training was held for 32 participants (11 female and 21 male) from 14-16 December to test the

modules and collect feedback. In the evaluation, all respondents indicated that “it is likely that I will use the information acquired” and that “overall the training was very useful”. The full training will be rolled out in 2021. UGBS is developing a business plan that ensures that the course can be run regularly on a self-financing basis. The course in Ghana uses a blended approach and integrates the self-paced e-course on Sustainable Finance developed by PAGE.

- **Energy auditing training:** Building on the resource efficiency demonstration in the steel and palm oil industry, UNIDO will provide training to the selected staff of the Ghana National Cleaner Production Center (GNCPC) on energy audits to industries in early 2021. The training's objective is to strengthen GNCPC staff's capacity to deliver on-ward training to selected EPA officials. Outside of PAGE, UNIDO has led a work stream on Industrial energy efficiency and auditing in Ghana that has leveraged additional finance in 2020 to expand work in this area as part of a project funded by the GCF under its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Ghana in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.5 Mauritius

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Mauritius has come a long way since its independence in 1968, transforming into a diversified upper middle-income economy, benefitting from dynamic industrial, financial and tourism sectors and high levels of human development. However, increased economic activity has adversely affected the environment. Marine and air pollution coupled with the island's vulnerability to climate change have made it essential for Mauritius to build a resource-efficient and resilient economy capable of not only withstanding but diminishing these shocks.

The overarching Mauritius National Vision (previously named Vision 2030) sets a clear path towards tackling environmental and social challenges, as well as achieving the country's ambition of becoming a high-income, sustainable and inclusive economy. A Three-Year Strategic Plan 2017/18-2019/20, entitled *Rising to the Challenge of our Ambitions* was also launched in June 2017, aiming to address pressing challenges through targeted actions in key growth sectors. Within this plan, green economy was highlighted as an approach to implementing low-carbon growth and renewable energy strategies in agriculture, manufacturing, waste management and tourism. The successor Three-Year Strategic Plan: *Pursuing Our Transformative Journey 2018/19-2020/21*, mainstreams IGE principles within parts of the sectoral strategic planning (e.g. promoting green tourism or promoting a low carbon economy for industry).

Since 2014, PAGE has worked closely with the Mauritian government to achieve its vision, linked to the delivery of the Three-Year Strategic Plans. Key achievements include capacity development for the issuance of green bonds, guidance on social policies and the tracking public environment expenditures, assessment of industrial waste and related industrial strategies and advanced green economy learning.

A significant contribution was towards the Marshall Plan Against Poverty, including the Marshall Plan Social Contract, which aids households at risk of extreme poverty. In 2019, PAGE has started a gradual phase of its support from Mauritius with a sustainability plan in development to further embed PAGE results and take the green agenda forward.

More broadly, PAGE has supported achievement of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and several SDGs, including SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Mauritius also directly recognized PAGE as contributing to their achievements in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of its SDGs presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2019.

Since January 2020, the subsequent Government Programme for 2020-2024: 'Toward an Inclusive, High Income and Green Mauritius, Forging Ahead Together' provides the framework for policymaking with reference to a cleaner and greener Mauritius, clean energy, mitigating climate risks and protection of marine resources.

With an economy highly dependent on tourism and imports, in 2020 Mauritius was hit hard by the COVID-19 and associated lockdown. The Mauritius Budget Speech 2020-2021, given in June 2020, details the government's public investment priorities for stimulating economic recovery. The Speech highlighted planned investments for, among other things, supporting tourism, manufacturing, investment in climate-smart agriculture and sustaining SMEs. Additional public investments target a social and inclusive development pillar, within which renewable energy and circular economy are among the priorities. PAGE will support green recovery focusing on the agriculture sector, more specifically the food sector, which was identified as having potential to deliver benefits related to inclusiveness, jobs, sustainable consumption and production, and biodiversity.

Progress in 2020

Ongoing strategic support for policymaking (Outcome 1):

Launch of new government programme: In 2020, the government of Mauritius launched its new national programme for 2020-2024: 'Toward an Inclusive, High Income and Green Mauritius, Forging Ahead Together'. The programme lays out the government's vision for the next four years and will be used as a source of inspiration and guidance for future

polycymaking. The government programme contains multiple aspirations that are aligned with thematic areas that PAGE has supported in the country, such as education and skills, industrial waste, tracking public expenditures on environmental and climate change measures, and poverty and inclusiveness. PAGE's work on green finance can also lay the groundwork for increased green investments to support the attainment of one of the programme's objectives, the creation of a 'Sustainable and Green Society.'

Supporting implementation of sectoral and thematic IGE policies (Outcome 2):

Green Recovery - Enabling environment for SMEs in the agro-processing industry: In support of national COVID-19 recovery priorities, as articulated in the 2020 national budget, and the UN Country Team Socio-economic Recovery Plan for Mauritius, PAGE conducted preliminary analysis of potential entry points for an inclusive green recovery, utilizing two analytical tools provided by PAGE agencies.

Using the national green jobs macroeconomic model, created with the ILO's support in 2014, the ILO Green Jobs Programme conducted a rapid assessment of the national budget. Among the findings from this exercise were potential positive gains from green policies on job and carbon dioxide emissions as well as distributional effects along the lines of gender and different income groups in organic agriculture production, textile manufacturing and tourism.

In parallel, UNEP's Life Cycle Initiative conducted a rapid assessment of the same budget using the 'Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspot Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT)'. This tool was developed for the One Planet Network for diagnosis of specific national SCP environmental footprints (i.e. footprints from terrestrial production and exports). The tool illustrated the relative footprints of the key sectors identified in the budget, with strong footprints and resulting biodiversity loss observed in the agriculture and food production sectors.

Based on the findings from both analyses, the agriculture sector, and more specifically the food sector was identified as having potential to deliver on a wide range of positive results related to inclusiveness, jobs, SCP and biodiversity. Consequently, from 2021 PAGE proposed that green recovery funds support Mauritius in strengthening the enabling environment and developing incentive measures for promoting a sustainable agro-processing industry and SME development. This will start with a macroeconomic modelling exercise to forecast green jobs in the agriculture and food sectors and assess the impacts of the economic stimulus on the recovery of the sector. PAGE will also support the development of a rapid assessment diagnostic toolkit for scaling up public and private finance for nature-based solutions and climate-smart agriculture to support sustainable food systems; inform the development of the Farm to Fork Strategy in the context of COVID-19 recovery; and support the revision of current operational guidance and regulations to reduce environmental impacts resulting from the use of single-use plastics in food

packaging, food waste and chemicals. Capacity-building programmes on new food management safety protocols will also target enterprises in the hospitality and food sectors.

Subsequent to the submission of a proposal for green recovery support, PAGE participated in a webinar to national stakeholders hosted by the Mauritius Research Platform on COVID-19 on 26 November. PAGE's presentation focused on fiscal reform for sustainable food systems and agriculture, including preview of plans to provide technical support to Mauritius in this area with green recovery funding. The Mauritius Research Platform on COVID-19 is a collaborative initiative that partners the UN Resident Coordinator Office, the University of Mauritius, the World Bank and Trade Economics.

Green finance: In 2020, work commenced on the study on SME access to green finance, with consultations and surveys conducted with a variety of national stakeholders, including the Mauritius Bankers' Association, Business Mauritius, the Development Bank of Mauritius and the Mauritius Commercial Bank. A draft study was finalized at the end of the year and a virtual workshop to present the findings is planned for early 2021. The study will help strengthen the implementation of the SME 10-Year Master Plan that was launched in 2017.

Development of green bonds: Following the training workshops supported by PAGE on Green Bonds in 2018, continuous progress has been made by institutions in Mauritius to further analyze related enabling conditions. In 2020, PAGE, led by UNEP, was invited to provide comments on draft national guidelines for the issuance of green and sustainable bonds, at the request of the UNRC Office. The Bank of Mauritius is updating these guidelines to encompass 'Green Bonds' and 'Sustainable Bonds'. The review provided insights on the benefits and features of green, blue and social bonds, including the issue of debt sustainability, alternative debt instruments within the context of the wider spectrum of sustainable/green/blue financing instruments, the assessment of 'green' and 'blue' impacts, as well as second-party verification.

Industrial waste management: Work also continued throughout 2020 in the waste management sector, focusing on low-carbon development but at a slower pace due to the COVID-19 related impacts. Building on the results of the PAGE supported industrial waste assessment (IWA) completed in 2016, PAGE developed and started a survey on the nature, structure, and share of industrial waste management costs in total production costs for enterprises ranging in size, from micro to large. The survey targets the following sectors: textile and wearing apparel; chemicals and chemical products; printing and reproduction of recorded media; and food products. The overall aim of this activity is to provide the government with a precise picture of the cost of industrial waste management in order to help define and implement 3 R's (Reduction, Re-Use and Recycling) tools for the diversion of solid industrial waste going to landfills in Mauritius.

PAGE's follow-up work on the IWA also includes the provision of concrete policy advice on the introduction and implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principle in order to promote waste reduction, re-use and recycling, as well as examine the

implementation of the EPR mechanism, initially, for the plastic industry. Previously, the IWA had already provided guidance to national policymakers to quantify the amount and main categories of industrial waste being generated in select industries. The completion and analysis of the survey data and development of EPR principles will continue in 2021.

Green jobs: In 2020, progress was made on updating the Green Jobs Assessment model to incorporate the impacts on employment stemming from the country's NDC. The model allows for projections of green economy and climate policies on social, labour, economic and environmental outcomes. PAGE has been working with a national modeller at the University of Mauritius on this, with the intention to build capacity at national level by doing similar simulations and analysis in the future. Preliminary results from the modelling were presented in a webinar to national stakeholders on 29 October focused on the macro-economic implications of COVID-19 on Mauritius, hosted by the Mauritius Research Platform on COVID-19. Once finalized, the results of the modelling will feed into the development of the 'Skills for Green Jobs Roadmap'. In addition, PAGE completed the first draft of a national 'Skills for Green Jobs Roadmap' in 2020, which was shared with the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development. A national workshop on the 'Skills for Green Jobs Roadmap' will be held in 2021 in which the final findings of the green jobs modelling will also be presented.

Coastal tourism: Responding to the impacts of COVID-19 in 2020, PAGE Mauritius developed an activity to identify policy options to promote private sector support for a green recovery in the tourism sector. This activity is planned as an input into a wider proposal led by UNDP to the GCF to develop a project on adaptation to climate change in the coastal zone of the Republic of Mauritius.

Sustainable tourism: Complementary to PAGE, also promoting sustainable tourism, UNEP's Sustainable Tourism programme (within UNEP's Consumption and Production Unit) is providing support to institutions and companies in Mauritius' tourism sector to become more resource efficient. This includes support for the development of a roadmap as well as capacity-building focused on building sustainable value chains in this sector. This work draws on recommendations from the earlier completed Green Economy Assessment and the IWA that highlighted sustainability avenues for the tourism sector. The PAGE green recovery proposal workstream to provide technical assistance and capacity development of enterprises in the hospitality sector, as well as in the food production supply chain, was developed in collaboration with this sustainable tourism project, and the project will be implemented in partnership with the Association of Hoteliers and Restaurants in Mauritius (AHRIM), a key stakeholder in the sustainable tourism project, and the SCORE programme (see below on SCORE under Outcome 3).

Integrating IGE elements into training programmes delivered by national institutions (Outcome 3):

Integrating green economy into national course programmes: In 2020, PAGE started integration of green economy considerations into CSCM's (Civil Service College Mauritius)

learning action plan and programmes available to civil servants and the broader population with three main objectives 1) mainstreaming IGE and SDG aspects into existing courses, such as strategic planning and project management training; 2) broadening the offer of Green Economy e-learning products delivered by CSCM, by integrating PAGE global training products into the existing e-learning platform; and 3) enhancing knowledge and capacity of high school teachers on how to integrate Green Economy learning in the classroom.

Two capacity-building workshops led by CSCM took place on 19-20 February 2020, one, a training of trainers focused on mainstreaming inclusive green economy principles into recurrent courses on strategic planning and project management for civil servants, and another to train secondary school teachers on mainstreaming inclusive green economy principles into school curricula.

Training for civil servants utilizing the courses that integrated IGE elements has started in March 2020, with a target of 300-400 civil servants to be trained annually. In parallel, work is on-going to integrate PAGE global training products into the CSCM e-learning platform and to update the platform for more efficient use of the training materials.

To further raise awareness among secondary school teachers, a full-day workshop on 'Integrating Climate Change and Green Economy in the Classroom' was held in Cotton Bay, Rodrigues, on 2 October 2020. The event brought together 46 participants, including teachers, NGOs and education authorities in Rodrigues to consolidate available techniques, approaches and learning materials for integrating Climate Change and Inclusive Green Economy in the classroom, capture best practice examples and formulate low-cost solutions that can be applied in all school to support IGE learning for children. A similar workshop was held on 11 December, launched by the Minister of Environment, and attracting 40 participants.

In addition, CSCM plans to organize a series of consultations with education regulators with the goal of formally obtaining approval for integrating green economy and climate change subjects into the school curriculum. The idea builds on gaps identified by the PAGE supported Green Economy Learning Needs Assessment developed by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform (MCSAR) and CSCM.

Completing training cycle for SCORE programme: In November 2019, PAGE supported a Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) pilot training aimed at optimizing the efficiency, productivity, cleaner production and competitiveness of SMEs through improved workplace cooperation. Building on this, SCORE trainers and representatives of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) completed follow-up visits to the sample enterprises to provide mentorship and observe how the training principles had been applied. The SCORE training of trainers was officially completed in 2020 and the nine individuals that completed the training received their certification from the NPCC in a virtual ceremony in June. Building on PAGE's support for

piloting SCORE training in Mauritius, the ILO is pursuing expansion of the training under the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) 2019-2023 to fully embed SCORE as an independently run and managed national programme.

Identifying measures to support sustainable results: PAGE has been working with national counterparts to develop and finalize a national sustainability plan that identifies programme results and recommends measures to sustain the benefits of work beyond the partnership. The Financial Secretary in the Ministry of Finance approved the draft Sustainability Plan in September 2020. Once finalized, the Ministry of Finance will publish a summary of the document on its website for adoption in their future policy planning on IGE. The development of this plan has benefitted from a stakeholder engagement workshop and bilateral meetings with the EC Delegation and UN Resident Coordinator in 2019. Further supporting sustainability of PAGE work, an impact video to promote IGE and PAGE's successes in Mauritius was released in May 2020.

The formal ceremony planned for 2020 to facilitate national ownership and provide additional entry points for complementary initiatives, such as Switch Africa Green, the One Planet Initiative and the Green Climate Fund, was postponed due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Mauritius in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.6 Burkina Faso

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Burkina Faso has one of the lowest carbon emissions and ecological footprints in Sub-Saharan Africa, with GDP growth continuing to rise. However, it faces persistent challenges in the form of limited natural resources, high poverty levels and heavy reliance on agriculture. In the face of these challenges, the Government has taken forward several national initiatives that highlight the country's commitment to sustainable development. It was one of the first countries in the world to adopt a National Adaptation Plan, with combatting climate change positioned as a high-ranking goal for the country.

In 2014, PAGE was requested to support the development of a National Green Economy Strategy (*Stratégie Nationale de l'Economie Verte - SNEV*) to serve as the backbone of the country's transition to a green economy, as well as contribute to the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES 2016-2020). Several macroeconomic and sectoral assessments were conducted to inform this Strategy, including the Green Economy Assessment that identified priority sectors for green investment. Work has since been taken

forward in several thematic and sectoral areas, including sustainable agriculture, green trade, green industry and green taxation.

In 2019, PAGE started a gradual phase out of its support from Burkina Faso and completed the development of a sustainability plan to further embed PAGE results and take the green economy agenda forward. Key achievements of PAGE work include: the adoption of the SNEV; contributions to sectoral and thematic reforms in the areas of green trade, green industry, and sustainable agriculture; and the establishment of a green economy master's degree programme and pool of trainings for green entrepreneurship. Further, the country has created a model for joint delivery of complimentary UN initiatives, bringing together PAGE, the Poverty-Environment Action (PEA), and SWITCH Africa Green into one coherent programme aimed at greening the economy.

Through this work PAGE has contributed towards the achievement of several SDGs, including SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

In 2020, the development of the country's next national development plan for the period 2021-2025 (PNDES 2) provided a new entry point for PAGE to better mainstream IGE within sectoral strategies, building on the SNEV. PAGE will support the ten sector budget programmes coordinators established by the Government to green their sector programmes. Another entry point is the economic recovery following the COVID-19 crises. Burkina Faso has put in place a COVID-19 Economic Recovery Fund to support businesses affected by the pandemic and the UN system is assisting the Government to carry out a socio-economic assessment of the COVID-19 in Burkina Faso, in order to develop an economic recovery plan. Furthermore, additional funding provided by PAGE from 2021.

Progress in 2020

Integrating green economy principles into national policies (Outcome 1):

Roll-out of National Green Economy Strategy: Following the formal adoption of the (SNEV in 2019, a project document to support its implementation was adopted on 27 October 2020 at a stakeholder workshop featuring participation from UN Agencies, international organisations, NGOs and government Ministries. The project document includes an Action Plan for the SNEV and the Sustainability Plan for PAGE.

Since the beginning of 2020, the Government has also led the process for the development of the next national development plan for the period 2021-2025 (PNDES 2), providing a new entry point to PAGE for the integration of IGE objectives. In this context, the Ministry of Environment created a committee to draft sector contributions. The PAGE National Coordinator was nominated as a member of the committee and invited to provide inputs

into the contribution from the Ministry, with the aim to better mainstream IGE within sectoral strategies. The Ministry's contribution was completed in April 2020. In addition, PAGE will organize coaching and training workshops in early 2021 to support the Sector Budget Programme Coordinators to integrate green economy into their respective sector budgetary programmes as part of the next national development plan.

Shaping sectoral and thematic policy reform through knowledge, capacity-building and partnership (Outcome 2):

Green recovery through fiscal policies measures to support sustainable tourism: PAGE will provide additional funding from 2021 to support Burkina Faso's green economic recovery through a focus on the design and implementation of fiscal measures for promoting sustainable recovery of the tourism sector. The work will reinforce the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism. PAGE will help evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on business in the tourism sector to inform interventions that involve designing and implementing incentives and fiscal measures to support business recovery in the tourism sector; assessing *ex-ante* the impacts of different policy and incentive measure options through economic modelling; and establishing a monitoring and evaluation system to measure the progress of activities implemented in the framework of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism. In addition, PAGE will work with the government to institutionalize the use of economic modelling methodologies, as well as produce a communication plan to further disseminate information regarding the initiatives implemented to support the sustainable recovery of the tourism sector.

Also related to the country's economic recovery, a UN System COVID-19 Socio-economic Impact Study commenced in May 2020 outside of PAGE, which, when completed, will provide additional insights for PAGE work on green economic recovery in the tourism sector.

Sustainable agriculture: Drawing on earlier studies on the impact of gold mining completed by the UNEP Chemicals Programme, in 2020, PAGE completed a study on the impact of artisanal gold mining on sustainable agriculture in Burkina Faso. Presented for the first time virtually in March, the draft report of the study was afterwards validated by the steering committee for the study on 16 October. Following this, the final study was presented to stakeholders in a virtual workshop on 13 November 2020, with plans to fully release the study at a face-to-face workshop in early 2021. The study provides recommendations for government policy targeting artisanal gold mining and institutional and legal reforms to promote sustainable agriculture with the aim to move beyond the anarchic practice of gold panning in Burkina Faso.

Enhancing individual and institutional capacity to support green growth (Outcome 3):

Green entrepreneurship: In July 2020, a PAGE-facilitated **green entrepreneurship training** was held to assist business owners in improving ecological standards through the greening of their businesses. The training was delivered by the '*Maison de l'Entreprise du Burkina Faso (MEB)*', which presented participants with certificates upon completion of the course. The nine female participants were entrepreneurs working within



local agriculture, non-timber forest product (NTFP) processing and sustainable trade. From 24 November to December 2020, on-field dedicated coaching was provided to the entrepreneurs who benefited from the training. This allowed to support the trainees in the implementation of the greening action plan, which they developed during the training, and to receive further business development supports for the greening of their activities.

This particular training course falls under an ILO programme, which overall plans to develop a coaching package for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to guide them in greening their businesses. In the framework of the development of the coaching package on green entrepreneurship, a '*Manual for Green Jobs Creation*' was developed, and a workshop was organized to validate the detailed outline and content of the manual on 18 November 2020. This provided a guide for national actors of the green economy, allowing to develop and promote green entrepreneurship in identified priority sectors in Burkina Faso.

Green fiscal reform: Complementary to PAGE work, a workshop was held on 28 October 2020 to validate the Realistic Scenario of the Environmental Fiscal Reform Plan. The activity is financed by LuxDev as a follow-on from the PAGE proposal for an environmental tax in 2017.

Ecovillages: Complementary to PAGE work, in 2020, Burkina Faso started the adoption of a strategy to develop over 2000 ecovillages in the country, a project which is part of the PNDES called '*Strategie Nationale de Creation des Écovillages 2018-2027*'. In this process, the government was able to draw on years of cooperation with PAGE. The strategy which covers sub-regional aspects is complementary to PAGE work and aligned with the National Strategy on Green Economy. In transforming its villages into ecovillages, the government pursues five strategic goals: strengthening local governance; improving food and nutrition security; preservation of the environment; promotion of local entrepreneurship; and improving access to finance.

Capacity development for resource mobilization: The adoption of the support project for the implementation of the SNEV paves the way for further resources mobilization beyond PAGE. In line with this goal, PAGE supported a virtual workshop from 16-18 December to train government officials from various ministries, as well as NGO staff, in the development of bankable projects, which could attract climate funding. The training was led by UNEP, with logistical support from UNDP, and attended by 17 participants. An additional 10 day training workshop is scheduled for January 2021.

Facilitating sub-regional exchange on green economy and climate change: UNITAR has facilitated a collaboration between PAGE and the West African Regional Learning Platform on Climate Change, a programme initiated by UN CC:Learn in partnership with the Agrhymet Regional Centre. The platform facilitates experience sharing, training and dialogue between countries and institutions in the region on learning on inclusive green economy and climate change. Activities include webinars, expert debates, training and the development of learning materials adapted to the context of the region, helping to strengthen synergies and collaboration. Through this platform Burkina Faso shared experiences on IGE policy development and capacity-building with other countries and institutions in the region. PAGE Burkina Faso hosted the first webinar on 18 August 2020, followed by two other webinars on 23 September and 13 October 2020.

The three webinars allowed four countries, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Togo, and Mali, to present their experiences, including case studies, success stories and learning resources developed in their respective countries. Representatives of eight other countries from the region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte-d'Ivoire, Guiney Conakry, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo) also participated in the webinars, bringing in their own experiences, asking questions and learning from each other. Further activities such as the launch of regional debates and radio programmes on climate change and IGE are planned from January 2021 onwards.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Burkina Faso in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.7 South Africa

Country context and PAGE portfolio

South Africa has become one of the largest economies in Africa, benefiting from high levels of industrialisation and abundant natural resources, including large mineral deposits. The country has also made considerable strides towards improving the well-being of its citizens, significantly lowering poverty rates and increasing access to public services. Whilst the economy is still expanding, economic growth has slowed down in recent years, with many social and environmental challenges persisting. South Africa still grapples with inequality,

poverty, and unemployment; and industrialisation coupled with increasing exploitation of natural resources has resulted in a large ecological footprint.

Recognizing the potential of green economy strategies, the South African government embarked on a development path linking economic prosperity to environmental sustainability and social equity. Released in 2010, South Africa's New Growth Path identified the green economy as a national priority, with the subsequent Green Economy Accord of 2011 - a result of social dialogue between government, business, civil society and labour. Through the South African National Development Plan 2030, a long-term strategy adopted in 2012, the government significantly strengthened its ability to manage environmental costs and respond to the increasingly severe impacts of climate change. The Medium-Term Strategic Framework (2014-2019) has provided an action plan for realizing the country's national development vision.

Interesting recent developments are a carbon tax of USD 8.34 per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent signed into law (effective from 1 June 2019 to December 2022), as well as the development of a Low Emission Development Strategy (SA-LEDS) by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF). Given the comprehensive green economy policy framework already in place when South Africa joined the partnership in 2015, PAGE work has been structured around improving policy coordination, deepening collaboration between different stakeholders and supporting policy implementation. PAGE has also helped to identify sectors and industrial segments with potential for IGE transformation and strengthened capabilities through green economy learning and training.

PAGE support has further aligned with priority areas identified in the Medium-Term Strategic Framework that focus on: (i) planning, piloting and investing in the creation of a framework for implementing the transition to an environmentally sustainable and low-carbon economy; and (ii) harnessing research and information management capacity to identify, develop and maintain datasets to generate policy-relevant statistics, indicators and indices.

Since 2015, PAGE work has already culminated in several achievements, including a green economy progress measurement framework, creation of social dialogue on Just Transition and contributions towards policy reforms related to green industry, trade, water management and renewable energy. PAGE activities have also enabled South Africa to assume a leadership position as a green economy champion, as demonstrated by hosting the Third PAGE Ministerial Conference in Cape Town in January 2019. **In turn, PAGE has contributed to the achievement of SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and cut across several other SDGs, including SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals), as well as South Africa's NDCs.**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic lock-down has led to important economic crises and a significant number of people losing their jobs (2.2 million in the 2nd quarter of 2020), bringing the expanded unemployment rate to 42 per cent. In response to

this, the Government of South Africa has put in place economic relief schemes to mitigate the socio-economic impact, with the corporate and private sector contributing. These programmes have put specific emphasis on SMEs and supporting green, young, entrepreneurs. In line with this, PAGE is engaging in a rapid modelling exercise to assess the impact of South Africa's relief package on inclusive green economy amongst other initiatives to promote

Progress in 2020

Supporting Green economy policies and measuring progress towards a green transition (Outcome 1):

Measuring progress towards a green transition: Following consultations between UNEP and DEFF to address outstanding data gaps and finalize the products, the Green Economy Progress (GEP) Measurement Framework for South Africa was completed in 2020 with the report launched at a stakeholder workshop on 19 November and validated at a workshop on 8 December. The GEP Measurement Framework captures the many dimensions of an Inclusive Green Economy, and measure the accumulation of natural, human, and social capital - as inputs for producing goods and services in an environmentally friendly manner. This represents the second time the GEP Measurement Framework has been applied in a PAGE country, following the example of Jiangsu province in 2017.

Green Recovery - Mitigating the socio-economic impact by supporting green economy opportunities: In the context of South Africa's economic relief schemes to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, PAGE was able to offer immediate analytical support, through South Africa's participation in a globally organized rapid modelling exercise undertaken by PAGE and Cambridge Econometrics, analysing and comparing the potential immediate to long-term impacts of varying recovery package scenarios. The Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network (GAIN) Regional Training Hub at the University of Pretoria was subcontracted to complete the country component of the modelling exercise for South Africa. The modelling exercise will be complemented by training for the National Treasury staff, to build capacity on macro-economic modelling and enable participants to assess the social and employment impacts of alternative recovery plans.

In 2020, PAGE also worked together with the government committee responsible for developing the Green Recovery Plan for South Africa and approved additional programme work for green recovery in November 2020, which will provide technical assistance in the greening of South Africa's COVID-19 economic recovery packages. The focus will be on mainstreaming and supporting green economic opportunities in key economic sectors to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. Activities include training the National Treasury and other national partners on macroeconomic modelling to assess the social and employment impacts of policy responses; mobilizing stakeholders through dialogue and media promotion on the national economic recovery plan as well as sectoral economic recovery plans; and building the capacity of public and private institutions—

including business development service providers, national learning institutions, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders—to promote green entrepreneurship and small business recovery.

Shaping sectoral and thematic policy reforms (Outcome 2):

Building a Bio-composite sector: As a follow-up to the Action Plan and Implementation Strategy for Biomaterials, PAGE completed an analysis of the biomaterial industry's demand-side dynamics in South Africa. The study aims to identify the existing and potential markets and associated marketing strategies, which are critical in driving biomaterials' growth in South Africa.

It explores the various polymers that can be produced from biological and renewable sources, analyzes global and South African market trends in bioplastics, and examines demand-side dynamics. It also examines five policy options to stimulate demand for bioplastics, including bans and quotas on traditional plastics, taxes or levies on traditional plastics, the use of standards and labels to indicate sustainability, green procurement, and social awareness. The final draft report was completed and launched at the side event 'Developing Biomaterials Industry in South Africa', held in collaboration with the DEFF, at a side event at the Bio Africa Convention 2020 in August, where it was discussed in a panel alongside the Bio-composite Action Plan and Implementation Strategy published in 2019. The side event was organized by UNIDO, in collaboration with the DEFF, aimed to exemplify good practices in the field and was attended by 63 participants from policymaking bodies, research institutes, business organizations and NGOs. The final validation took place on 2 February 2021 and attracted high interest from stakeholders including the government, researchers and the private sector.

Enhancing the water-biodiversity nexus: Building on the 2019 stakeholder consultation workshop and the earlier South Africa Green Economy Modelling report that assessed the impact of green investments in select economic sectors, a draft report on the Green Economy Modelling focusing on the water and biodiversity nexus in South Africa was completed in February 2020. Work will continue in 2021 to address remaining data gaps and finalize the report, with findings and recommendations of the report to be validated by national and provincial stakeholders.

Building institutional and individual capacity (Outcome 3):

Enhancing skills for a greener future: South Africa continues to actively plan and adapt training materials to enhance the capacity of their public and private players for green economy transitions. On 1-2 July 2020, PAGE, through UNITAR and UNEP, organized and delivered a virtual training workshop on 'Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Opportunities' in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries. The training was targeted at government officials, business and industry associates as well as aspiring and existing exporters and agricultural industry stakeholders, helping to build

capacity to support and enable export growth in sustainably farmed products. In total, 65 participants attended the two-day virtual workshop. 90 per cent of the participants found the training mostly or very useful and 61 per cent found it very useful.

Quality management of continuing education courses offered by universities: Continuing education programmes are offered by many South African universities, however, there is no universal system for ensuring the quality or formal recognition (accreditation) of the courses by regulators. The lack of effective quality management and (hence) formal recognition for continuing education courses offered by universities is a barrier for officials and professionals to take such courses and improve their qualifications, including in the area of Green Economy. This workstream, led by the Southern Africa Regional University Alliance (SARUA) with support by PAGE, aims to support:

- 1) the development of guidelines for what constitutes high quality non-formal education programmes, fully aligned with the SDGs and IGE principles;
- 2) the formation of a consortium of universities committed to using the guidelines and to put in place a quality assurance mechanism that verifies the quality of their continuing education programmes;
- 3) the organization of policy consultations with national regulators and qualification authorities in South Africa to achieve approval and formal recognition of the guidelines.

In 2020, advancements were made in preparing a final draft of the guidelines, organizing a series of policy consultations, and supporting the development and piloting (at the University of Western Cape) of a quality assurance tool for universities to apply the guidelines, with work should be concluded by early 2021. Ultimately, this activity aims to remove a systemic barrier to both the supply and demand for quality continuing education in South Africa.

Collaboration with other initiatives to sustain and amplify PAGE results: PAGE engaged in the broader discourse on circular economy, with the PAGE National Coordinator participating as a member of the Circular Economy Task Force of the South African Government, whose work is driven by the Department of Science and Innovation. In February 2020, the Task Force organized a study tour to Bilbao, Spain and EU headquarters in Belgium and the Netherlands looking at best practice models on Circular Economy policy and implementation processes, as part of the broader effort by the South African government to elaborate on the concept of Circular Economy.

Furthermore, the PAGE National Coordinator was invited to join the Steering Committee of the National Employment Vulnerability Assessment and Sector Jobs Resilience Plans hosted by DEFF and contribute to their development. In line with this, the National Coordinator supported outreach to the NDC Partnership, to assist in the implementation of the Plans. Also supporting the development of the National Employment Vulnerability Assessment and Sector Jobs Resilience Plans, the PAGE National Coordinator participated in the EU Climate Diplomacy Week as a panellist in a webinar on 'Reimagining Our Future -

Entrepreneurship for A Just Transition' on 21 September 2020. The session aimed to share ideas, experiences and information about new tools to advance just transition approaches as part of just and green recovery efforts within South Africa.

Complementing PAGE work, UNEP has finalized a [Green Economy Policy Review of South Africa's Industrial Policy Framework](#), in the framework of the EU funded project 'Inclusive Green Economy Policy Making for SDGs'. The review is based on a methodology, which helps countries to enhance, monitor and evaluate existing Green Economy policies, and informs the conception, design and implementation of future Green Economy pathways. Applying the methodology in South Africa helped to take stock of the current status of the country's industrial policy framework, its green elements and make recommendations moving forward. The report was finalized in October 2020 and validated at a virtual workshop on 8 December. The report made a couple of recommendations: It highlighted the need to build the capacity of all stakeholders to design and implement green industrial policies, across departments and units; called for promoting the mainstreaming of sustainability in industrial policy, on the one hand, and the mainstreaming of industrial development in environmental policy on the other hand; and emphasized the need to develop a well-managed transition plan based on social dialogue. Further stakeholder engagement and dissemination is planned to take place in 2021.

In addition, the UNEP-GIZ [Green Economy Transformation \(GET\)](#) project is implementing several activities in South Africa, jointly with the DEFF. In the area of green bonds, the project is building the capacity of two metropolitan municipalities, eThekweni (Durban) and Tshwane (Pretoria), with training measures for local administrators and South-South exchange activities, and a handbook tailored to the local context in South Africa. The GIZ-GET project was able to partner with PEA, for financial and technical support of work on green bonds. In addition, the project supports DEFF, in close cooperation with the ILO and its training centre in Turin, with the preparation and implementation of a national dialogue forum on green jobs. Five modules are planned for 2021 to bring together decision makers for a high-level policy dialogue on green jobs with a focus on youth employment, to stimulate a professional exchange on vocational education, training and required skills, and to discuss sector-related opportunities.

Jointly with DEFF, the project also initiated an informal Green Economy Advisory Group of 12 experts, which ideally should become a "sounding board" on green recovery and green economy. The project also conducted an intensive four-day training course on circular economy for over 20 representatives of national, provincial and local governments. The objective was to enhance the understanding and implementation of the recently developed guidelines for circular economy, support a network of experts, and hone participants' knowledge on circular economy. Also with the UNEP GIZ-GET project, in 2020 a virtual green jobs dialogue was initiated to promote South-South Collaboration between South Africa and Argentina. This included a first webinar on 18 November in collaboration with ILO and GGKP, featuring participants from both South Africa and Argentina.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [South Africa in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.8 Jiangsu Province, China

Country context and PAGE portfolio

As the second largest economy in the world, China has positioned itself as a forerunner of sustainable development, guided by the national development vision known as 'Ecological Civilisation'. In 2015, the Chinese Government expressed an interest to join PAGE, starting at the provincial level in Jiangsu – the second richest province in the country. Located on the eastern coast of China, Jiangsu province is home to around 80 million people. Characterized by a dense network of rivers, lakes and waterways, it has a strong resource base but is faced by several challenges, including high population density, environmental degradation, and a reliance on heavy industry.

Jiangsu has demonstrated a strong commitment to green economy in recent years by fostering green and high-tech industries, shifting towards energy saving and resource efficient production and consumption models, redefining the eco-redlines of conservation zones, and enhancing the policy monitoring, coordination and evaluation of green development progress. The 13th Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2020) of Jiangsu, formally established these as priority areas.

As one of China's major industrial powerhouses, Jiangsu was the first province to release a provincial plan on Ecological Civilisation Construction (2013-2022), highlighting the mid- and long-term development goals for Jiangsu. This plan foresees the greening of industrial parks as a means for achieving clean and circular production, setting the target for all provincial-level industrial parks to meet the national Eco-park standard by 2022. In addition, policy guidelines on Strengthening the Green Industrial Development along the Yangtze River Economic Belt (YREB) were issued by five ministries, focused on accelerating green industrial transformation in heavy industry sectors.

Against this background, Jiangsu Province joined PAGE in 2015 with the objective to i) leverage new opportunities and overcome existing challenges in Jiangsu, ii) identify and share success stories at the provincial and sub-provincial levels, which can help inspire other provinces and countries to embrace green economy; iii) identify and analyse major barriers to an inclusive green economy transition; and iv) advance green industrial transitions and policy coordination in Jiangsu's industrial parks. PAGE has since been supporting the province with capacity development, on macro-level green economy policy monitoring and with targeted sectoral policy advice on green industrial development, green jobs and green trade centred around the concept of green industrial parks. **In doing so, it has contributed**

to several SDGs, including SDG 4 (Quality Education), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships for Goals).

With Jiangsu Province approaching graduation from the partnership in 2020, a national sustainability plan is under development to sustain results in the future. PAGE findings have also been submitted to inform the development of the '14th Five-Year Development Plan (2021-2025)' at the national level through the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED).

In 2020, China was the first country affected by the COVID-19 crisis, followed by economic recovery measures launched in the first half of 2020. Jiangsu Province has continued to pursue the green economy agenda in light of COVID-19 and associated impact and the provincial government issued in March 2020 the 'Opinions on Promoting Green Development'. This official guidance document covers 33 aspects including green industrial parks, circularity, resource efficiency, green trade, green value chains, green textile, renewable energy, low-carbon economy and international cooperation. This was combined with increased green investment, with USD 4.3 billion provided for major projects especially in sustainable infrastructure within the province with a focus on environmental protection, and the National Green Development Fund unveiled on 15 July 2020, featuring USD 12.7 billion in its first phase.

Progress in 2020

Ongoing strategic support for policymaking and monitoring green economy progress (Outcome 1):

Informing the development of the national development plan: As the period of the '13th Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2020)' comes to an end, consultations took place in 2020 for the development of '14th Five-Year Development Plan (2021-2025)' at the national level. PAGE, through UNEP's participation in the CCICED, was able to submit policy proposals taking into consideration the findings and experiences from PAGE in Jiangsu Province. The new '14th Five-Year Development Plan (2021-2025)' was released on 29 October 2020.

Measuring green economy progress in Jiangsu and Fujian Province: PAGE has supported Nanjing University to provide evidence-based IGE policy analysis through the development of a GEP Measurement Framework for Jiangsu. This complements the existing framework used by the provincial government, with strengthened social and gender dimensions helping to identify policy gaps and opportunities for future resource allocations. The work expanded to the city level in Jiangsu, and later on Fujian Province followed the example and adopted the framework with the help of Fujian Normal University.

In July 2020, the final report '[2015-2017 Green Economy Progress Measurement in Jiangsu and Fujian Province, China](#)' was published in English and Chinese, which summarized and integrated the findings of the different applications. Overall, the indicators used in the framework show that progress in green development in Jiangsu Province has surpassed the targets at the national and provincial level, reflecting the strong efforts by the Jiangsu Government towards green development. In Fujian Province, the selected indicators also meet and exceed the targets, and show a positive trend indicating good prospects for continued future progress. The report was launched on the GGKP website in July 2020, and the findings of the report were submitted to be published in an international journal in 2021. Moreover, the GEP work from Jiangsu Province has also been shared with South Africa to inform the development of their national GEP indicators.



Shaping sectoral and thematic IGE policies (Outcome 2):

Supporting sustainable garment supply chains: In 2020, PAGE continued to collaborate with the regional ILO project on sustainable garment supply chains in Asia. An online discussion was conducted on 18 November 2020 on Just Transition in the Textile and Garment Sector in China, co-hosted by ILO and China National Textile and Apparel Council under PAGE and in partnership with the ILO-SIDA regional project on Decent Work in Garment Supply Chains in Asia. The discussion analysed the impact of COVID-19 on the textile and garment sector in China within the broader global and regional context and put forward the development visions of the sector's green transition toward environmental sustainability and circularity. Furthermore, the discussion provided an exchange platform for participants from the industry administration, social partners, private sector and academic institutions to interact with international and national experts and practitioners on promoting Just Transition and Green Jobs in the post COVID-19 recovery process in China and beyond.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Jiangsu Province, China in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

CONTINUING COUNTRIES

1.9 Mato Grosso State, Brazil

Country context and PAGE portfolio

In recent years, the Brazilian State of Mato Grosso has benefitted economically from the growth of its large agricultural sector. It is now working towards increasing the added value of agriculture commodities through processing as well as reducing the environmental challenges associated with this growth, coupled with significant social issues, such as poor working conditions and uneven income distribution.

Recognizing the importance of achieving inclusive sustainable growth, Mato Grosso has opted to tackle these challenges by promoting new economic activities and technologies and efforts to rehabilitate its natural resource base. In 2015, the State of Mato Grosso launched the Strategy - Produce, Conserve and Include (PCI) - with the objective to increase production, encourage added value through the processing of agriculture commodities, achieve international standard labels, conserve natural resources and promote the inclusion of families in rural settlements, traditional and vulnerable communities. This approach requires decarbonizing the economy, more energy efficiency, planning capacities and skilled labour. This strategy falls in line with the objectives of PAGE and benefits from various national level planning instruments advancing sustainable development across Brazil, including the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), and the Low Carbon Agriculture Plan - a sectoral plan of the NCCP.

Against this backdrop, Mato Grosso joined PAGE in 2016, with a priority to support the development of a green economy with emphasis on the generation of green employment opportunities and poverty eradication, both linked to the economic transformation pursued by the State of Mato Grosso. Thematic and sectoral reforms have been pursued in a variety of priority areas, including agriculture, agro-industry, tourism, renewable energy, land regularisation and green jobs.

These activities contribute to the achievement of SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the government of Mato Grosso has placed green recovery at the core of the economic recovery plan and recognized the importance of investing in programmes that bring significant environmental, social and economic benefits to the population. The green recovery policy promoted by the government of Mato Grosso focuses on strengthening family agriculture, which accounts for 51 per cent of the workforce in Mato Grosso, implemented through the State Plan for Family Agriculture in

partnership with the Secretariat of Economic Development and Environment. PAGE will be leading the reformulation of the State Plan for Family Agriculture, which reinforces an area that PAGE is already actively supporting. Areas of interest are the development of the agro-industry value chain, logistical and commercial integration of family agriculture products, better technical assistance and governance to support an economic recovery that is green and inclusive.

Progress in 2020

Supporting implementation of sectoral and thematic IGE policies (Outcome 2):

Green Recovery - Greening the State Plan for Family Agriculture: A targeted green recovery proposal for Mato Grosso was approved by PAGE in November 2020. The outlined work will aim to further strengthen family agriculture and small farms (approximately 82,000 establishments), through analysis, enhanced tools, and knowledge building.

PAGE green recovery support in Mato Grosso seeks to green the government's 'State Plan for Family Agriculture', which aims at putting in place economic incentives and inclusive sectoral policies and plans that promote 'leaving no one behind', innovation, climate change resilience and biodiversity conservation. This includes assessing the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on family agriculture and small farm production, particularly for vulnerable groups, facilitating financial access for small farmers, and developing a land use management system for rural settlements. PAGE will also support the roll-out of a communication campaign to increase awareness of the multiple benefits of a green recovery in the agriculture sector and help to establish an integrated training programme for the development of resilient business models in the agriculture sector that are aligned with green economy principles.

Promoting family agriculture: PAGE has been supporting the implementation of Mato Grosso's Produce, Conserve, Include (PCI) strategy related to its objective to promote the inclusion of families in rural settlement. In 2020, PAGE supported the review and update of the regulation on the 'green seal' policy to make it more accessible to a larger number of family farmers (micro and small farming). The green seal is a mechanism that allows producers to attest a producer's commitment to the rules and regulations of the Secretariat of Environment.

Building on the workshops held in 2019, two additional workshops on the electronic tool of State Government Integrated Family Farming System (e-SEIAF) were held in early 2020. One in Pontes e Lacerda on 14 January and the other in Cuiabá on 16 January, with 68 and 87 participants, respectively. The workshops showcased the e-SEIAF and provided general information about the tool, eligibility criteria for membership and the mechanism on how to feed and use the tool. The e-SEIAF, developed under PAGE, is one of the instruments for the implementation of the Family Agriculture State Policy and Plan.

Additionally, the Mato Grosso Company of Information Technology (MTI), in partnership with the Mato Grosso Company of Research, Assistance and Rural Extension (Empaer), started the development of an application that will help improve the family farming properties. Through the app, small producers will be able to request different services and have a direct channel to Empaer technicians. In September 2020, Empaer launched the first version of the app, expected to be used internally by the technicians to collect information from the field.



Shaping a sustainable future for tourism: PAGE contributed to the elaboration of the guidelines for the tourism sector in 2019 through a study on sustainable tourism, which included a preliminary diagnosis on sustainable tourism, a manual for standardisation and certification and an incentives framework for public policies. These different elements are being incorporated into the Mato Grosso State Government Tourism Policy, which is expected to be finalized in 2021.

Concurrently, PAGE also entered into an agreement with the Brazilian Support Service for Micro and Small Enterprises-Mato Grosso (SEBRAE-MT) in 2019 to implement the next phase for dissemination and application of the sustainable tourism guidelines. In 2020, PAGE commenced with the provision of training to the public and private sector based on the guidelines for the standardisation and certification of Sustainable Tourism Products. In partnership with SEBRAE-MT, PAGE will select ten companies that participated in the training to receive guidance on implementing the guidelines in its business. Working with the selected companies will help disseminate the guidelines and raise awareness of best practices in the tourism sector. Four online training workshops took place in December 2020, with the participation of 45 companies. This will be built upon by workshops for public managers to take place in early 2021. The first training workshop took place in December 2020, and a second is planned for January 2021.

Supporting Rural Environmental Registration: Since 2019, PAGE has provided support to the Rural Environmental Registration (CAR) managed by the Government of the State of Mato Grosso as a tool to improve farmers' access to financial and technical programmes and services, including products related to agriculture and tourism. In 2020, PAGE helped complete a diagnostic of Socioeconomic, Productive and Environmental Factors of the Vale do Mangaval Rural Settlement in Cáceres-MT, which was presented on 24 June 2020 to the National Steering Committee and relevant stakeholders for validation. The diagnostic will

help advance the development of the Environmental Regularization Policy for Rural Settlements with the State Secretariat of Environment (SEMA) and will contribute to the Environmental Policy of the State of Mato Grosso.

Conserving and safeguarding the Historic Centre of Cuiaba: Building on the cultural heritage and urban analysis completed in 2019, in 2020 PAGE supported the development of a Sustainable Management Plan for the Historic Center of Cuiabá (the state capital of Mato Grosso). The Historic Centre, formed by the city's first urban roads, has significant historical, cultural, tourist and, by extension, economic importance for the state of Mato Grosso. The Sustainable Management Plan provides an instrument for the State government to conserve and safeguard the Centre and raise awareness on sustainability, natural resources, cultural heritage preservation, and local economic development. The plan will serve the State Government as a road map to guide decision-making to strive for a more sustainable and resilient city.

Facilitating sustainable municipal planning: In 2020, PAGE held four stakeholder engagement meetings in the municipality of Salto do Céu and surroundings, featuring participation from 200 individuals, to support the implementation of the Participatory Municipal Development Master Plan which



was developed within the scope of PAGE in 2019. The consultations were conducted to engage the community, better understand the municipal reality - both, from the perspective of the Municipal Manager and the community - and based on this, plan socio-economic-environmental interventions.

The Participative Master Plan was adopted in March and approved by the legislative of Salto do Céu Municipality in December 2020 to become the more binding Municipal Master Plan Law making it an essential instrument for development urban and rural development policy. The priorities of the Law will also be incorporated into the Pluriannual Plan, the Budgetary Guidelines and the Annual Budget. As the first city in Mato Grosso to receive an international sustainable development programme, PAGE's engagement in Salto do Céu has been the subject of significant regional media attention.

Identifying sectors for green jobs and growth: PAGE is supporting the development of a tool to assess opportunities for generating employment and income in specific economic sectors. Such a tool is important to analyze the local economy and elaborate economic policies that consider social and environmental aspects. In 2019, a research study was initiated using the Green Jobs Assessment Methodology, which entails developing a tool for assessing the income and employment generation potential in different economic sectors. Completed and endorsed by the National Steering Committee on 2 July 2020, the

research study, titled 'Potential for employment and income generation based on projections of an input/product table of the economic profile of Mato Grosso' also aims to identify the sectors that provide the greatest opportunities for green job creation. As a next step, PAGE will update the input/output matrix with more recent data to better describe the current productive structure of the State.

Sustainable Buildings and Construction: PAGE is supporting the State Secretariat of Cities in the development of standards for smart and sustainable construction and renovation of buildings at the subnational level. In October, the first part of this work was delivered through the preparation of a progress report containing a survey and analysis of state, national and international experiences on green buildings, focusing on the analysis of guidelines, parameters and rules for implementation, as well as barriers and challenges for implementing the green building guidelines and suggested actions to address them. The standards for sustainable construction are expected finalized in March 2021.

Building institutional and individual capacity (Outcome 3):

Green Economy Learning Assessment: An assessment of green economy learning needs and institutional training capacities named 'Learning and Inclusive Green Economy: Building tomorrow's capabilities in Mato Grosso, Brazil' was finalized and presented to the PAGE Mato Grosso Steering Committee in April 2020. The assessment provides an overview of existing education and professional training programmes in priority sectors (family agriculture, renewables, ecotourism, territorial planning and environmental and climate literacy), as well as bottlenecks in addressing learning needs. A key finding is that, out of the 25 interviewed institutions, the overwhelming majority (86 per cent) has a strong interest in incorporating IGE concepts and considerations into their existing offer. Major constraints to modernize the offer, however, are the chronic lack of financial resources and staff, as well as weak integration with more experienced, international networks of universities. The study concludes with seven recommendations for action to upscale learning on green economy at strategic points in the State's education system, such as developing tailored seminars for graduate students to complement economics and sociology curricula. In 2021, PAGE will consolidate and expand technical, managerial and participatory competencies linked to the green economy transition for State university graduates.



Additionally, the Federal University of Mato Grosso (UFMT) is exploring the possibility of translating the higher education course on inclusive green economy modelling developed

by PAGE at the global level into Portuguese and adjusting it to include it in their online learning platform.

Training on SDGs: PAGE facilitated the participation of representatives of different counterpart institutions in the online course 'Integrating the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs' developed by UNDP together with Petrobrás. From Mato Grosso, the Civil House, International Relations advisory of Mato Grosso, Secretariat of Development, Secretariat of Family Agriculture, Secretariat for Innovation and Technology, Federal University of Mato Grosso and Association of Agricultural Engineers attended the online course during May to June 2020. The course is part of the UNDP project 'Territorialization and Acceleration for SDGs' that aims to strengthen the capacities of citizens by offering basic and essential knowledge about the 2030 Agenda, the 17 SDGs and the 169 targets.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Mato Grosso State, Brazil in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.10 Kyrgyz Republic

Country context and PAGE portfolio

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked country in Central Asia, with a rich natural heritage. A large mountainous region, its economy is mainly driven by agriculture (accounting for 40 per cent of employment), extractive industries, hydropower energy, service and construction sectors. It has a medium human development status, shrinking unemployment rates to 8 per cent in recent years. However, for an economy heavily reliant on agriculture and natural resources, land degradation and desertification pose serious threats to the economy, its people and the environment.

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is committed to advancing inclusive sustainable growth, as set out in its long-term National Development Strategy 2040 that recognizes the importance of integrated policies balancing social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. To realize this Strategy, the government has prepared an accompanying five year development programme - Unity, Trust and Creation. Spanning the period 2018-2022, it provides a medium-term framework for all national, sub-national and sectoral strategies, including those related to the environment and climate change. To complement the Strategy, the Government developed a Green Economy Programme 2019-2023 with a special focus on green energy, agriculture, industry, low carbon economy and environment, friendly transport, sustainable tourism, waste management and natural ecosystems sectors.

It is within this broader national context that PAGE, together with other bilateral and multilateral partners, including GIZ, the EU, BIOFIN, and the OECD are collaborating to support the transition to IGE in the Kyrgyz Republic. Since 2016, PAGE has prioritized support to advance the integration of IGE goals and targets into the government's national planning processes. PAGE is also facilitating evidence-based sectoral reforms in green industry, sustainable agriculture and jobs and strengthening institutional capacities around IGE diagnostics, coordination, finance and public procurement.

This work supports progress towards achieving SDGs 2 (Sustainable Agriculture) 4 (Quality Education), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as well as implementation of the Paris Agreement, which the country ratified in November 2019.

In 2020, with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the October political crisis, Kyrgyzstan has experienced substantial losses in major economic sectors—such as tourism, trade and consumer services, and construction, with an expected contraction of the economy of 10 per cent and an unemployment rate reaching 21 per cent. Adding to these challenges, disputed election results led to political upheaval and the dismissal of the Prime Minister and his cabinet in October 2020, likely causing some delays in the implementation of the PAGE programme.

Integration of IGE into national plans and policies (Outcome 1)

Establishing national mechanisms to support IGE implementation: In January 2020, the Government established a Coordination Commission on Green Economy and Climate Change, with PAGE supporting this process. This Commission will, among other things, coordinate action of the state executive authorities, local governments, non-profit and international organizations to support the implementation of the Green Economy Development Programme.

Green Economy modelling: In 2020, PAGE continued to support the institutionalization of the IGE modelling, providing technical support and developing further capacity for modelling within the government (mentioned below under outcome 3). The design of the macroeconomic model allows generation and analysis of different development scenarios, from which the government can choose the most appropriate for the needs and priorities of Kyrgyzstan, taking into account current conditions and opportunities. Additionally, the model supports the development of a green development strategy by identifying the positive and negative impacts of the planned policy measures and their contribution to a green economy transition. Going forward, GIZ is committed to further support this work through the Green Economy and Sustainable Private Sector Development project, which will facilitate additional application of the model and translation of modelling results to feed into policy recommendations.

Green Recovery – Supporting implementation of the economic recovery plan: In November 2020, in response to the economic impacts of COVID-19, PAGE Kyrgyz Republic submitted a proposal for targeted green recovery support. PAGE support for a green economic recovery in Kazakhstan will focus on informing the government's economic recovery plan and supporting key line ministries in the Green Economy Council in the planning and implementation of related policies. This includes the mobilization of national policy experts and think tanks to support the Government in assessing the economic, social and environmental impacts of different policy options for a green recovery, potentially covering fiscal policy and trade, industry and SMEs, green jobs creation, emissions reduction, resource efficiency, and investment flows. Based on the findings of the assessment work, PAGE will make policy recommendations that best support a green economic recovery. Public awareness initiatives on a green economic recovery, such as a TV series and peer learning events, will facilitate an exchange of information and experiences on the importance of a green economic recovery. PAGE will also conduct workshops to build the capacity of key institutions in the use of modelling tools.

Creating policy reforms to form the basis of IGE transition:

The Green Economy Development Programme in the Kyrgyz Republic which was already presented at the Green Economy Week in November 2019, was officially adopted by the Prime Minister's Office in July 2020. This marks an important milestone in the Kyrgyz Republic's path to a green economy, that started in 2018 when the Kyrgyz Parliament approved a 'Concept of Kyrgyzstan as a Green Economy Country'. The programme that PAGE helped develop jointly with BIOFIN, lays out a strategy and action plan for the introduction of green economy approaches to the national economy by 2023.

Integrating cross-cutting issues such as gender and poverty, the priority areas of the comprehensive Programme include:

- Stable Natural Ecosystems: Ecosystems, biodiversity and addressing deforestation and climate change issues, as well as mining.
- Green Energy: Renewables, energy efficiency, retrofitting, district heating, emissions etc.
- Green Agriculture: Rural development, agro-industry, climate resilient and organic agriculture, water, land use.
- Green Manufacturing Industry: Chemical, organic and air pollution, waste, resource and energy efficiency, cleaner production.
- Low-Carbon and Ecologically Clean Transport: Air quality, public transport, Electric vehicles, infrastructure.
- Sustainable Tourism: Community based tourism, pollution, emissions.



- Municipal Waste Management: Circularity of materials, reducing emissions from waste burning and dumping.
- Green Cities: Access to drinking water and sanitation, utilities, urban infrastructure.
- Areas to support the inclusive green economy transition process: Sustainable financing, fiscal incentivization, sustainable public procurement, capacity-building and awareness-raising.

The detailed plan with expected outcomes, targets and indicators will help facilitate effective and timely monitoring of the Programme implementation. The expected results are diverse and ambitious, for example, the introduction of a law on organic agricultural production, increased public awareness on separated waste collection, and a 4.5 per cent reduction GDP energy intensiveness 2023, among many others. These targets set into motion the transition to an inclusive green economy in the Kyrgyz Republic while also presenting an example for other countries to follow suit.

Shaping sectoral and thematic policy reforms jointly with other initiatives (Outcome 2):

Sustainable finance: In 2018, PAGE supported the development of a Sustainable Finance Roadmap which has since been incorporated as a section in the recently adopted Green Economy Development Programme. Following on from the roadmap, in 2020, PAGE commenced support to implement this section of the Programme through a number of activities. PAGE is providing expertise to identify financial sector needs for the implementation of the principles of Sustainable Finance and to analyze existing legislative frameworks relevant to sustainable finance and the current level of enforcement. Based on this PAGE will help develop recommendations to implement sustainable finance. For this work, PAGE is collaborating with the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

In line with this, PAGE released a report in May 2020 on '[Investment opportunities for the development of a green economy in Kyrgyzstan](#)', which analyzes opportunities for green investments in Kyrgyzstan and provides related recommendations. The report identified the following areas for investment as the most promising in the near and mid-term outlook for the Kyrgyz Republic: i) efficient use of water resources for energy production; ii) increasing crop yields by expanding irrigation networks and the introduction of agricultural machinery; iii) growth of the livestock sector while improving the efficiency of water and land use in fodder production; and iv) shortening of transport routes.

Waste management: The issue of solid waste management is of high priority in Bishkek, the capital city, specifically as the population increases and sustainable solutions beyond landfills are still being sought. In this context, PAGE is providing support for improved waste management in the Kyrgyz Republic, tackling the issue from three different but complementary angles.

Since 2020, PAGE, led by UNEP, has been supporting the implementation of the selected recommendations of the waste chapter of the Green Economy Development Programme.

This includes improving the regulatory framework in the field of waste management by developing amendments to existing legislation and developing new economic policy instruments for waste management. In line with this, PAGE is developing a draft Government Decree on Economic Mechanisms in the field of waste management and preparing two amendments to the laws on non-tax payments and the production and consumption of wastes. Additionally, PAGE is contributing to strengthening the capacity and raising awareness among different target groups about the effectiveness of economic policy instruments in the field of waste management and the use of recycled materials, with three capacity-building and awareness-raising events planned for early 2021.

On July 9, PAGE, under UNDP lead, launched an eco-competition on solid waste management in Bishkek with the aim to develop innovative, diverse and effective ideas, calling for applications from innovators, representatives of the private sector and civil society to participate. Solutions were sought on waste reduction, public awareness campaigns, increasing the percentage of recycling and reuse of materials, support for separate waste collection infrastructure as well as the implementation of new technologies in existing or new enterprises related to processing, sorting and production from recycled materials. Of the 28 applications received, four applications received funding to implement their ideas. These include a project mapping recycling and solid waste collection points, new design of ecological waste bins for separate collection of plastic, creation of a short documentary on communities that highlights best practice in waste management and an initiative composting organic waste. Three winners are already implementing their projects and the fourth will start implementation in 2021. Following implementation of the projects, results will be shared in a campaign to inform the public of the achievements and contribution to green economy efforts.

Additionally, in response to an official request from the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, UNIDO under PAGE commissioned a situation analysis of the healthcare waste management systems in the Kyrgyz Republic in July 2020. The draft assessment, completed in December 2020, identifies the nature and volume of medical waste generated in the context of COVID-19, summarizes the current healthcare waste management practice and technological applications, identifies gaps in related policies and legislation, and recommends how the country may respond to the crises. This includes, for examples, the development of an inter-sectorial and inter-agency contingency plan and designing a health sector operational delivery plan for emergency situations like COVID-19. In addition, as UNIDO's partnering agencies, the representative of the Ministry of Health and the State Committee for Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use (SCIESU), joined the PAGE annual board meeting held on 03 December 2020.

Resource efficiency: In collaboration with the State Committee for Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use (SCIESU), PAGE is supporting the development of a National Industrial Resource Efficiency Policy. Given the high rate of energy, and material used, and emissions emitted in the manufacturing sector in Kyrgyzstan, UNIDO and SCIESU plan to demonstrate the potential benefits of a well-designed and implemented resource efficiency policy by

undertaking a demonstration project in the metal industry and cement industry. To strengthen the necessary knowledge and skills for relevant stakeholders, training will be organized in February 2021 to introduce the Energy Management Standard ISO 50001. Based on the demonstration's results, conducted training, and research findings, a National Industrial Resource Efficiency Policy will be developed for the government's consideration, which will map a set of short- and long-term actionable policies to promote industrial resource efficiency that can be taken by key government departments and industry partners. Bilateral meetings took place with SCIESU in December 2020 and January 2021 to define the scope of work and priorities. The study is expected to commence in February 2021 with a kick-off meeting of stakeholders.

Green Jobs: In 2020, PAGE through the ILO continued to support the development of a prototype for the Green Jobs Assessment Model (GJAM) for the Kyrgyz Republic to analyse the impact of green policies on the labour market and household income distribution. PAGE is providing technical assistance to National Statistical Committee (NSC) to improve the national statistical system in the areas of: i) National Accounts and production of Supply and Use tables, Input-Output tables and Social Accounting Matrices with environmental sectors and more details on employment and income distribution, (ii) Environmental Goods and Services Sectors (EGSS) statistics and Production of Economic and Environmental Accounts according to the System of Economic and Environmental Accounts (SEEA); and iii) labour market statistics including informality.

These activities include capacity-building as well as data collection on EGSS and other environmental data and job statistics (including in waste management activities), as well as support to the GJAM working group to further inform the model development. The support to NSC for the enhancement of the national statistical system includes working sessions with an international expert on SEEA as well as the training of two local experts who are supporting the NSC work on the production of environmental accounts and data and the development of better measures of informality in green and conventional sectors. In this context, the PAGE, led by ILO, organized two training courses in November 2020: one on 'measuring informal employment' and one on the methodology for GJAM. More details are provided below.

Sustainable public procurement support and guidance: PAGE, through UNEP, continued supporting the work on sustainable public procurement that started in 2019. Between July and December, UNEP and its national partner (Promotion and Development Center) continued providing SPP-related support and inputs to national policy documents: i) monitoring and evaluation systems for the implementation of the National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040, and ii) Action Plan of the Green Economy Development Programme of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2023.

Additionally, SPP was introduced in a new amendment to the Law on Public Procurement, which is currently under consideration by Parliament. The Ministry of Finance in close cooperation with the Ministry of Economy is implementing the United Nations Development

Account project 'Enhancing sustainable public procurement for the regional transition to an inclusive green economy in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia' (UNDA SPP project), led by the UNEP Regional Office for Europe.

Phasing out harmful subsidies in agriculture: PAGE is supporting fiscal policy reform in the agricultural sector in the Kyrgyz Republic to remove harmful subsidies and shift towards sustainable practices, through two closely coordinated initiatives by UNEP and the UNDP-Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN).

BIOFIN is supporting the Kyrgyz Republic to reduce, replace or phase out harmful agricultural subsidies that have failed to improve the welfare of farmers and disincentivized the adoption of green and organic practices. BIOFIN has started a process to: 1) identify one priority subsidy to reduce, green or phase out; 2) conduct a related political economy and environmental and social impact analysis; 3) design multiple scenarios for reduction, greening or phase out, outlining potential financial, socio-economic, gender and environmental impacts; 4) develop an action agenda, including the drafting of all required legislation, regulations, potential compensation mechanisms, potential categories for exemption, timelines, advocacy plan, capacity development and the required budgets; and 5) support the reform process national debates, communication, advocacy and capacity development. The entire process is based on intensive consultation with critical stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Finance and will be closely coordinated with the Inter-agency Working Group on Reforming Harmful Subsidies under the Public Council on Transition to Green Economy of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Aligned with this, UNEP is conducting a technical study that will provide an analysis of the environmental impacts of current agriculture subsidies and potential subsidy reform scenarios including the resources saved from subsidy reform and options for the use of these resources to support agriculture sector reforms in line with national inclusive green economy priorities. The study, to be finalized in June 2021, is being implemented by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and is being delivered in close collaboration with the UNDP-BIOFIN team. It is proposed that a joint (PAGE-BIOFIN) technical report on agriculture subsidies will be prepared for the Government to bring together the analysis in a final, consolidated product.

Building institutional and individual capacity (Outcome 3):

Green economy modelling training: To further build capacity on the development of the use of the IGE modelling tool, PAGE supported the Ministry of Economy in conducting 25 consecutive half-day online training sessions on building a green economy model for representatives of ministries and departments, the National Bank, academic institutions and the expert community. Since April 2020, a total of 292 participants attended different training sessions, out of which seven individuals completed the full cycle of the training, marking an important step forward for the further institutionalization of the green economy model in the country. All the sessions were recorded and available on the internet for

interested parties. In addition, in cooperation with GIZ, two training courses are being developed: one for decision makers and another one for technical staff, engaged in GE modelling.

Building institutional capacity: The University Alliance for Green Economy and Sustainable Development (AVZUR) was created in 2019, as one of the recommendations of the PAGE-led Green Economy Learning Assessment, conducted by the American University of Central Asia (AUCA).

In 2020, UNITAR developed an agreement with AVZUR to integrate green economy learning into the curricula of various universities and degree programmes, building the capacities of current and future decision makers and ensuring the sustainability of PAGE interventions. In 2020, it was decided that UNITAR will support the development of the following courses: Economics of climate change in Central Asia (OSCE Academy); Green and sustainable finance (International Alatau University); Agriculture and green growth (Kyrgyz National Agrarian University); Green economy and international trade (AUCA); and Introduction to green economy (Kyrgyz Economic University). The courses will be completed in the first half of 2021 and ready to be integrated in the academic year 2021/22.

The partnership with AVZUR was instrumental in conducting the Green Jobs Modelling Training for academicians (in collaboration with ILO), as well as in planning the integration of green modelling learning at the university level, building on the PAGE global university course on modelling as well as the green modelling trainings supported by UNDP. Additionally, with AVZUR UNITAR conducted a competition among youth to create projects that highlight and raise awareness of issues of a green economy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Seven winning projects are being implemented from October 2020 to March 2021.

Green Economy and Climate Change Learning Strategy: In November 2019, the one-UN Climate Change Education Partnership (UN CC: Learn) launched a programme aimed at developing a Green Economy and Climate Change Learning Strategy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Following a comprehensive background and learning needs assessment, key priority areas for the learning strategy have been identified through a collaborative process. The three main priority learning areas include: 1) increasing the capacities of policymakers and civil servants; 2) integrating climate change and green economy in all levels of formal education; 3) awareness building for the public. The final learning strategy/roadmap will be finalized and launched in February 2021. Several learning actions identified in the strategy are already under implementation as part of the project, including a training on Climate Change for civil servants in collaboration with Academy for Civil Service. The Secretariat for the UN CC: Learn is UNITAR, while at the national level work is implemented by UNDP in collaboration with the Climate Finance Centre, supported by a technical team comprised of key national stakeholders. The project is in an advanced stage of implementation and is expected to be completed in early 2021.

Green jobs assessment modelling training: PAGE, through the ILO, has provided online training on the underlying methodology of Green Job Assessment Modelling (GJAM) for policy analysis to University faculty and staff from government agencies. A three-week online training session and training package in Russian was provided from 26 October to 16 November 2020 to 34 participants (27 females) from various national institutions, including Banks and Universities. The objectives were i) to provide the participants with the foundational notions of the underlying methodology of a wide range of modelling tools with policy applications in the area of economic, environmental and social impact analysis and planning and ii) generate capacity among local institutions for developing academic courses and broaden the knowledge base on the methodology that will support the establishment of analytical tools for national policymaking such as the GJAM.

Training on environmental accounting and labour statistics: The National Statistical Committee has been assisted in the development of environmental statistics in the form of training and working sessions by an international expert on the System of Economic and Environmental Accounts (SEEA). Moreover, NSC staff, experts from trade unions, employers as well as representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Ministry of Economy have benefitted from a course on 'Measuring the informal employment', which represents a high priority on the policy agenda of the government as well as an important dimension for the assessment of green jobs and sustainable development. 10 participants (8 female) from Kyrgyzstan attended the training from 9 November to 18 December on concepts and practical applications sessions on informality to support the NSC to improve labour market statistics.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Kyrgyz Republic in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.11 Uruguay

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Uruguay ranks high in the Latin American region in terms of human development and opportunity and national progress is supported by institutional stability and inclusive social policies. In recent years, the government has integrated sustainable, inclusive and green development into its core pillars of economic development, setting ambitious goals for equality, the environment and a diversified economy. At the same time, its open economy remains vulnerable to oscillations in the global market. Exports still rely on primary sectors such as agriculture and livestock that are intense in the use of natural resources. To address these issues, the government is committed to sustainability and green economy in pursuit of higher income and better wealth distribution, job creation, poverty reduction, equality and shaping the environment into one of its core pillars of economic development.

To set out its ambition and strengthen its overall policy frameworks, Uruguay completed several national planning processes, including the preparation of a National Development Strategy - Uruguay 2050 (officially launched in August 2019), a National Agenda of Infrastructure, and the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development (adopted in 2019). In 2015, the government also created the National Planning Directorate to advise the Office of Planning and Budget on strategic action for the country's long-term sustainable development.

Since joining in 2017, PAGE has helped inform and promote these planning processes and build related capacities. Work initially focused on strengthening the capacity of policymakers to assess the impact of environmental policies and use macroeconomic models, enhancing public-private collaboration, and broader engagement and awareness-raising on IGE.

More recently, Uruguay has embraced the concept of circular economy, given its potential to generate new businesses and jobs in an environmentally conscious manner. This has provided an important entry point for PAGE on a sectoral and thematic level. PAGE helped mainstream circular economy into the overarching programme *Transforma Uruguay* (also known as the National System of Productive Transformation and Competitiveness), created in 2016 with the purpose to promote the productive transformation of the country's economy and increase its competitiveness. Subsequently, PAGE is supporting Uruguay to operationalize this programme through the National Circular Economy Action Plan published in September 2019. Under this overall framework, PAGE is providing technical assistance (including the greening of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), waste and by-product valorisation, green production methods in specific industries), and sectoral and thematic analysis in several areas (including land use tensions in residential metropolitan areas with industrial activities).

PAGE activities in Uruguay are contributing towards the achievement of SDGs 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as well as Uruguay's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement. PAGE was also selected as an example of action on SDG 17 as part of Uruguay's Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2019.

In 2020 a new government took office setting the basis of a new institutional and political arrangement within Uruguay. A Ministry of Environment was created, and new authorities designated last September. The new government has been actively promoting the agenda of a circular and green economy as a path towards recovery post-COVID-19. Uruguay submitted a proposal for additional PAGE support in its green recovery efforts in November 2020, naming circular economy, the generation of green employment and support to SMEs, particularly in the food sector, as key elements in its plan. The government has expressed these areas as key drivers to revive Uruguay's economy from the perspective of long-term planning (national policies), and short and medium-term sectoral policies.

The 2050 National Development Strategy is currently under review and new long-term and mid-term plans are being proposed by the new authorities. PAGE will be involved in the design and implementation of the National Policy of employment and green entrepreneurship of youth.

Progress in 2020

Incorporating environmental dimensions into national development strategies (Outcome 1):

Re-engaging with national counterparts: On 1 March 2020, new government authorities took office, and since PAGE has engaged with the new government officials. Together with GIZ and the Inter-institutional Working Group on the Green and Inclusive Economy (GIT), PAGE organized a virtual working breakfast on 25 March to disseminate results already achieved related to the Green and Inclusive Economy and present the progress made in the framework of the PAGE Uruguay. The 80 participants included the National Director of Industries, the National Director of the Environment, the National Director of Energy, the Director of the National Institute for Employment and Vocational Training and the Former Undersecretary of Industry, Energy and Mining, among others. In addition to the virtual working breakfast organized on 25 March, PAGE participated in workshops with the GIT working group on 14 February and 8 December. These sessions allowed for the sharing of the progress made in projects and programs related to green economy in Uruguay.

Technical and economic feasibility study of using activated carbon production from forest wood waste: In collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining (MIEM), PAGE contributed to the development of a study focused on analysing the technical and economic feasibility of using activated carbon from forest-wood waste. The study, to be commenced in January 2021, is an initial step towards developing a local activated carbon industry and market in the country. This builds on PAGE's support for the incorporation of environmental components into the 'National Development Strategy Uruguay 2050' through three contributions: i) a strategic environmental assessment on the forest-wood-cellulose value chain within the framework of the strategic planning process, completed in October 2019; ii) a greenhouse gases scenario analysis on the forest-wood-cellulose value chain, completed in September 2019; and iii) an overarching environmental perspective of the Strategy.

Furthermore, a note of concept is currently under development to promote the integration of public policies in productive sectors and services that safeguard and sustainably use the natural marine-coastal capital of the country, through Marine Spatial Planning.

Strengthening coordination for the 2030 Agenda: In 2020, PAGE was involved in several actions aimed at strengthening the public-private and public-public inter-institutional coordination for compliance with the 2030 Agenda. To strengthen commitment and accelerate progress towards SDGs, PAGE contributed to the design of a Circular Economy

Laboratory (LabEC), with a series of events scheduled to take place in early 2021. The objective of the LabEC is to promote initiatives that facilitate the contribution of companies to the SDGs and the circular economy. To support this workstream area, UNDP has developed an 'SDG Accelerator' methodology, adapted to the Uruguayan context. It targets the public and private business sector to promote the implementation of Circular Economy strategies at the company level. The LabEC will include four workshops in the areas of sustainable development, circular economy and the SDGs. The workshops are being developed by PAGE Uruguay, UNDP, and the Chamber of Industries (CIU), through the Plastic Technological Center (CTplas) and the Uruguayan Technological Laboratory (LATU), with the support of DERES (a business association).

To strengthen coordination for compliance with the 2030 Agenda, PAGE has developed three different knowledge products:

- Selected tools to report contributions to the SDGs
- Tools for training on the SDGs and 2030 Agenda
- Selected tools to measure the progress of the Circular Economy.

Green Recovery – Supporting the food and food services sectors: PAGE submitted a proposal for additional support for green recovery efforts in November 2020. This support to Uruguay will focus on promoting a green recovery of the food and food services sectors, particularly for SMEs, through strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable consumption and production in food system SMEs within the green recovery. This is in line with the two cross-cutting thematic areas of circular economy and the generation of green employment that PAGE work in Uruguay has focused on, and which the government has highlighted as key drivers to revive Uruguay's economy from the perspective of long-term planning, and short and medium-term sectoral policies.

Activities will assess and identify market opportunities and barriers to recovery, education gaps, and prospects for green employment generation in the food and food services sectors; and develop an action plan and circular economy strategy to promote sustainable growth of the food and food services sector. PAGE will also support the digitalization of business processes of SMEs in the food industry and organize knowledge-sharing and training events on green chemistry and biotechnology in the food system.

Shaping sectoral and thematic studies and reforms (Outcome 2):

Throughout 2020, PAGE supported work across a diverse array of sectoral and thematic areas, as outlined below.

Circular Economy Award: Building on the success of the Circular Economy Award in 2019, PAGE Uruguay held the second Uruguay Circular Award Ceremony on 28 October 2020. The Award offers visibility and recognition to companies, entrepreneurs, communities and educational institutions whose processes, products or services have advanced circular economy principles and methods. The winners of this Award are recognized as contributors

to the country's transition to a Circular Economy. The five winners of 2020 were *Granja Don Pablo*, *Hifa Biomateriales*, *+Circular (CTPlas)*, *Ánima Clasifica* and *Naturplus SA*, who aim to implement circular economy through various novel initiatives, including generation of biomaterials from edible mushrooms and agro-industrial waste, a circular certification that recognizes improvements in environmentally friendly production processes, recycling of used tyres and tubes and effective solutions for plastic waste management, and awareness-raising about separating and recycling waste.

Also contributing to the development of circular economy, PAGE Uruguay is supporting the *Oportunidades Circulares programme* (Circular Opportunities Sectoral Fund), launched in August 2020 to finance studies, which identify opportunities and diagnose the circularity of at least two sectors or value chains. The studies supported should focus on eco-design, green chemistry, repairs or activities aligned with circular economy that seek to leverage sectors affected by the current economic crisis or promote post-COVID-19 recovery actions. 15 proposals were received and reviewed in December 2020. Only 3 proposals were chosen and the implementation of the studies is expected to begin in February 2021. The scope of the study of the selected projects are i) circular economy in the construction sector, ii) environmental assessment of olive mills solid waste, and iii) circular economy opportunities and sustainable consumption of bakery products.

PAGE is currently developing an educational programme with CEMPRE (*Compromiso Empresarial Para el Recycling* - a civil, non-profit association to promote the reduction and recycling of waste in Uruguay) to strengthen the capacities of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that work in the circular economy. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the course was postponed to be implemented during 2021.

On 16 April 2020, CEMPRE organized an online event, 'Waste management and circular economy in the context of the health crisis', where the PAGE National Coordinator was invited to present the vision of PAGE Uruguay. The presentation by PAGE, 'Green Economy, what place are you called to play during and after the health crisis?', covered the current situation, concepts of sustainable development and green economy, as one of the tools available to achieve it and possibilities offered by the green economy for the current and future context, with an emphasis on green jobs.

Circular economy monitoring: Following work from 2019, PAGE has continued to support Uruguay with technical guidance on green economy measurement. PAGE has commissioned a study to design and implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the National Circular Economy Plan, which is expected to be finalized in April 2021. A first report reviewing international experiences on the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks for national development strategies has already been submitted, and a workshop was held on 28 November where the work plan for the development of the monitoring and evaluation system was presented to the inter-institutional group. Initially, the monitoring and evaluation system was to be designed for the Uruguay 2050 Development

Strategy, but was readjusted to focus on the National Circular Economy Plan due to the changes in the governmental strategy.

Green and inclusive production and services: Since 2019, PAGE has been supporting the policy design process to address issues regarding artisanal brick production activities, giving special attention to gaps in decent work and environmental practices. This has involved the organization of an international event on Cleaner Production and Formalisation of Brick Production Activities, field visits and trainings, as well as support the creation of the Pando Brick Production School and Park from October 2019. This work aims to contribute to the generation of decent work in the sector, provide knowledge and experience in Cleaner Production and improve environmental performance and market access. In 2020, PAGE continued to support these objectives, in particular making progress with the construction of the installation of the new brick making school, of which PAGE is financing part of the infrastructure, materials and workshops.

Building capacity for an inclusive, green economy (Outcome 3):

Green Economy Learning Assessment: In 2020, the Green Economy Learning Assessment and associated Plan to Strengthen Green Economy Capacities and Training has been finalized and validated by a stakeholder workshop in May. The Assessment identified knowledge and skills gaps in two priority sectors, food systems and forestry, that need to be addressed to help the country accelerate its green economy transition. Furthermore, the Assessment examined the national landscape of institutions that offer learning and professional programmes in the sustainability space with a view to identify thematic blind spots in existing curricula as well as synergies resulting from untapped collaboration. Based on the results of the Assessment, the Plan formulates five recommendations for action to strengthen participatory, management and strategic skills at differing levels in society, such as non-governmental organizations, small and medium enterprises, and public officials in national and sub-national functions.

An interinstitutional group has been formed to support the implementation of the Plan from 2021 onwards, including representatives of various government ministries and technicians from the University of Montevideo involved in implementing this outcome. Working with the Small Donations Program, PAGE is providing finance for three studies, which began in November 2020, aimed at creating content in three courses on ecotourism, agroecology, and more general training for trainers. The Small Donations Programme is an initiative supported by UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Tourism oriented to reinforce the non-governmental institutions working in sustainable development in Uruguay, with over 15 years of experience in empowering mostly community-owned organizations and cooperatives to formulate and run sustainability-centred projects.

Green jobs and skills development: In 2020 PAGE and GIZ, together with the Ministry of Labour and the ILO, developed a Sustainable Entrepreneurship Training Programme for

youth in collaboration with DESEM, a Youth Entrepreneurs foundation. The programme on sustainable entrepreneurship for youth, including green dimensions, took place in October 2020, featuring the participation of 60 young people between 18 and 29 years old (45 females). A series of training workshops were held, focusing on sustainable management, natural resources optimization and climate change positive practices.

Integrating IGE into national institution curricula: Supporting the integration of IGE into national institutional curricula, PAGE has developed a course on cleaner production in collaboration with the University of Montevideo, to be implemented in April 2021. The course will be published at the National Institute for Employment and Professional Training platform, with MSMEs as the target audience.

Furthermore, the development of the 'Energy Efficiency Calculator' app, which started in 2019 is now completed. The tool, officially disseminated in June 2020 by the Ministry of Industry, is expected to help MSMEs improve their energy efficiency and reduce energy costs.

Circular economy training for teachers: In collaboration with the BioValor Project, PAGE conducted a workshop on 'circular economy applied in the classroom' for primary school teachers as part of the Summer School of Plan Ceibal on 19 February 2020. The BioValor Project and PAGE together are responsible for carrying out the capacity-building component of the National Circular Economy Action Plan, launched in September 2019, with the objective to create and disseminate content on the circular economy for the public.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Uruguay in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.12 Guyana

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Guyana is an upper to middle income country in South America endowed with natural resources, fertile agricultural land and extensive forests that cover around 87 per cent of the country. Agriculture and mining are key economic sectors, accounting for 21 and 20 per cent of GDP respectively. With its abundance of rivers, the country is susceptible to climate change effects, particularly floods and droughts, and its resource-based economy remains highly exposed to fluctuations in global commodity prices. Petroleum was discovered off the coast in vast quantities along the continental shelf in 2015, and oil exports began in 2020. This offers the potential for rapid industrial development and increased revenues but comes with environmental, governance and economic risks.

Against this background, Governments of Guyana have, over the years, recognized the importance of taking measures to combat environmental degradation, preserve forest cover and support sustainable development, by committing to low impact, climate resilient development.

The PAGE partnership with Guyana began in 2017 under the then Government administration, linked to the development and implementation of its Green State Development Strategy (GSDS): Vision 2040_(2019). The Strategy was intended to be the country's long-term economic and socio-cultural national development vision and was aligned to the SDGs and Guyana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). The Strategy was developed from previous national policies including: Low Carbon Development Strategy (2013); the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan, 2015 (CRSAP); the Renewable Energy Transition Plan; the Climate Change Resilience Strategy and Adaptation Plan; the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; and the National Adaptation Strategy for the Agricultural Sector (2009-2018). Most of these prior strategies were not fully implemented but were found to be still relevant to Guyana's economic development.

PAGE support provided for policy development, including through the Guyana Green Economy Modelling Study, and to building stakeholder and institutional capacities contributed towards the achievement of SDGs 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as well as Guyana's NDC, especially as it relates to developing the country's renewable energy potential.

In 2020, the PAGE programme experienced delays arising from the highly contested general elections in March and the COVID-19 pandemic. After taking office on 2 August 2020, the new Government has set the priorities for the next five years in line with its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS 2013), with an emphasis on, COVID-19 response and recovery, job creation, renewable energy, climate mitigation and adaptation and SDGs. Planned PAGE activities are still aligned with these new policy priorities centred around low carbon development, the climate agenda and the SDGs, however, ongoing political challenges have put the programme on a temporary pause from late 2020.

The PAGE Guyana work programme is also become more integrated with the support provided by UN Country Team (UNCT) for the response and recovery to the COVID 19 pandemic. PAGE supported the UNCT's Finance and Economic Recovery Working Group and the work of the Guyana National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) in the early stages of the pandemic. The PAGE Guyana work programme now forms part of 'Pillar 4: Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration' of the UNCT's Social and Economic and Response Recovery Plan (SERRP). Additional future entry points for PAGE support on green economic recovery are provided by the new administration's 2020/2021 national budget 'Agenda 2020: our plan for prosperity'.

Progress in 2020

Measuring progress towards a green transition (Outcome 1):

Building a platform for monitoring country progress benefitting from South-South exchange: PAGE led by UNDP has started preparatory work with the Ministry of Finance for the development of an online platform that will facilitate monitoring and reporting on national development plans and policy targets such as low carbon development, the SDGs and the goals of the Paris Agreement. These discussions have involved outreach to other UNDP offices in Jamaica and Chile to facilitate South-South cooperation among Ministries of Finance through 'virtual study tours'. The Ministry of Finance of Guyana is exchanging with the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) on important lessons for developing and operating a national monitoring platform and the essential role of and partnership with the Jamaica Statistical Institute (STATIN) for reliable national statistics. Discussions have addressed a data collection interface for the SDG platform and related development plans for sectors, for example agriculture, education and health. Data development plans for key sectors will be completed in early 2021, for application to the 2021 budget estimates.

This work is part of a larger commitment of PAGE to support Guyana in the development of a comprehensive monitoring and reporting approach for its national plans. After being delayed due to the government transition, from 2021 onwards additional complementary work is planned to comprise the application of the Green Economy Progress Measurement Framework in the context of the LCDS and a plan to conduct a Public Green Economy Expenditure Review (PGEER). PGEER provides a complementary methodology for achieving the set priorities by analysing the strategy's budget for its low carbon/green economy focus and its alignment with SDGs, utilizing the indicators of the Green Economy Performance (GEP) measurement framework for budget tagging.

The overall framework for this work is provided by the report: 'Inclusiveness, Policy Cost Estimates and Monitoring & Evaluation Framework' (The final GSDS Volume III) released in June 2020, which UNEP has supported outside of PAGE through a complementary project. Complementing this work, a subsequent phase of integrated modelling is planned to further analyse investment needs, largely through the lens of infrastructure (built, natural and social) to attain national sustainable development targets and help align investment with policy to address the greatest needs.

Supporting sectoral and thematic policy reforms (Outcome 2):

Fiscal policy reforms for sustainable agriculture: Building on the analysis supported by PAGE in previous years, including economic modelling and the Green Industry and Trade Assessment (GITA), and further consultations with government agencies in June 2019, including the Ministries of Agriculture, Business, and Public Infrastructure and the Food and Agriculture Organization, in the agricultural sector, work in 2020 placed emphasis on

sustainable agriculture. This included the follow-up work to the GITA with a focus on waste management and resources-efficiency in the agricultural sector.

PAGE, under UNEP lead, and in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), is supporting analysis on fiscal policies aimed at transitioning agriculture to more sustainable operations. A meeting was held on 17 September 2020, jointly with IIED, to mark the start of a scoping study on fiscal policy reforms for sustainable agriculture. The study will undertake a sector-wide analysis of fiscal policies to drive IGE transition. The meeting engaged the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture, which have both assigned a small team to support the study, as well as the Department of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Building on the scoping study, PAGE plans to develop a fiscal policy strategy and roadmap in 2021 which will feed into the Agricultural Ministry's new Sector Strategy 2020-2030.

Analyzing green jobs: In 2020, PAGE, led by ILO, has been collaborating with StatsCan (the National Statistical Office of Canada) to support the Bureau of Statistics of the Ministry of Finance in building the national Input/Output Model for Guyana's Green Jobs Assessment Model (GJAM). The Department of Economics of the University of Guyana is assisting with data collection for environmental sectors. Progress was delayed over the past year due to the political situation in Guyana, but work has moved forward since the new Government administration came in with the model expected to be completed in 2021. The model will capture the effects on growth and income distribution at the sectoral level and evaluates green and conventional industries, household groups and job characteristics in Guyana's economy.

Sustainable value chains in fruit and vegetable sector: Building on the findings of GITA completed in 2018, PAGE, led by UNIDO, commenced consultations with the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) of the Ministry of Agriculture in 2020 on the development of efficiency and waste management guidance for the fruits and vegetable value chain, particularly for coconut production. This work aims to stimulate technological innovation, identify new export markets and should also bring benefits to domestic consumers through more sustainable products, particularly for the tourism sector. It also aims to support the uptake of low carbon priorities in the sector. In addition, synergies are also explored with IIED for a potential link to the work on fiscal policies (described above).

This work on waste management and efficiency will be complemented by a study led jointly by UNEP and UNDP focused on links to infrastructure and tourism of the coconut value chain. Tourism establishments provide a potential domestic market, which is not currently well studied. In line with the new policy priorities, the study aims to promote low-carbon growth and green jobs in the fruit and vegetables subsector. Due to the different challenges faced by Guyana in 2020, the implementation of the study was delayed.

Building institutional and individual capacity (Outcome 3):

Green trade and industry capacity-building workshop: Between 8-10 December 2020, UNEP and UNITAR, under the umbrella of PAGE and with support from the University of Guyana, co-organized a virtual workshop titled 'Building back better through green trade and industrial policies' for ministry officials of the Government of Guyana. Based on prior consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the workshop was designed with the objective to build technical knowledge and skills related to the design, implementation and evaluation of public policy at the trade and industrial policy nexus, thus supporting Guyanese officials in the achievement of the national sustainability goals in the aforementioned sectors. Guided by internationally renowned practitioners, including a former World Trade Organization chief economist, participants examined a number of case studies to highlight policy opportunities and challenges with regard to the Guyanese economy. Two lecturers from the University of Guyana helped moderate the discussions and draw linkages between global policy frameworks and the political realities on the ground.

The workshop was attended by 16 participants (with 50 per cent participation from women), representing the University of Guyana as well as various ministries and departments of the Government of Guyana such as the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, Ministry of Agriculture among others.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Guyana in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.13 Argentina

Country context and PAGE portfolio

As the third largest economy in Latin America and an upper to middle income country with a well-diversified economy, Argentina has recently experienced a slowdown in economic progress with low/negative growth in GDP and a rise in unemployment. The specific dynamics of the Argentinian economy over the last decade, with altering periods of accelerated growth and recession, as well as exchange rate crises, have resulted in sudden changes in regulatory frameworks, the deterioration of productive factors and significantly impacted investments in technological change and productivity.

Against this background, the country recognizes that economic reforms need to be pursued to facilitate growth, stimulate employment and promote sustainability, with important structural challenges to overcome on the road to IGE.

Argentina has already demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability in the context of international processes and has expressed a clear interest in pursuing economic, social and

environmental objectives in an integrated manner. During its Presidency of the Group of Twenty (G20) in 2018, Argentina selected 'Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development' as the theme of the G20 Leaders' Summit, highlighting its commitment to promoting green economy as part of the global sustainability agenda. It has taken forward a series of important commitments in environmental and socioeconomic matters, assuming Voluntary Commitments on emission reduction according to the Paris Agreement and promoting an agenda within the framework of its G20 Presidency focused on the 'Future of Work', a 'Sustainable Future of Food' and the 'Infrastructure for Development'. Congress has also recently approved the Minimum Standard Law on Climate Change, setting standards for climate protection in policy strategies for different sectors and a law on prohibiting the use of microplastic in cosmetic and housekeeping products.

Argentina joined PAGE in 2018, with the government recognizing the potential for IGE to provide a means for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With PAGE support, Argentina aims to advance IGE transition with a focus on governance; technical analysis to inform policymaking; vocational training to support labour market transition; and sustainable productive development and finance for technological innovation, including fiscal incentives, sustainable public procurement schemes and sustainable financial instruments. Emerging areas for a specific PAGE contribution are the facilitation of cross-sectoral dialogue and targeted support to waste management and green industry.

In 2019, PAGE commenced the inception phase to identify priority workstreams with an initial workshop and stocktaking exercise including the identification of complementary initiatives. Although progress has been made in 2019, PAGE work has been impacted by several challenges, including a severe financial and economic crisis in 2019, government changes and broader political instability in the region. In 2020, a new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework was established with the new government, providing an opportunity to elevate IGE priorities and to further enhance the foundation for PAGE. **PAGE work is likely to support SDGs 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).**

In 2020, PAGE Argentina faced challenges in its inception year with a complete Government reshuffle following general elections in December 2019 and the COVID-19 crisis further exacerbating the economic crisis. As the country set out plans for economic recovery, PAGE was able to offer additional support to the National Cabinet of Ministers on Climate Change linked recovery to SDGs and Climate Change targets through a range of different activities focused at the sectorial level, including emission reduction scenarios, industrial reconversion and technological innovation, green employment and Just Transition measures, as well as fiscal strategies, green financing and capacity-building.

Progress in 2020

Integrating IGE into national plans and policies (Outcome 1):

Establishing the foundation for PAGE support: PAGE Argentina faced various challenges in 2020, which marked the first year of implementation after the inception phase. A complete Government turnover after the general elections in December 2019 brought personnel changes in all Ministries and priorities of the government centred around the profound economic and external debt crisis and economic recovery. The COVID-19 crisis and related lock down further exacerbated the economic crises and again slowed down the delivery of the PAGE programme. Under these conditions, PAGE Argentina engaged with new counterparts in the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Production and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and resumed forward planning with strengthened tripartite cooperation with unions and employers. In early April, the new representatives for the National Steering Committee (NSC) were officially designated and the first NSC meeting took place on 9 June 2020.

Building a strong case for a green economy transition: The Green Economy Stocktaking Study was finalized in July 2020. The study was developed through national universities and validated at a workshop on 24 July which brought together a wide range of stakeholders and followed ILO's tripartite format for national consultations. The dialogue on the study was facilitated by ILO Argentina involving the Ministries of Production, Labour and Environment, representatives from three different workers' unions and from the employers' association, the Industrial Union of Argentina, the think tank CIPPEC (Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth) and various universities, as well as representatives of the UN Country Team. The validation workshop also provided the opportunity to present additional analysis conducted by PAGE in the area of green jobs and just transition (see below for more details).

Complementing the overall stocktaking study, PAGE, led by UNDP, developed an analysis of the 'Linkages between the 2030 Agenda and Just Transition for Green Recovery'. This study, finalized on 10 August 2020, emphasizes how the green economy can be a tool to achieve sustainable development with a special focus on poverty eradication. This work, together with the tools currently under development by ILO (described below), are directly linked to the recently approved UN Climate Action for Jobs Initiative. The analysis was further shared through a National High-Level Dialogue, which took place on 15 December 2020 (further described below).

Fostering social dialogue on green economy: On 15 December 2020, PAGE organized the '[National Dialogue on Just Transition: Towards a Productive, Inclusive and Sustainable Development](#)' as a virtual seminar, engaging the three government ministries through which PAGE works, which provided the starting point for a series of dialogues to be organized on an annual basis. The objective of the National Dialogue was to create a space for purposeful dialogue for a strategic roadmap and a shared basic agenda to promote a more sustainable

and inclusive development model from the point of view of production, employment and environmental care. The dialogue was opened by the European Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the UN Regional Representative, and featured a debate with the Ministers of Production, Labour and Environment as well as the high-level representatives of the Union Central and the Industrial Union.

The event was followed by two virtual technical dialogues led by UNDP. On 16 December, a second dialogue was held within the framework of PAGE together with the PAMPA 2030 initiative (the mechanism of trade unions embedded in the national SDG process), which brought together trade union organizations, NGOs, faith organizations and the government. The objective was to talk, sensitize and empower social and union organizations in all provinces on the importance of getting involved in the SDGs linked to the ecological transition, just transition and green jobs. An additional dialogue was held with UN Global Compact on 17 December.

The Dialogue took place in a tripartite manner and provided an opportunity to strengthen coordination amongst Ministries on policies for a Just Transition, while using the social dialogue to increase momentum on sustainable and inclusive outcomes. The Dialogue put the Green New Deal on the agenda, including workshops to raise awareness and validate cross-sectoral IGE prioritisation, alongside support for policy analysis and development of policy recommendations.

The Dialogue is envisioned to continue in following PAGE implementation years, first at parliamentary level, then on a national overall level and after it on the federal level. The main product expected would be a national roadmap for implementing key Green New Deal policies. The commissions envisaged are on: Green Economy on the macroeconomic policy level, circular economy as means of building resilience (built back better) to the economic structure, and Just Transition as means of decent job creation through Green Jobs.

Developing Green Performance Indicators to inform policymaking: In December 2020, PAGE, led by UNEP, finalized the 'Diagnostic on Country Indicators for a Green Economy' to provide a decision-making tool for policymakers. The focus of this diagnostic, completed in partnership with the Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), is to develop and prioritize environmental performance indicators and streamline them into a single report that provides a technical basis for informed decision-making on IGE. The report focuses on an evaluation of Argentina's environmental performance with an emphasis on the OECD Green Growth indicators—particularly those related to environmental productivity and economic resources—and those linked to SDGs 8 and 12, among others. The evaluation identifies priority economic sectors, the political interventions necessary to improve performance against these indicators and related data gaps. The analysis of variables and data taken from different sources is classified according to the scheme developed by the GGKP considering three categories: (a) resource efficiency, subdivided into energy, non-energy and waste; (b) economic opportunities and initiatives; and (c) social inclusion and integration.

Following the review by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, PAGE is currently utilizing the findings of the diagnostic to develop indicators for an environmental information system that will be hosted in the National Environmental Information Centre (CIAM) in 2021, once approved by the Ministries of Labour, Environment and Production.

Initiating sectoral and thematic policy reform (Outcome 2):

Green Recovery - Greening sectoral plans in line with Nationally Determined Contributions:

PAGE engaged with national stakeholders, government officials, the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and UN agencies to develop a plan for green recovery to address the country's economic crises and the impacts of COVID-19, linking recovery with SDGs and Climate Change targets. Argentina was among the first countries to be selected in October 2020 for this targeted green recovery funding, with work set to start in early 2021.

PAGE green recovery support in Argentina will strengthen the design and implementation of sectoral plans framed in the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement for priority economic sectors with high potential to contribute to greening employment and production. PAGE will partner notably with the National Climate Change Cabinet - which includes the line ministries in charge of leading the development of economic stimulus- to develop sectoral green recovery scenarios and related sustainable industrial reconversion plans. This includes specific strategies for labour adaptation and employment promotion. The work will also include a capacity-building programme for political decision makers and economic actors involved in climate change mitigation strategies, targeting an environmentally and socially sustainable recovery of the economy, and will facilitate the development of financial instruments and standards for supporting the implementation of the recovery policies.

Aligned with this work, outside of PAGE the ILO commenced a study in 2020 on the 'Labour Impacts of the NDCs'. This will involve developing an inventorying of green jobs created following the pandemic, and assessing the sustainability of these jobs, with the potential to support upscaling of sustainable jobs. The study, expected to be completed in February 2021, will serve as a baseline for PAGE work in the area of green economic recovery.

Supporting UN Sustainable Development processes: Further, PAGE is involved in the Common Country Assessment Process of the UN Resident Coordinator Office and has been actively supporting the development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework document, which is the leading framework for UN Development Activities with Argentina for the next five years. PAGE is a member of the Working Group on Environmental Development Cooperation and the Working Group on Labour and Social Protection, through the National Coordinator and the ILO Country Director, enabling PAGE to directly influence the development of the document.

Creating ministerial boards to support policy reforms on green jobs and production: In 2020, PAGE supported the establishment of two additional ministerial boards, coordinated by the Ministry of Labour under the National Cabinet of Ministers on Climate Change. As a result, the 'Green Jobs and Just Transition Board' and 'Sustainable Production Board' were created in September 2020, chaired by a Minister and bringing together all Ministries. The boards represent one of the greatest achievements of PAGE Argentina so far, as they provide a mechanism for green economy issues promoted by PAGE to be officially discussed in a central policymaking mechanism.

Through participation in the 'Green Jobs and Just Transition Board', PAGE was able to contribute to the writing of the new NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change submitted in December 2020, which, for the first time, reflects the objectives of 'Just Transition' and 'Sustainable Jobs'. Benefitting from the funding for Green Economic Recovery and additional support leveraged from ILO's Regular Budget Supplementary Account, the National Cabinet can further use these Boards to channel PAGE supported policy proposals towards national policymaking at the highest inter-ministerial level.

Facilitating agreement between ministries on employment in the environmental sector: A discussion that was started between the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in July 2020 resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Ministries in October 2020 to promote employment and professional training in the environmental sector. PAGE provided a platform for the development of this agreement, which was complemented by a protocol to promote green jobs together with the employment office. The protocol outlines the plan to provide job training actions for up to 650 young people enrolled in employment plans to enable them for managing projects related to environmental sustainability in the future.

Analysis and policy support on just transition and green employment: In 2020, PAGE, led by the ILO in collaboration with the National University of Tres de Febrero, finalized the report for the 'Labour Diagnostic of the Just Transition to a Green Economy'. The report was validated by stakeholders on 24 July at a workshop alongside the Green Economy Stocktaking Study following ILO's tripartite format for national consultations. The research is composed of five interrelated studies that provided inputs for different elements of the country's IGE transition, including: 1) a comparative static analysis - an estimate of green employment in 2018; 2) a sector analysis of the circular economy with regard to its transformative potential and labour impacts; 3) sector scenarios; 4) an analysis of future job skills requirements and the professional training system; and 5) a summary of policies required to ensure a just transition.

The study will feed into the design and implementation of policies aimed at promoting a just transition process, with a special focus on gender. It specifically targets the National Plan for the Promotion of Green Employment, which is expected to provide a concrete roadmap for greening the active labour market policies of the country. PAGE started to support the

development of the Plan in November 2020 under ILO leadership with the Ministry of Labour and the Interdisciplinary Institute for Economic Policy of the University of Buenos Aires. This work will be linked to the environmental information system developed by UNEP and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (described above under Outcome 1), and the related policy inputs will be fed to the National Cabinet of Ministers for Climate Change.

Policy papers on Just transition: In October 2020, PAGE has also started to support three additional position papers analysing gaps and opportunities to support the development of a tripartite 'Just Transition and Green Recovery Strategy for Argentina', including a paper on lessons learned from the COVID-19 policy responses for the concept of a 'Just Transition'; a Workers Union position paper on Green Recovery and Just Transition; and an Employers' position paper on Green Recovery and Just Transition. To lead the participatory drafting of these papers jointly with Employers, Trade Unions and Government three National Universities were engaged and a first validation workshop was held with the Workers Union and the Bureau for Workers Activities (ACTRAV) on 30 October. The documents will be finalized in 2021 and then provide the basis for a tripartite Social Dialogue on Just Transition and green economic recovery.

Developing a circular economy policy: The National Plan for the Promotion of Green Employment and the Green Economy Stocktaking Study provide the basis for the development of a National Plan for the Promotion of the Circular Economy and a related Fiscal Impact Study. The development of both documents was launched by PAGE in November 2020 and the work is taken forward jointly by UNIDO and the Ministry of Production. Once the documents have been finalized and reviewed through a participatory process, the National Plan for the Promotion of Circular Economy could be issued as a decree.

Complementing this work on circular economy at the industry level, the ILO Division on Enterprise Development has launched a more specific study on 15 October 2020 which is coordinated under the PAGE umbrella. This study that is also done in collaboration with the Ministry of Production focuses on the 'State of Industrial Symbiosis in Argentina' and specifically looks at Industrial Parks.

The work supported by PAGE on circular economy closely aligns with a study planned under the GIZ-GET project on 'Policy Gap Analysis for the Circular Economy'. This gap analysis aims to identify waste streams that are suitable, under certain fiscal arrangements, to enter into the productive process and further analyse how these waste streams could be organized through a National Register. This National Register is also an element included in the National Plan for the Promotion of the Circular Economy supported by PAGE and complemented by the ILO study on industrial symbiosis.

Promoting circular economy principles: With the aim to raising awareness and increase support for circular economy, PAGE hosted a webinar on circular economy on 9 September

2020 together with UN Global Compact for 190 enterprises, presenting the recently launched Global Compact Circular Economy Strategy and its contribution to the SDGs in Argentina.

PAGE also supported the Global Compact Contest for Enterprises on Circular Economy Projects, which called on companies to present existing good practices in the integration of the circular economy into their respective operations and supply chains. 22 cases were submitted from multinational corporations to SMEs from different regions, out of which 3-4 were selected to receive further recognition in a publication. Representatives of the PAGE National Steering Committee, the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Production and Ministry of Environment, were included in the jury to select the winner of the contest. All winning projects will be highlighted in a UN Global Compact publication to be released in early 2021.

Supporting sustainable finance strategy and instruments: PAGE has explored different avenues to support Argentina in the development of sustainable finance, with first results achieved at sub-regional level. Going forward, this work will be closely aligned with the support on green economic recovery, which will specifically embed the use of financial instruments (see above).

In 2020, PAGE led by UNDP developed a financial instrument with the Public Bank of the Federal State of Chaco, which is based on Ecosystem Valuation. Going forward this will be replicated in other Provinces. For each province the financial instrument will need to be adjusted to the specific sector structure of the sub-regional economy.

Going forward, PAGE also led by UNDP plans to develop a financial stimulus strategy that is intended to serve the Active Labour Market Policies of the Ministry of Labour, as well as the National Investment Bank for Development (BICE) of the Ministry of Production. This will involve a pilot in the ACUMAR Basin to identify financial needs for the transition towards green production processes at the SME level.

Aligned with this work, and also the support for green economic recovery, the GIZ-Green Transformation (GET) project is engaged in the area of sustainable finance and is carrying out a mapping of actors for green finance in Argentina. This goes along with an analysis and prioritization of potential fields of action involving relevant actors, for which dialogues are planned in 2021.

Sustainable tourism: PAGE contributed to the development of a planning document for an ILO-UNESCO Sustainable Tourism Project, which was submitted through the UNRC Office and approved for funding by the Sustainable Development Fund. The project has started, and PAGE is discussing how to contribute from 2021 in the area of capacity-building.

Contributing to capacity-building for green economy (Outcome 3):

Embedding Just Transition and Green Employment in National Training Courses: On 19 May, PAGE supported the Institute of the World of Labour (IMT) of the National University UNTREF, in organizing a seminar on 'Just Transition - International and National Context, Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic' for a large trade union audience. Specific inputs were provided by the PAGE National Coordinator, the Director of the ILO Argentina Country Office and the President of the UNI Global Union. The IMT is a training platform for Trade Union representatives operated under the academic programme 'International Trade Union Relations' of UNIGLOBAL, one of the major international Trade Union Associations.

Through ILO's involvement, it was possible to secure opening remarks by the ILO Director General to the incoming students. This later led to an agreement between the ILO, the IMT of UNIGLOBAL and the Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero to provide additional ILO funding financing (outside PAGE) for the development of a postgraduate course on Just Transition and Green Employment.

Integrating IGE green economy into national curricula: In 2020, PAGE started preparatory work for the development of a series of e-learning courses to be integrated into the National Public Administration Institute (INAP) Virtual Campus. PAGE will also support the modernization of the Virtual Campus, which is a major national platform for capacity-building of the state for national public employees and public servants, as well as mid-to high level staff (Directors, Secretary of State, Ministers). This national facility provides training to public servants which qualifies them for a career within the Public Administration. Face-to-face consultations with representatives of INAP took place in March 2020, with implementation of the activity set to start in early 2021.

Facilitating capacity development through participation in global training programmes: In 2020, PAGE contributed to capacity development by enabling active participation of representatives from Argentina in global training courses and related follow-up activities.

Between April to June 2020, PAGE facilitated the participation of a tripartite delegation of key decision makers from the government (Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Productive Development), the trade unions and the business sector, in two online ITC-ILO training courses. Ten representatives involved with the PAGE programme in Argentina participated in the 'Green Jobs for Sustainable Development' course, and five representatives participated in the course on 'Managing Just Transition Policies'. The online courses focused on green jobs policies, programmes and projects. Following the training courses, PAGE coordinated a joint presentation from the three Ministries on 11 June, as well as the Workers Union Centrals and Employers representation, which highlighted the need for a Just Transition in Argentina and presented a draft National Strategy for Just Transition, providing possible entry points for sustainability in the policies of employment, industrial promotion, trade unions and business. This further resulted in the formation of a working group that is overseeing the development of the three additional position papers, analysing

gaps and opportunities to support the development of a tripartite 'Just Transition and Green Recovery Strategy' for Argentina.

In August 2020, PAGE facilitated the participation of the PAGE NSC counterparts from the National Directorate for Sustainable Production of the Ministry of Production in the global UNITAR course on Green Industry.

Engagement in Training Activities on Just Transition, Green Jobs and Green Industry: In 2020, PAGE was invited to co-organize or substantively contribute to various virtual trainings and webinars in the area of Just Transition and Green Jobs led by other institutions, including the following:

- On 20 May, PAGE co-organized a training webinar for ministry staff on 'Just Transition to a Green Economy and Green Employment in Argentina' with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. The training, conducted through the ITC-ILO, featured presentations jointly developed with PAGE and tripartite representatives, and included the participation of specialists on green employment and just transition policies;
- On 24 July, PAGE contributed to a virtual training workshop hosted by the 'Argentine Network of Municipalities against Climate Change (RAMCC)'. The RAMCC operates in the frame of the 'Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy', a global network financed on behalf of the EU Commission, and supports coordination and promotion of local public policies fighting climate change in Argentina's cities and towns. The PAGE Argentina National Coordinator facilitated the workshop together with an ILO Employment Specialist, discussing how to begin the transition to a green economy and focused on the areas of agro-ecological production, eco-design, recycling, solar energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable tourism services, among others. The workshop presents a first activity to deepen collaboration with the EU Delegation in Argentina, which finances activities through its EUROCLIMA+ Programme;
- In July 2020, the PAGE National Coordinator contributed to a specific course set up by the Matanza-Richuelo Basin authority (ACUMAR, an inter-governmental authority in charge of the recovery of this highly contaminated region in the Greater Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area) focused on policies for the basin. The PAGE National Coordinator recorded a masterclass on Green Employment and Just Transition as one of the course modules which since November 2020 has been made publicly available by ACUMAR;
- On 22 October, the PAGE National Coordinator presented the linkages between Just Transition, Decent Work Agenda of the ILO, Green Jobs and the achievement of the SDGs in Argentina, at the internal training facility of the Ministry of Labour dedicated to the training of the Ministry's regional staff on SDGs;
- On 17 November, the PAGE National Coordinator provided a special lecture for the postgraduate course of the Austral University on 'Green Employment and Environmental Economy'; and

- On 19 November, the PAGE National Coordinator developed and presented a module within the joint Seminar Series on Green Economy, Just Transition and Green Recovery organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and the Workers Union Front against Climate Change APOC.

South-South Collaboration: On 18 November 2020 PAGE, through the ILO, and in collaboration with the GIZ-GET project, participated in a webinar on 'Green jobs and a just transition: Country perspectives' hosted by GGKP. The webinar featured a discussion on how governments and business can lead a just transition to greener economies, including South-South exchange with Workers Unions of PAGE countries South Africa and Argentina, providing an opportunity for sharing of lessons learned and best practices for overcoming social, political and technical challenges.

The webinar was followed by additional bilateral discussions between the unions to share experiences on just transition, fostering further exchanges to take place in the future. Building on this knowledge exchange, lessons learned from South Africa will also be featured as a case study within the PAGE Argentina Workers Union position paper on Green Recovery and Just Transition currently under development. The main focus of this exchange, besides learning from south-south experience in developing national tripartite Just Transition Strategies, is to put light on the issue of how the Decent Work agenda can be strengthened through transition policies that are supported by all stakeholders and especially the social partners. Further, the issue is important as Just Transition does have to bear in mind the participation of the affected communities and workers and guarantee opportunities for all.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Argentina in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.14 Indonesia

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Indonesia has experienced stable economic growth over the past decade, transforming the country into one of the largest economies in Asia. At the same time, the government recognizes that further action is needed to address poverty, inequality, unemployment and environmental degradation. Accordingly, the Indonesian Government is working to incorporate sustainability policies and emission reduction activities into its national plans and targets.

In 2017, the Government under the leadership of the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) launched the Low Carbon Development Initiative (LCDI). The LCDI

offers a non-silo approach to achieve low-carbon development, sustainable natural resource management and poverty alleviation while maintaining economic growth. The various policy scenarios that were identified and assessed through the LCDI are being mainstreamed in the latest National Medium-Term Development Plan 2020-2024 (RPJMN – from its Indonesian title). This first ‘green’ RPJMN was launched at the beginning of 2020 and will be used by sector ministries, government bodies and other stakeholders as a reference for their policymaking and programmatic planning over the next five years.

In alignment with the LCDI context, Indonesia joined PAGE in 2018 to transform its economy into a driver of sustainability and social inclusion and to catalyse multi-stakeholder action to address development and environmental challenges at the national and sub-national level. Phase 1 of LCDI has already successfully introduced system and spatial dynamics planning tools to allow simultaneous assessment of social, environmental and economic impacts in development scenarios. With the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) as the key implementing partner, PAGE was launched in October 2018 to support the implementation of LCDI Phase 2 with a focus on the energy, waste, green industry, forestry and peat, agriculture, and blue carbon sectors, in line with the national priority programme outlined in the RPJMN 2020-2024.

Building on insights from the green economy stocktaking exercise and ongoing consultation with the government, PAGE Indonesia moved into its first year of implementation in 2020, engaging through the newly established LCDI Phase 2 Framework.

PAGE work in Indonesia is currently aligned to the following SDGs: SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy); SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production); SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

In 2020, as Indonesia addressed the short-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its plans for economic recovery, BAPPENAS through its Directorate of Environmental Affairs promoted a green recovery through its ‘Build Back Better with Low Carbon Development (B3-Low Carbon)’ approach. BAPPENAS is pushing for the implementation of a green stimulus package from 2022, with a view to advancing a medium and long-term green recovery. For PAGE, this provided a new entry point for engagement and following further discussions with BAPPENAS, circular economy was identified as a key area for PAGE to support in the future, with a focus on the LCDI priority sectors of waste, industry, energy, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. This is in line with PAGE’s ongoing country support to the government of Indonesia in the context of LCDI, which focuses on energy and resource efficiency, energy transition, green industry, better waste management, green jobs and just transition. Some of these areas are the expected indicators for an economic recovery which aligns with green economy.

Progress in 2020

Integrating IGE into national plans and policies (Outcome 1):

Taking stock of current green economy initiatives:

The final green economy stocktaking study was completed and released in March 2020, incorporating all governments inputs and approved by BAPPENAS. The study has identified key entry points for areas in which PAGE can support the implementation of LCDI policy scenarios and also highlighted existing challenges with policy implementation at the national and regional level. Recommended interventions include: i) supporting the translation of LCDI targets into specific sectoral policies at the national level; ii) enhancing the LCDI model and improving the database system development required for LCDI modelling; iii) supporting local governments to mainstream the national LCDI model within their RPJMD and building capacity for its utilization for the next term planning process; iii) developing a private sector engagement platform and incentives for the private sector to support implementation of the LCDI; and iv) improving knowledge and awareness of LCDI among stakeholders.



Further establishing the foundation of PAGE: In 2020, further steps have been taken to establish a National Steering Committee. In line with the government's strategy, BAPPENAS is currently seeking to establish the NSC for the LCDI which will act as a steering committee not only for PAGE but for all development partners that support Indonesia in implementing the LCDI. This will help streamline decision-making processes, align activities and generate synergies.

Supporting the implementation of the Low-Carbon development Initiative (LDCI): In 2019, together with other development partners (including World Resources Institute, New Climate Economy and GIZ), PAGE helped identify policy interventions for a green economy modelling exercise under the LCDI, which a group of modelling experts then used for its simulations in the LCDI model. This work was a key element of Phase 1 of the LCDI, which led to the integration of inclusive green economic policy scenarios into the National Medium-term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020-2024. The RPJMN, which is considered the first green national development plan in Indonesia, has been formally in place since the

beginning of 2020. Building on this, PAGE has now been supporting the implementation of Phase 2 of the LCDI. In line with the results of the green economy stocktaking study, PAGE support focuses on three of the five components of the LCDI Phase 2 Framework: i) supporting the translation of LCDI targets into specific sectoral policies at the national level, with a focus on the energy sector; ii) supporting local governments to mainstream the national LCDI model within their Regional Medium-term Development Plans (*Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah - RPJMD*) and building capacity for its utilization in future planning processes; and iii) developing a private sector engagement platform and incentives for the private sector to support the implementation of the LCDI.

Roll-out of LCDI at sub-national level: Aligned with the LCDI Implementation/Phase 2 Framework, PAGE has expressed its commitment to support the implementation of LCDI at the sub-national level, in three LCDI pilot provinces: West Java, Central Java and Bali. The West Java and Bali provinces kicked off their LCDI implementation programmes in March and August 2020 respectively. For Central Java, meetings were held with the Provincial Government in April 2020, at which PAGE support for LCDI implementation was confirmed, and preparatory work was completed with a kick-off meeting planned for early 2021. PAGE is contributing to the development of regional models to support the mainstreaming of the LCDI into the Regional Medium-term Development Plans (RPJMD) (reviewing the 2018-2023 RPJMD and informing the development of the 2024-2029 RPJMD) and formulation of the Provincial Low Carbon Development Plans (*Rencana Pembangunan Rendah Karbon Daerah - RPRKD*).

In June 2020, PAGE supported the development of a generic version of the provincial LCDI macro system dynamics model. This model will be a key tool for translating the national low carbon development approach to the sub-national level, taking into account characteristics, development landscapes and provincial data from the pilot provinces. The model was developed by the expert modelling team from DATC/System Dynamics Bandung Bootcamp which include experts from the Bandung Institute of Technology and the University of Indonesia. It was presented to BAPPENAS and other key stakeholders, including the LCDI pilot provinces, on 23 July 2020. In late 2020, the expert modelling team began collecting sectoral data from the West Java province to exercise and validate the LCDI provincial macro model. This process is almost complete and will be replicated for Central Java and Bali in 2021. PAGE provincial level support also includes capacity-building and technical assistance, as well as an assessment on alternative financing schemes for the LCDI.

Supporting green recovery: PAGE's key implementing partner, BAPPENAS, is leading green recovery efforts in Indonesia based on its 'Build Back Better with Low Carbon Development' (B3-Low Carbon) strategy. This strategy includes plans for a green stimulus package to be implemented from 2022 onwards, with this to be prepared and developed in 2020 and 2021. BAPPENAS presented Indonesia's experience on planning for a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, aligned with its own LCDI, at the Climate Change Expert Group (CCXG) Global Forum on the Environment and Climate Change, held by the OECD on 15-16 September 2020.

Rapid Assessment for post-COVID green recovery: In line with the plans of BAPPENAS to “Build Back Better”, PAGE was invited in June 2020 to assist the Government in conducting a ‘Rapid Assessment on Green Stimulus for post-COVID Green Recovery’ in selected priority LCDI Sectors (i.e. waste, energy and industry). These assessments will analyse the effectiveness of existing economic stimulus policies, identify gaps, and provide stimulus/policy recommendations for each sector, providing BAPPENAS with up-to-date analysis that can support medium and long-term green recovery efforts in Indonesia. In 2020, PAGE commenced Rapid Assessments for the energy and waste sectors in September and October respectively. A Rapid Assessment for the industry sector is scheduled to follow, with all three assessments to be finalized in early 2021.

This work complements other ongoing green recovery work in Indonesia that is being conducted by other think-tanks and development partners, including GIZ, the World Resources Institute, Ford Foundation, SMERU Research Institute, and the Institute for Development of Economics and Finance. The findings from these Rapid Assessments will also provide inputs for other PAGE studies, such as the ‘Policy Readiness Assessment on Green Jobs and Just Transition in the Energy Sector in Indonesia’.

Green Recovery - Embedding circular economy into the Low Carbon Development Initiative:

As part of its green recovery strategy, the government is also planning to embed the Circular Economy (CE) approach into its LCDI and the next medium-term development plan (RPJMN) 2025-2029. The circular economy approach will link all LCDI sectors, presenting opportunities to promote green jobs, economic gain, and environmental benefits while also addressing some of the root causes of unsustainable development in the country, such as high GHG emissions from key economic sectors, resource dependency, resource and energy inefficiency, poor waste management systems, food loss and waste, and unsustainable business practices.

The circular economy was identified as a key area for PAGE green recovery support in alignment with Indonesia’s “Build Back Better with Low Carbon Development (B3-Low Carbon)” initiative. PAGE will help assess the potential of the circular economy to contribute to a green and inclusive economic recovery, inclusive of job creation, skills development, and resource efficiency improvements, and identify what fiscal and non-fiscal stimulus plans and policies will best foster private investment in the circular economy. PAGE will also contribute to the development of a national policy and plan for promoting the circular economy, which will inform the next National Medium-term Development Plan 2025-2029. An awareness-raising campaign on a green recovery and the circular economy for the general public and a targeted capacity-building programme on planning and budgeting for a green and inclusive recovery for government officials are also planned as part of PAGE support to Indonesia.

Shaping sectoral and thematic studies and policy reforms (Outcome 2):

Supporting policy reform in the energy sector: Directly linked to the targets of the LCDI, and building on earlier support provided in 2019, PAGE commenced the development of an LCDI energy sub-model together with the Center for Research and Development for Electricity Technology, New and Renewable Energy, and Energy Conservation of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (*Pusat Penelitian dan Pengembangan Teknologi Ketenagalistrikan, Energi Baru, Terbarukan, dan Konservasi Energi*, abbreviated as BLU P3TEK KEBTKE) in January 2020. By providing a tool that will allow the government to assess policy scenarios, this work aims to support Indonesia, specifically MEMR and BAPPENAS, to accomplish better planning in the energy sector through the use of modelling tools to assess policy scenarios and to align this with the targets of the national LCDI strategy and on GHG emission reduction.

Food loss and waste: In 2020, PAGE, through UNEP, completed preparatory work for the launch of a new work stream on Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in Indonesia. The workstream includes a policy scoping and assessment and roundtables, as well as a baseline study in the three provinces supported by PAGE i.e. West Java, Central Java and Bali. PAGE is partnering in this work with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and International Institute for Environment (IIED). UNEP's FLW workstream will also complement an ongoing food loss and waste study at the national level being conducted by the World Resources Institute (WRI) Indonesia and UK Climate Change Unit (UKCCU) through the Waste4change initiative. Technical guidance was provided for the commencement of a food loss and waste baseline study, with a stakeholder consultation meeting held with BAPPENAS, the LCDI Secretariat and various international organizations, including UNEP, WRI, Waste4Change in Indonesia. The policy scoping and assessment was started by IIED in the last quarter of 2020, with the other activities to follow in 2021.

Green jobs and just transition: In August 2020, PAGE, led by ILO, started the process for conducting a 'Policy Readiness Assessment on Green Jobs and Just Transition in the Energy Sector in Indonesia'. The study will contribute to the policy reform process on green jobs and just transition in the energy sector, and will identify the potential for green jobs in the energy sector to support the green economic recovery efforts in Indonesia. The Green Economy Learning Assessment (described under outcome 3) and the Rapid Assessment on the green stimulus in the energy sector (described under outcome 1) will provide inputs for the development of this assessment.

Resource efficiency and green industry: In 2019, PAGE, led by UNIDO, initiated a Green Industry and Trade Assessment (GITA), for which the draft report was completed in July 2020. Building on the findings of this report, PAGE started the process to develop a resource efficiency assessment in the fertilizer industry in late 2020.

The study includes a high-level scoping assessment of pilot plant energy, material, and water usage, field measurements through interviews with key plant management, and collection

of relevant data and information. It will also contribute to the development of policy recommendations that could stimulate and reward sustainable resource efficiency improvements in the fertilizer industry in line with LCDI. An additional resource efficiency study will take place in 2021 with a focus on the cement industry. This will be followed by the development of resource efficiency guidance for implementing the government's LCDI strategy in large industrial plants, which will take into account the findings of the resource efficiency demonstrations in the fertilizer and cement industries.

Enabling green finance for LCDI implementation: In collaboration with BAPPENAS and the provincial government of West Java, UNEP and UNDP have been preparing joint work on green and innovative financing for LCDI in 2020. This will involve an assessment of the enabling environment such as existing and potential economic incentives and funds, and green financial mechanisms to mobilize financing for LCDI priorities. The financing may include green bonds, climate funds, community development funds, blended finance facilities and infrastructure bonds. With the aim of providing concrete and implementable resource mobilization activities, the study will also conduct an LCDI landscape mapping in West Java. The study will also identify potential project pipelines and finance mechanisms and related business cases in the province and link the identified pilot projects with the private sector.

UNEP's contribution to this work focuses on assessing the fiscal policy environment and specifically the banking sector. UNDP will focus on the provincial priorities and LCDI mapping, identification of project pipelines and the development of business cases in the selected province. This work will be carried out in collaboration with the UNDP Innovative Financing Lab, the UNEP Finance Initiative and Green Fiscal Network, as well as the Climate Policy Initiative.

Blue and green finance mechanisms: Alongside the PAGE programme, UNDP is supporting innovative 'blue' and 'green' financing mechanisms in Indonesia. Through its Innovative Financing Lab (IFL), UNDP is assisting the government to develop the world's first framework for a blue financial instrument to open capital markets for investment in a blue economy. In October 2019, the Blue Financing Framework was launched during the Archipelagic and Island State Forum in Manado, Indonesia. In 2020, the Blue Financing Framework was further discussed with key stakeholders, including with different Ministries (Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment, Ministry of Finance, and BAPPENAS) and the Development Bank of Singapore (DBS). DBS expressed interest to be involved in issuing potentially the world's first Blue Sukuk, for example through the provision of inputs to the development of the Blue Bonds/Blue Sukuk Framework or participation in external review processes and discussions with potential stakeholders. Sukuk are financial products whose terms and structures comply with sharia, with the intention of creating returns similar to those of conventional fixed-income instruments like bonds.

Through its IFL, UNDP also continues to support the Green 'Sukuk' Bond in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance. In 2020, with PAGE support, UNDP assisted the MOF to publish

a Second Green Sukuk Allocation and Impact Report in early March, which provides insights into how the proceeds have been used. In addition, Indonesia's Retail Green Sukuk Study was published in July which provides a comprehensive analysis on the impact, outcome, challenges, and prospect of the issuance of Green Sukuk in a domestic market. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the government issued the Third Global Green Sukuk amounting to USD 750 million in June 2020 and the second Retail Green Sukuk in November 2020. The instruments finance three green sectors: sustainable transport, resilience to climate change, and energy efficiency.

Developing green fiscal policy: Under the Green Economy Transformation (GET) project, GIZ and UNEP are examining the potential for using public finance instruments in order to create an enabling environment for private sector green finance market development in West Java Province, taking into account national considerations. In 2020, work commenced on a needs assessment of the financing institutions so as to calibrate the enabling environment analysis with recommendations to maximize impact, with the results expected in mid-2021. Also under the GIZ-GET project, in 2020 GIZ delivered support to the Fiscal Policy Agency (BKF) in the Ministry of Finance of Indonesia for the technical preparation of a new regulation on carbon pricing. The cooperation included capacity-building and technical support for the development and analysis of policy options and recommendations, as well as the organization of stakeholder consultations.

Building national capacity for inclusive green economy (Outcome 3):

Contributing to green economy learning: In July 2020, PAGE commenced work on a Green Economy Learning Assessment (GELA) to help identify learning needs as well as existing institutional capacity for delivering trainings on green economy in the context of LCDI. The report was completed in December 2020 following a highly participatory process, including a kick-off workshop with 38 participants from various sectors, as well as several focus group discussions involving nearly 300 participants.

In alignment with the LCDI implementation framework, the GELA also incorporates the COVID-19 situation by integrating national sectoral and sub-national government learning needs for a green recovery, focusing on the policymakers and government officials who will design green economy programmes. One of the main recommendations of the assessment is for PAGE to work with the State Administration Agency (LAN) on mainstreaming green economy learning across the Government, as LAN has the mandate to accredit new public sector training programmes.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Indonesia in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.15 Kazakhstan

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Kazakhstan is an upper to middle income country whose economic growth has largely depended on the exploitation of fossil fuels since independence. With 42.1 per cent of the population residing in rural areas, the country is an important supplier of grains and oilseeds and has an ambitious livestock development programme. However, climate change, environmental degradation and waste pollution present significant threats to the country. Kazakhstan is one of the biggest emitters of CO₂ in the world in terms of emissions per capita, it is also flood-prone, exposed to extreme temperatures and impacted by glacier melting droughts. No integrated waste management system exists, with 86 per cent of solid municipal waste (MSW) ending up in uncontrolled landfills and waste disposal sites, most of which do not meet sanitary requirements. Historically, toxic and radioactive industrial waste is also a serious issue.

The Republic of Kazakhstan has taken progressive steps to promote sustainable development with ambitious targets set out in its National Development Strategy Kazakhstan 2050 and its Green Economy Concept that serve as the strategic vision of the country on inclusive sustainable development. These targets include sourcing as much as 30 per cent of energy from renewables by 2030, increasing to 50 per cent by 2050. More generally, Kazakhstan seeks to promote economic diversification through the green economy, also taking account of the benefits of achieving inclusive growth.

Against this backdrop, Kazakhstan joined PAGE in 2018 with the objective to support the implementation of its National Development Strategy Kazakhstan 2050. In 2019, a scoping mission, led by the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources (MEGNR, previously the Ministry of Energy), a green economy stocktaking and the inauguration of a national steering committee - comprising representatives of the government and private sector - provided the foundation for support aligned with country priorities.

Another important avenue for progress is the implementation of the revised Environmental Code, which was signed into law on 2 January 2021. The revised Environmental Code will be supported by the development and introduction of approximately 150 normative legal acts. This is seen as a crucial step to enable the implementation of important international obligations, set a frame for the sustainable use of natural resources as well as mitigation and adaptation measures to build resilience in the face of climate change.

PAGE work specifically focuses on integrating low-carbon development into Kazakhstan's strategic vision on green economy and the country's Green Economy Concept, including its translation to the subnational level through the introduction of green financial mechanisms. Waste management is central in the Green Economy Concept and is one of the seven priorities of the revised Environmental Code. In line with this, PAGE is supporting the development of a national Waste Management Programme and giving specific attention to

the development of the waste section of the Low Carbon Development Concept (LCDC), to be submitted to the UNFCCC in response to the commitments of the Paris Agreement. PAGE support also focuses on work across several sectoral and thematic areas including the introduction of Best Available Techniques (BAT), the use of strategic environmental assessments, sustainable public procurement, green fiscal policy, promotion of green businesses and energy efficiency in regions, as well as institutional capacity-building.

PAGE work in Kazakhstan is aiming to contribute to the following SDGs: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) - through a focus on waste management and use of emission payments to support energy efficiency; SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), and SDG 15 (Life on Land) - through improvements in eco-regulation and waste management.

In 2020, a new State Agency for Planning and Reform was set up by the President. PAGE has initiated discussion with the new Agency which could serve as an important entry point for raising the green economy ambition of the country.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, PAGE facilitated discussion on green recovery options in the country and, in this context, initiated cooperation with the Ministry of Economy to support the update of the "Strategic Plan for Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025". In 2021, PAGE will provide support to Kazakhstan to enable green recovery with a focus on analysing economic recovery measures, supporting the design and development of evidence-based policies, and providing technical and logistical support to key Government institutions and specifically the working groups under the Green Economy Council. Support for green recovery will run parallel and complement work initiated in 2020 on the update of the Green Economy Concept, which will provide a long-term pathway towards green economy and carbon neutrality by 2060, as announced by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic in December 2020.

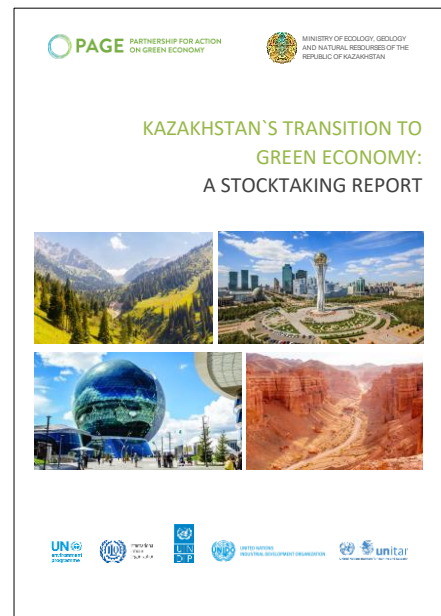
Progress in 2020

Integrating IGE into national plans and policies (Outcome 1):

Supporting the Low Carbon Development Concept: In collaboration with GIZ, PAGE is supporting Kazakhstan in developing a 'National Low Carbon Development Concept 2050 (LCDC)', expected to be finalized in early 2021. The LCDC aims to contribute to achieving the goals of the 'National Development Strategy Kazakhstan 2050' and incorporate social, environmental and economic elements. It will be based on the modelling of scenarios and development pathways in nine sectors for a period until 2050. The LCDC will outline the transformation required within sectors and among sectors to meet long-term emissions targets and socio-economic goals, considering evolutions in technologies and business models. It will be complementary to the Green Economy Concept, which supports mid-term

policy planning. Both the LCDC and Green Economy Concept are described in relation to PAGE in the Green Economy Stocktaking Report, completed in 2020.

A series of technical sector-wide stakeholder consultations were conducted in 2020 (4-5 March, 26 June, 12-13 November) to discuss the LCDC development with the participation of more than 100 representatives of governmental bodies, international organisations and NGOs. This included Ministries of Ecology, Industry, Trade, Foreign Affairs, the Association of Ecological Organizations of Kazakhstan, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank, amongst others. The consultations were organized by GIZ and supported by PAGE, with PAGE taking the lead in sessions related to the waste sector. Based on these consultations sectors, development scenarios, models and assumptions have been identified and validated.



The results of the technical consultations will inform and be verified by the newly established high-level working group under the deputy Prime Minister. The PAGE National Coordinator is a member of the working group, which was set up at the end of 2020 and will have its first meeting in 2021.

As input to the LCDC, PAGE specifically contributes to the chapters on waste management and circularity and the reform of fiscal policies, including fossil fuel subsidies (further information under outcome 2 below). To conduct modelling and complete the chapter on waste, PAGE received co-financing from GIZ.

Support for a green economic recovery: In 2020, PAGE supported the UN's COVID-19 Response Management Team (CRMT) in Kazakhstan with policy advice to integrate the principles of green and inclusive economic development into the strategies and policies under development by the Government. PAGE was invited to support the update of the 'Strategic Plan for Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025', a key document providing strategic guidance for the country, the initial draft of which did not contain a reference to green economy. The need to update the Strategic Plan 2025 was brought upon by the double challenge of COVID-19 and the low international price of oil in the spring of 2020, which called for an adjustment of national economic projections due to the dependence of Kazakhstan's economy on oil. PAGE, through UNDP and together with UNITAR, initiated discussion with the Ministry of National Economy and drafted a chapter on green economy. The draft Strategy was presented for consideration by the President's office in late 2020 and was adopted in early 2021, including a sub-chapter on green economy and incorporating some of the elements proposed by PAGE under other chapters.

PAGE is also contributing to the second phase of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Kazakhstan, initiated by UN agencies based in the country under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and anticipated to be completed in March 2021. The assessment analyses in-depth the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on the groups most susceptible to the socio-economic shocks and provide policy recommendations for the Government, the UN System and development partners on medium to long-term responses and recovery measures. PAGE aims to ensure that the assessment covers green economy aspects and the impact of the crisis on the green transition.

Green Recovery - Informing the implementation of the Government's economic recovery plan: Building on the above-mentioned work on green recovery, Kazakhstan submitted a request for green economy recovery support to PAGE with work to start from 2021. PAGE support for a green economic recovery in Kazakhstan will focus on informing the government's immediate economic policies and projects and supporting key line ministries in the Green Economy Council in the planning and implementation of related policies. This includes the mobilization of national policy experts and think tanks to support the Government in assessing the economic, social and environmental impacts of different policy options for a green recovery, potentially covering fiscal policy and trade, industry and SMEs, green jobs creation, emissions reduction, resource efficiency, and investment flows. Based on the findings of the assessment work, PAGE will make policy recommendations that best support a green economic recovery. Public awareness initiatives on a green economic recovery, such as a TV series and peer learning events, will facilitate an exchange of information and experiences on the importance of a green economic recovery. PAGE will also conduct workshops to build the capacity of key institutions in the use of modelling tools.

Support for the development of green recovery measures and policies will run parallel and complement work initiated by the Partnership in 2021 on the update of the Green Economy Concept, which will provide a long-term pathway towards green economy and carbon neutrality in 2060.

Supporting policy change across a wide range of sectors and thematic areas (Outcome 2):

Supporting NDC Implementation with green fiscal policy analysis: PAGE is supporting NDC implementation under the LCDC, through the development of a fiscal policy analysis for specific sectors, including the energy, and housing and public utilities (HPU), also aiming to make a contribution to the section on 'Green Finance and Investments' in the LCDC. The study will undertake a scoping of current fiscal measures for low-carbon development and technology deployment, building on already ongoing activities by GIZ and the OECD on fossil fuel subsidy reform, and the World Bank on emissions trading systems and revised NDCs. The study will provide more detailed assessments of selected fiscal reform options in terms of their potential to raise and save public revenues, including how these revenues can be used to support investments needed to deliver the LCDC and Kazakhstan's NDC, as well as identify options to mitigate distributional impacts of identified fiscal reform options.

The Ministry of Energy has established an internal focus group to support this analysis and is coordinating the work with external partners and other relevant ministries. Work started in November 2020, with the gathering of relevant data and stakeholder consultations. On 2, 4 and 14 December, PAGE experts had the opportunity to discuss energy and HPU tariff regulation, subsidies and potential of market-based development in three stakeholder consultations, with the participation of more than 20 representatives of the Energy, Industry, Ecology and Economy Ministries, as well as the Sovereign Wealth Fund 'Samruk-Kazyna' JSC (a business corporation - an investment holding with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan as the sole shareholder, whose mission is to improve the national welfare of the country and support the modernization of the national economy).

Providing technical support for the implementation of the new EcoCode: The Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 2007 introduced positive changes in environmental regulation, and also outlined the steps to be taken towards a more integrated, cross-sectoral regulatory framework based on a combination of direct, economic and information tools of legal regulation. Since its adoption, it was amended 63 times (a significant part of which falls in the last three years) which demonstrated the need for a more systematic revision that creates all necessary conditions for achieving the strategic goals of Kazakhstan.

Building on the results of the in-depth analysis of OECD experts, Kazakhstan has worked throughout 2020 on a revised Environmental Code (EcoCode), which was adopted with the support of PAGE and signed into law on 2 January 2021. The New EcoCode envisages a rapid reform of the main environmental regulatory framework that can open broad opportunities for green growth in the country. Key novelties of the EcoCode include, among others, a transition to environmental quality standards, the use of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with international standards, environmental earmarking of emission payments, the introduction of integrated environmental permits based on best available techniques (BAT), an automated monitoring system, the management of waste in line with EU directives, and the inclusion of a legal framework for the adaptation to climate change.

PAGE provided technical support during the process of revision and deliberation of the EcoCode by the Parliament. In parallel, work has already started to assist with the implementation of its new elements through the analysis of best international practices and the development of relevant secondary legislation.

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA): Kazakhstan is considering joining the UNECE SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention (the Protocol on SEA) and creating a modern national SEA system. The SEA will help the government assess if a given policy, plan, programme or project i) provides an adequate response to environment and climate change-related challenges, ii) adversely affect the environment and climate resilience, and iii) offers opportunities to enhance the state of the environment and contribute to climate-resilient and low-carbon development. PAGE, alongside UNECE and OECD, is supporting the introduction of these instruments. A draft document providing related guidance was

submitted to the Ministry of Ecology and discussed on 21 December with more than 20 representatives of governmental bodies and NGOs. PAGE experts presented the draft legal act and addressed questions by participants. Based on this meeting the draft legal act was finalized. A series of trainings for regulators and interested stakeholders is planned for the first quarter of 2021 in partnership with UNECE.

A BAT based Environmental Permissions System: As part of the regulatory framework, Kazakhstan has adopted a BAT-approach to prevent and control industrial emissions, targeting specifically large industrial and agro-industrial installations which have high emissions and impacts across different environmental media (air, water, soil plus hazardous and non-hazardous waste). As environmental impacts are often very specific to the type of installation or the processes incorporated in a given site, BAT reference documents (BREFs) are used in a number of jurisdictions around the world to set permit conditions for industrial sites. Against this background, PAGE, in partnership with GIZ, is supporting an analysis of legal and institutional gaps and specific needs of environmental permits system in Kazakhstan, including the development of the draft rules, development of an Environmental Efficiency Improvement Programme and development of an Environmental Action Plan. PAGE supported five working level consultations (with 5-7 participants) in 2020 with representatives from government, NGOs and enterprises to discuss technical aspects and share international best experience on environmental permissions. A larger stakeholder consultation is planned for January 2021.

Environmental Quality Standards: Despite the existence of the Environmental Code since 2007, there were no environmental quality standards as such, but mainly sanitary and hygienic standards that focus on human health without considering the sustainability of natural ecosystems. This is now being addressed through the new EcoCode drawing on international experience to strike a balance between technically and economically feasible solutions. PAGE is supporting the development of a phased transition from sanitary and hygienic standards to the system of environmental standards used in EU and OECD countries. This will involve the analysis of best international practices, a gap analysis of in-house infrastructure and expertise and the development of rules for the development, adoption and revision of the environmental quality standards.

Waste management: The new EcoCode has embedded the principle of a circular economy and proposes to introduce a five-level waste prevention and management system (5R). Similar to what is adopted in OECD countries, this includes measures of economic stimulation and state support for activities aimed at preventing, reducing and management of waste. In this context, PAGE is supporting the development of five legal acts on waste, focusing on i) the elaboration of rules for a waste management programme, ii) the revision of the Waste Classifier and iii) the development of rules and regulations for the identification, assessment, accounting and disposal of historic waste, the management of different types of waste as well as for the collection and transportation of municipal solid waste. A working level consultation with 17 waste experts from MEGNR on the technical aspects of waste

management secondary legislation was conducted on 20 December 2020. Following the consultation, legal acts were adjusted accordingly.

Policy vision for the waste sector and related sectoral assessment: In the context of the 'Low-Carbon Economic Development Concept until 2050', PAGE has contributed to the development of a policy vision for the waste sector for which a narrative report was completed in March 2020. This was facilitated by consultations offering opportunities for engagement and participation of various stakeholders to share their ideas, priorities and concerns. At the national conference on 'Plastic waste pollution: solutions and cooperation' on 4 March in Almaty, a stakeholder discussion on the waste sector was co-organized by PAGE, with approximately 40 representatives including from MEGNR, NGO's, as well as associations, SMEs and independent experts working in the waste sector. The results of the discussion were presented at the first information and consultation workshop held as part of the process for the development of the LCDC, organized by GIZ on 5 March with about 30 representatives of different organizations. Following this, another virtual meeting was held to discuss the updated policy vision as well as a draft of the waste sector model with key stakeholders and the Ministry on 26 June.

The waste sector model analyses changes in waste flows at the national level between the year 2000 until 2050 and several potential interventions on GHG emissions, employment creation and economic activity. It allows to test different assumptions on consumption patterns (such as increased efforts for collection, sorting, storage), and then explore scenarios for different types of waste management (such as landfilling, incineration, recycling and reuse). Investments, avoided costs and added benefits of each intervention will be identified, estimated and summarized in a cost benefit analysis that includes social, economic and environmental indicators. A number of assumptions and sector development scenarios of the waste sector have been developed and verified within the stakeholder consultations on model assumptions on 12 and 13 November with more than 60 representatives of governmental bodies, NGOs and international organizations. Based on the modelling results, the waste section of LCDC will be elaborated. Modelling work is supported by co-financing of USD 50,000 from GIZ.

Development of a National Waste Management Programme: The development of a sustainable waste sector is one of the priorities of Green Economy Concept and the new EcoCode. However, the documents do not provide a general vision and actions plan to achieve national indicators for the waste sector. Currently, different waste-flows are often handled in a fragmented manner by different ministries, mainly focusing on end-of-pipe solutions rather than on prevention measures and integrated approaches. Within this context, MEGNR initiated work on the development of the 'National Programme on Waste Management until 2030' to have a clear vision for the waste sector with a tangible action plan. As a first step, a concept of the programme has to be presented to the Parliament.

With support from PAGE, this work has been officially launched with a kick-off meeting on 4 August with the participation of the Vice-Minister of MEGNR, representatives of the

Ministries of Agriculture, Industry and Energy, of Akimats (local governments) and representatives of professional waste associations. As a first step, PAGE has compiled and submitted a full concept of the programme for MEGNR consideration on 15 December 2020.

In parallel, the team of technical experts have embarked on the development of the first chapters of the Waste Programme itself, with the final Programme expected to be developed by early 2021.

Introduction of Sustainable Public Procurement: Public procurement accounts for more than 25 per cent of gross domestic procurements in Kazakhstan. Leveraging this purchasing power can help drive markets in the direction of sustainability, reduce the negative impacts of organisations, and also produce positive benefits for the environment and society. In response to a request from the MEGNR, PAGE launched in 2020 started to analyse the feasibility of introducing Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) and integrating sustainability criteria in Kazakhstan's public procurement processes. Questionnaires have been distributed, with the analysis to be completed by the end of March 2021.

Complementing this work, UNEP (within the framework of PAGE and the UN Development Account (UNDA) project 'Enhancing sustainable public procurement for the regional transition to inclusive green economy in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia') held an introductory online workshop on SPP with the support of the Kazakhstan Association of Regional Environmental Initiatives (ECOJER) on 9 December 2020. The webinar discussed the current state of public procurement in Kazakhstan, the feasibility assessment under development, UNDA Project and PAGE SPP activities, as well as examples and lessons learned from other UNDP project countries, such as Kyrgyzstan and Georgia. The webinar was opened by welcoming speeches from the Vice Ministers of Finance and the MEGNR, and was attended by 56 participants, including heads and officials of central and local executive government bodies, representatives of international organizations, business and public associations, as well as companies participating in government procurement.

Promotion of green SMEs: In 2020 MEGNR and PAGE initiated a pilot project that aims to develop a mechanism for using emissions payment funds for subsidizing SMS to develop green business (SMEs) and green employment while also reducing negative environmental impacts. The work is led by UNIDO and builds on an existing UNDP-led project on energy efficiency in buildings. As a final output, the workstream aims to produce guidelines on how to use the emission payments at the regional level to stimulate green SMEs, create jobs and increase energy efficiency. The Akimat of Pavlodar oblast has agreed to support this pilot initiative in the region, with a kick-off meeting held on 20 May 2020. Drawing on the support of energy efficiency and finance experts, the pilot project is expected to be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2021.

This work builds on an analysis that the MEGNR did on the effectiveness of the use of emission payments in the regions when developing the new Environmental Code. It

demonstrated that in Kazakhstan the volume of emission payments in the regional budgets has increased over the past years, however, only 50 per cent was used for addressing environmental issues. At the same time the earlier UNDP-led project 'Sustainable Cities for Low-carbon Urban Development' demonstrated that financial instruments supporting small and medium-sized businesses in implementing special green investment projects have great potential in solving both environmental and social issues.

Building institutional and individual capacity for green economy (Outcome 3):

Green economy training for civil servants: PAGE has developed a concept for a 'Building Back Better training' for civil servants in Kazakhstan. GIZ has joined this initiative providing additional funding of USD 60,000. The training aims to equip public bodies with knowledge and skills to pursue low-carbon, green and transformative recovery, including best practices and tested solutions from peer countries. This training is designed to support the country in its recovery efforts, seizing the opportunity to address the systemic vulnerabilities the pandemic has exposed and the opportunities for 'building back better', i.e. a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy. It is envisioned that that training will involve three tiers, targeting general level civil servants, managerial directors and higher-level vice ministers.

Civil servants from other countries in the region will also be invited to participate in the training, thus enabling cooperation, experience sharing and peer-learning on a regional level.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Kazakhstan in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

INCEPTION COUNTRIES

1.16 Barbados

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Barbados ranks among the highest in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) region according to the 2019 Human Development Index. With a diversified, serviced-based economy buttressed by the tourism and international business sectors, Barbados has successfully employed a blend of good governance, social and economic policies for the betterment of its citizens. However, the negative effects of recent global financial and economic crises, its dependency on imported fossil fuels, and constant changes in international development and financial policies, have placed pressure on the country's economy, society and environment. Limited access to natural resources, coupled with its

vulnerability to climate change as a small island developing state, underlines the importance of building a resilient economy and achieving an integrated ecological, economic and social wellbeing.

Recognizing these challenges, the Government of Barbados has continued to make strong policy and commitments to sustainable development through social compacts with the private sector and trade unions, strategic frameworks, such as the National Sustainable Development Policy, the National Strategic Plan (2006-2025) (NSP) and 2007 Green Economy policy framework. The NSP provides a framework for Barbados to become a fully developed society that is prosperous, socially just and globally competitive. With six strategic goals, the Plan speaks specifically of 'Building a Green Economy: Strengthening the Physical Infrastructure and Preserving the Environment' (under the Strategic Plan's Goal 4).

Developments since joining PAGE

Barbados joined PAGE in 2016, to support the implementation of the NSP and other green economy objectives building on previous work conducted by the UNEP in 2010-2012. After an inception mission in 2017, the commencement of a comprehensive PAGE programme has been delayed by several factors beyond the control of the partnership. General elections held in 2018 led to a change in administration and the need to reconfirm the national priorities. PAGE's relevance to national objectives was reconfirmed with the request to incorporate blue economy principles. PAGE officially re-engaged with the government in November 2018 in a joint mission holding high-level consultations. The final mission report and revised PAGE workplan were thereafter presented to the government in January 2019 for official cabinet endorsement, a step required by national processes for the country programme to commence. This fell into a time when Barbados was undergoing an austerity programme with all public policies and programmes again being reconsidered. The endorsement for PAGE to start its programme was provided in September 2019, confirming key thematic areas such as green and blue jobs assessment, youth engagement, environmental goods and services, greening/resource efficiency in industry, and strengthening individual and institutional capacity for IGE at the tertiary levels.

PAGE activities in Barbados are expected to contribute to the achievement of SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

In 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic and related impacts on travel and supply chains, Barbados economic crises have taken a new dimension and the tourism sector has been devastated, resulting in high unemployment levels. Against this background, in September 2020 the government announced a one-year USD 40 million COVID-19 relief programme and a USD 300 million stimulus package. Key areas of focus include tourism, agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, support to micro, small and medium sized-enterprises and

home ownership. Given the success in containing the virus, Barbados has launched the Welcome Stamp Visa Programme that allows remote workers to live and work for a year, helping to restart the economy. An adjunct to this initiative is the greening of the tourism industry, an area that PAGE has been called upon to assist.

In September 2020, Barbados' commitment to greening the economy, and to greening across sectors, including tourism and agriculture, was re-confirmed in the Throne Speech. The policy statement, presented by the Governor General of Barbados, highlighted that "the threat of climate change and the fragility of our ecosystems as an island, requires us to move to nature-based solution and long-term green growth and development strategy."

Progress in 2020

Establishing the foundation for PAGE Support (Outcome 1):

Following the approval of the PAGE programme by the cabinet in September 2019, PAGE started to re-engage with the government on planned activities, with the Minister of Environment and National Beautification (MENB) as the main counterpart. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and related impacts on Barbados led to further delays and the realignment of specific activities with new government priorities. The earlier planned stocktaking on green and blue economy was replaced by a new workstream focused on, assessment, scoping options and developing recommendations for boosting trade in environmental goods and services (EGS). The EGS Sector was one of the areas identified in the 2018 PAGE mission as a matter requiring analysis and support.

In September 2020, PAGE collaborated with the Government's PAGE Technical Focal Point in providing input to the Ministry of Environments' contribution and submission to the Throne Speech presented by the Governor General of Barbados. This policy statement re-confirmed Barbados' commitment to greening of the economy, and to greening across sectors, including tourism and agriculture. PAGE has also been in consultation with the Barbados Government to identify areas in which PAGE could support green economic recovery.

Government Steering Committee: The PAGE Technical Working Group on Climate Finance and Climate Resilience (TWG-CFR) serving as the PAGE National Steering Committee (NSC) and the PAGE Liaison Group met in January 2020 under the Chairmanship of the then Minister of MENB for a briefing and to review the PAGE Workplan. Members of the committee were also engaged in identifying synergies and opportunities for further enhancing PAGE programming. The members of the PAGE Liaison Group (PLG) continue to be consulted bilaterally on various workstream elements in the PAGE Workplan.

Preparing the groundwork for sectoral and thematic reforms (Outcome 2):

Green Recovery - Embedding circular economy in consumption and production practices:

Considering the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Barbados' social and economic situation, the Throne Speech highlighted reform of waste management systems as a mechanism for mitigating public health risks, improving the working environment for staff and provide a cleaner and greener environment for all. In line with this, PAGE developed a proposal to support green recovery in Barbados, focusing on building up the circular economy and promoting green consumption and production practices as central to the country's economic recovery.

Activities will consist of developing a 5Rs policy and legislative framework with a 3-year implementation plan; designing a programme to support MSMEs in integrating circular, resource-efficient and sustainable consumption and production practices; establishing a local business compact and facilitating dialogue on circular economy and resource efficiency with the private sector through the engagement with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and institutionalizing a capacity-building programme for the public sector on sustainable consumption and production. PAGE will also institute a youth citizen engagement and education partnership programme to promote youth engagement and entrepreneurship in a green economic recovery.

Environmental goods and services assessment: PAGE Barbados, under UNEP leadership, is planning to develop an assessment strategy for Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) for Barbados, which will look, among other things, at the assessment of potential trade gains. Under the EGS Assessment, PAGE also plans to draft a policy road map for the development of the EGS sector in the context of 'greening' of Barbados, and its overall growth and development.

Green industry: As part of the identified areas for support, PAGE plans to feed into the development of a new industrial policy for Barbados providing inputs through analytical work in the area of resource efficiency and green industry. Given delays experienced by the PAGE programme, the analytical work has not yet started but steps have been taken to explore synergies with key stakeholders and other related initiatives. PAGE has formed a partnership with the recently established UNIDO-GEF supported Cleantech Incubation Programme (BLOOM), a USD 13 million project promoting sustainable energy technology innovation, industrial development and entrepreneurship in Barbados.

Outreach on circular economy: PAGE was invited to contribute to the annual Prime Minister's message for World Environment Day in June 2020, which looked at the Circular Economy as the basis for a Green Economy transition. The article included PAGE's contribution to the Green and Blue Jobs Assessment for Barbados, and the potential for Green Jobs development via waste management initiatives and ecosystems restoration, under the 'Let's Repair' lens. The Minister's message was published in two national newspapers both online and in print, reaching over 300,000 readers. PAGE has also secured

a new partnership with the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and jointly with MENB plans to support the development of a Green Awards/Champions programme.

Green Jobs: The planned Green Jobs Assessment for 2020 was significantly impacted by COVID-19 and the related lockdown affecting the use of in person data collection and survey instruments. A national workshop planned for May 2020 to further define 'Green Jobs' in the Barbadian context and receive inputs for the design of the Green Jobs Module of the Labour Force Survey was postponed to 2021. The survey is expected to take place in the third quarter of 2021.

Partnerships for Green Finance: PAGE Barbados has contributed to the successful development of Joint Programme proposal entitled: Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development, which supports the sustainable development of offshore fisheries resources, a key priority identified and requested by the Prime Minister of Barbados, during the 2018 PAGE High Level Mission. The programme, developed jointly by UNDP, UNEP and FAO, will support the governments of Barbados, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in the development of financing strategies in the Blue Economy and creating an enabling framework for investments in SDGs.

Using the Blue Economy as an integral driver for resilient economic recovery and growth in the Eastern Caribbean, the programme emphasizes different measures: the identification of policy and regulation gaps, a methodology to identify key Blue Economy opportunities, and the definition of specific financing mechanisms for Blue Economy initiatives to achieve resilient growth. The Joint Programme will benefit Barbados and the other countries by upscaling existing UN initiatives, such as PAGE, by involving the private sector and establishing a public-private consortium for blue investment. The programme aims to leverage substantial resources from the private sector, in addition to finance provided by International Financial Institutions.

Building capacity to support change (Outcome 3):

Green jobs training: PAGE Barbados facilitated the participation of eight government representatives, including members of PAGE's Green and Blue Jobs Assessment Working Group for Barbados, in a training course on 'Green Jobs for Sustainable Development: Concepts and Practices' in May, and of ten government representatives in a training course on 'Fostering Green Business Growth' in October 2020. Both courses were delivered online by the ILO's International Training Center. The courses enabled participants to share best practices of green entrepreneurship and jobs. Furthermore, the courses also provided important insights for ongoing and planned activities in Barbados, for example for the refinement of the assessment methodology for the ongoing green and blue jobs assessment, the articulation of green and blue jobs in the Barbadian context, and the implementation of enabling elements in relation to green jobs creation.

Integration of IGE into institutional curricula: In the framework of the PAGE project, PAGE is supporting the Cave Hill Campus of the University of West Indies (UWI Cave Hill) and the Government of Barbados to implement the Programme for Green-Blue Economy Learning. The overall objective of the programme is to mainstream principles in university-level-learning interventions that address contemporary sustainable development policy challenges in Barbados and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In 2020, an agreement was developed to initiate the implementation of the Programme, focusing on two components: 1) a feasibility study for the establishment of a SIDS-SIDS Green Economy Knowledge Hub, 2) and a Green-Blue Economy Learning Needs Assessment. These activities will be implemented during the course of 2021.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support.](#)
- [Barbados in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.17 Guatemala

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Guatemala is the largest economy in Central America. However, economic growth within the last decade has not translated into a significant reduction in poverty or inequality. The country's national income depends largely on the agricultural sector, the export of a few commodities and remittances from Guatemalans overseas. It is also vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather conditions and faces persistent challenges around the loss of natural resources, deforestation, increased soil and water pollution, and growing waste levels. These natural environmental challenges also carry significant socio-economic consequences, compounding vulnerability and exclusion.

In recent years, Guatemala has taken the first steps to promote the greening of its economy through the development of the Environmental Fiscal Strategy. The Strategy presents a set of fiscal instruments to improve the pricing of harmful economic activities, thus supporting national climate change and sustainability objectives.

Developments since joining PAGE

Led by the Ministry of Public Finance and endorsed by other ministries and national stakeholders, Guatemala applied to join PAGE in 2018 with the objective of reformulating economic policies around sustainability to support social inclusion, green jobs and green growth.

PAGE met with national counterparts in September 2018, to set the objectives and parameters for work in the country. Possible entry points explored include: i)

operationalizing the National Development Plan K'atun Nuestra Guatemala 2032, for example through the implementation of the Environmental Fiscal Strategy; ii) assisting the development of a public investment strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation; iii) supporting sectoral policy reform concerning greenhouse gas emissions, solid waste and water management, renewable energy and energy efficiency; and iv) supporting national commitments to the SDGs and NDCs.

Towards the end of 2018, the Ministry of Public Finance was restructured. This was followed by general elections in 2019, with a new President assuming office in January 2020. As a result, the inception phase has been extended to 2019-2020, with the focus of PAGE on completing a national green economy stocktaking, identifying priority areas and mobilizing stakeholders, and on foundational capacity development for policymakers, academia and civil society organisations.

In 2020, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic further delayed the initiation of the PAGE programme in Guatemala which went into a six-month long lockdown. In this situation, the National Plan for Economic Recovery of Guatemala, led by the Ministry of Economy, with a focus on job creation and strategic investments, provides a new entry point for PAGE. PAGE was already successful in promoting the inclusion of green recovery measures into the Social and Economic Response Plan (SERP) for Guatemala developed by the UN Resident Coordinator which will provide policy recommendations for the government. Consultations also advanced with the Ministry of Public Finance and the government's main development planning entity (SEGEPLAN) regarding the formalization of PAGE in compliance with administrative requirements for international cooperation projects. This process is supported by the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative and expected to conclude in the first half of 2021.

PAGE work in Guatemala aims to contribute towards the achievement of several SDGs, including SDGs 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Progress in 2020

Establishing the foundation for PAGE support (Outcome 1):

Following the re-engagement of PAGE in early 2020, the official launch of the PAGE programme in Guatemala was again delayed by the COVID-19 outbreak. A mission planned for the first half of 2020 was postponed. In the meantime, important steps were still completed to lay the foundations for PAGE support. In June 2020, a National Coordinator took office in Guatemala City and initiated bilateral consultations with the new members of the administration in the lead ministry to identify potential workstreams and policy interventions related to the environmental fiscal strategy and green economic recovery.

The first meeting of the Interinstitutional Roundtable of the Fiscal Environmental Strategy under the new administration was held on 3 November with several government institutions including the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Energy and Mining and the Secretary of Planning and Programming of the Presidency, as well as institutions supporting international cooperation, including PAGE and GIZ. The Roundtable is expected to formally assume the role of PAGE National Steering Committee in 2021.

Furthermore, PAGE was presented to a wider government audience and was acquainted with GIZ's agenda in supporting national environmental fiscal strategy. PAGE, through UNEP, has coordinated with a GIZ local initiative on Green Public Procurement, which is complementary to the planned work of PAGE in Guatemala and may provide an entry point for the programme.

The stocktaking study was adjusted in response to the new circumstances to include relevant issues for the economic recovery period, such as green fiscal policy and economic stimulus, macroeconomic models and sustainable public financing. The study will include a) an analysis of the sectors most affected by COVID-19, b) prioritization of sectors according to negative impacts they may face in the short, medium and long term, c) a proposal of fiscal and economic measures with a sustainability focus for the reactivation of productive activities after COVID-19, d) a suggestion for an effective governance mechanism at the technical and political level.

These activities will serve as the basis for the achievement of Outcome 1 aimed at shaping national policymaking around IGE principles and in turn support multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development on national and global levels.

Improving the quality of public expenditure on the environment and national access to climate and green finance (Outcome 2):

PAGE supported the implementation of the Environmental Fiscal Strategy, especially its strategic pillars 2 (Municipal financial assistance) and 5 (Access to green and climate finance). As a result, five municipalities increased transparency in the recording of public expenditure and promoted more effective use of environmental funds by adopting a classification guide for municipal environmental spending. This guide was developed in a participatory manner with the support of local municipal authorities and the Ministry of Finance. Within the framework of national response to climate change, the Ministry of Public Finance identified fiscal mechanisms that can be used as a counterpart to access green and climate finance.

Building capacity to support change (Outcome 3):

A prominent feature of the work going forward will be foundational capacity-building to raise awareness on options for a green transition and to facilitate the inclusion of additional

stakeholders from the private sector, academia and civil society, thus broadening the green economy discourse in the country. For example, a stakeholder roundtable with public, private and civil society stakeholders on measuring and framing progress through indicators is planned.

Furthermore, early trainings on circular economy and green industry will be delivered to key stakeholders in collaboration with local partners to promote behavioural change in various economic sectors. These activities are designed to ensure all key stakeholders acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns and enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships for Sustainable Development that mobilize and share knowledge and expertise.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support throughout all years of engagement.](#)
- [Guatemala in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.18 India

Country context and PAGE portfolio

The Indian economy is one of the fastest growing in the world, aiming to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024. After recording GDP growth of around 7-8 per cent for several years, India has started to witness a comparative slowdown, with traditional drivers of growth such as manufacturing and international trade slowing down. At the same time, India is facing acute environmental challenges, including climate variability, poor air quality, over-exploitation of groundwater, water scarcity, increasing inland and coast salinity, degradation of land, and increased intensity of climate extreme events. These have also adversely affected productivity and economic performance and have resulted in increased poverty, unemployment and poor health.

In light of this, India recognizes that there is an urgent need for reflection and dialogue on the drivers of economic growth and to build momentum and capacity for low carbon socio-economic and employment growth. India has made efforts to tackle this through several policies and programmes, including, among others, the National Policy on Biofuels, the National Clean Environment Fund and the Smart Cities Mission. In addition, India has made concerted efforts to support the achievement of the SDGs and its NDC. Regarding green economy, India has shifted from focusing on select initiatives to embracing large-scale, integrated economy-wide approaches, including circular economy and sustainable consumption and production.

India joined PAGE in this context in 2018 to catalyse action and enhance cooperation on existing initiatives on a national and sub-national level, with the government's concerted effort to increase resource efficiency providing a specific entry point for PAGE support.

In 2017, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI), Aayog - released a Paper outlining a Resource Efficiency and Secondary Raw Materials Strategy, targeting reduced abiotic resource use and addressing issues that cut across life cycle, materials and sectors. Building on this, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) - the leading Ministry for PAGE engagement - identified resource efficiency as a strategy to minimize trade-off between growth, resource constraint and environmental well-being, and started to develop a National Resource Efficiency Policy. This policy, in turn, aims to contribute to India's national IGE targets, including its NDCs and SDGs. To drive this effort, MoEFCC, has established the Resource Efficiency Cell along with a high-level Steering Committee that aims to mainstream sustainable production and consumption in policy and practice in the country.

Against this background, India started its inception phase in 2018 and through stakeholder consultations and a green economy stocktaking identified priority activities relating to policymaking and capacity development. Possible entry points being explored are: i) mainstreaming inclusive green economy (IGE) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) goals and targets into state level economic development planning; ii) contributing to India's resource efficiency ambition; iii) supporting national priorities pertaining to sustainable public procurement and eco-labelling; iv) supporting modernisation of the micro-small- and medium-sized enterprise, particularly in the manufacturing sectors; and v) building synergies with other green economy-aligned initiatives, including SWITCH Asia, One Planet Network, and the ILO 2018-2022 Decent Work Programme.

Following these initial activities, the start of a more comprehensive work plan was delayed as PAGE was waiting to receive an endorsement of the forward going workplan from the newly formed National Steering Committee. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown provided an additional challenge with India being hard hit and experiencing a significant economic crisis. In response to the situation, the Government released a COVID-19 economic recovery package, providing an updated framework for future PAGE work. In November 2020, the National Steering Committee was able to meet and endorse the workplan, marking an important milestone for the end of the inception phase and the start of a full PAGE programme from 2021.

PAGE activities in India are contributing towards the achievement of SDGs 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Progress in 2020

Shaping green economy policies and green economy recovery (Outcome 1):

Laying the foundation for PAGE support: Following the comprehensive stakeholder consultations and initial analytical work completed in 2019, a National Steering Committee (NSC) was established in January 2020 by the MoEFCC to direct and supervise PAGE work in line with national priorities and international commitments. Among NSC members are key government institutions such as the MoEFCC; the Ministries of MSMEs, of Labour and Employment, of Finance and of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The government's national public policy institute, Niti Aayog is also a member. Additional national stakeholders representing civil society and the private sector are represented, and public policy institutions or national implementing partners can be invited to participate.

The first official NSC Meeting was held on 17 November to endorse the forward going work plan, marking the end of the inception phase. The NSC meeting also provided the opportunity to present the findings of the green economy stocktaking study completed in 2019, which have informed the priorities and entry points of the forward going PAGE support. The NSC referred to the PAGE stocktaking's engagement plan to confirm entry points with regards to Sustainable Public Procurement, resource efficiency, just transitions, institutional capacity-building and IGE-related national and state planning; and will use the study and engagement plan to inform its decision-making with regards to approving future PAGE activities.

While the start of additional activities was delayed for the different reasons mentioned above, in 2020 PAGE agencies supported a number of activities still linked to the inception phase with a focus on outreach and capacity-building.

Outreach on green economy: PAGE India was involved in several outreach activities together with other development partners with the aim to further raise awareness and promote an inclusive green economy. Given the serious impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on India, these efforts were also linked to the discussion on how the economy could recover while promoting sustainability objectives.

- On 6 February 2020, PAGE led the half-day session on Inclusive Green Economy at the Green Economy Coalition's annual global event, attended by MoEFCC and other government representatives, PAGE UN agencies, civil society members, local entrepreneurs, financiers, media, academics and other sustainable development practitioners such as GGGI and Development Alternatives (DA). The PAGE session focused on the priorities for supporting local green enterprises to drive the transition to Green Economies and was inaugurated by a Member of Parliament and former Minister of Commerce and Industry, who is presently India's Representative to G20. The session included presentations on India's priorities and progress towards IGE as well a statement from civil society for greening the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME).

- To promote green recovery efforts, the PAGE India National Coordinator participated as a panellist in a webinar on 14 May 2020, organized by the Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a leading think tank dedicated to conducting research for sustainable development. A recommendation from the discussion was to streamline the green growth principles of inclusivity and environmental sustainability into recovery and revival packages.
- On 6 July 2020, the Climate Policy Initiative hosted a webinar organized by PAGE and Development Alternatives (DA) on 'Building Back Better: Greening the Economic Recovery Package of the Government of India'. This brought together eminent speakers to discuss the ways in which the Economic Recovery Package released by the Government could be made greener and more inclusive.

Supporting green economy recovery: PAGE India has developed a comprehensive analysis of India's COVID-19 recovery package on sustainability and green parameters. PAGE recommended the promotion of, inter alia, sustainable agriculture, sustainable public procurement; resource efficiency and circularity across sectors and supply chains, green jobs and green local enterprises. The recovery also presents an opportunity to link recovery efforts with the clean energy transition, nature-based solutions and India's NDC, such as through e-mobility or promoting off-grid renewable energy for applications such as agricultural and vaccine cold storages. Additionally, designing a recovery package for MSMEs in sectors where its workers are particularly exposed to COVID-19 risks (e.g. waste management, construction, garments), supporting their transition to formality and developing green entrepreneurial skills could be important for an inclusive and green recovery.

Shaping sectoral and thematic studies and policy reforms (Outcome 2):

Green manufacturing: Building on the stocktaking study conducted in 2019, UNIDO in cooperation with ILO commenced a deep dive study with a particular focus on India's manufacturing sector in July 2020. This study includes an appraisal of key macro drivers for economic growth and employment creation and maps high impact opportunities to initiate the transition towards inclusive green growth. The study also deepens substantive and analytical work needed on the circular economy, secondary materials and resource efficiency, quality of growth, job creation, and skills building.

The key objective is to provide policy support to build a foundation for driving industry action for an inclusive, green transformation in the manufacturing sector that supports jobs and nurtures entrepreneurship. The consultation roundtable has started this process with industry, workers and government stakeholders. In association with the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) a report on 'Inclusive and Green Transformation of Manufacturing Sector in India' was prepared and a virtual Roundtable on 'Inclusive and Green Transformation of Manufacturing Sector in India' was conducted on 16th December. 40 participants attended the consultation from industry, associations, think tanks, research organizations, civil society, PAGE, and government partners.

Sustainable public procurement: UNEP, outside PAGE and as part of its SPP Programme, conducted a technical review of a national roadmap to implement sustainability aspects of procurement through the Indian government's E-Marketplace, which is the umbrella procurement portal of all e-public procurements in India. PAGE's planned SPP support is located within a wider context of action on SPP in India. In particular, PAGE will complement and extend SPP work on developing a national SPP Action Plan funded by Norway.

Biodiversity financing: Building the work launched in 2019, PAGE, via UNDP, is supporting India in the development of a methodology for sharing benefits and disbursing funds accrued through the access and benefits sharing (ABS) mechanism provided by the National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards. The estimated revenues available for sharing are in the range of USD 200 million, providing a significant pool of funds potentially available for conservation and the development of sustainable livelihoods. The support provided focus on 1) the development of a robust methodology to define ABS beneficiaries and a system to disburse the funding to the providers of bio-resources, i.e. local communities; 2) application of the methodology in a pilot state; 3) capacity-building for users and providers of biological and genetic resources as well as the State Biodiversity Boards (of pilot states) in transferring ABS funds; and 4) a concept note on how to scale up the system to other States and barriers identified in the pilot.

The National Biodiversity Authority has set up an Expert Working Group to assess the potential of ABS in India and determine a methodology to disburse the funds accrued through the ABS process. Meetings commenced in October 2020 and the results from the Working Group are expected to be ready by April 2021, to be followed by webinars planned to discuss and disseminate the knowledge developed. In addition, under PAGE support the NBA and UNDP also commissioned an assignment in 2020 to develop and pilot an innovative voluntary certification scheme for incentivizing the compliance of ABS in India. The assignment is in progress and pilot demonstration is expected by April 2021.

Building institutional and individual capacity (Outcome 3):

Building capacity for sustainable railways: In 2020, PAGE, led by UNEP, supported the National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR) in developing training modules and organizing a pilot training programme from 10 to 17 July on environmental sustainability for 60 Indian Railways officials that combined on-line and face-to face elements.

The online training covered a variety of topics related to green economy, including aspects of green transport, resource efficiency, waste management, green building, sustainable public procurement, circular economy and India's NDC and SDG targets. Participants learned relevant content via online training prior to the week-long course, enabling active participation and resulting in a more comprehensive understanding of the content. The programme strengthened the capacities in Indian Railways in the area of environmental sustainability across the ranks of decision makers and implementers and also supported the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability into NAIR training procedures by training the faculty staff.

Highlighting the importance of the programme, the inaugural session was attended by the Chairman of the Railway Board, the Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training, the Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of UNITAR, as well as the trainee officials and other senior officials of Indian Railways.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support.](#)
- [India in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.19 Morocco

Country context and PAGE portfolio

Located in North-western Africa, Morocco is a lower to middle income country with an important service and manufacturing sector and a high share of the population engaged in agricultural activities. Situated in one of the most arid areas of the world, the country is vulnerable to climate change and recent weather patterns, with highly variable rainfall and recurrent droughts producing severe environmental, social and economic consequences. Faced with several challenges, including increases in energy and food prices, depletion of natural resources, high youth unemployment, growing social inequality, and slowing GDP growth, Morocco recognized the importance of reframing economic policies around sustainable development.

Morocco's overall commitment to inclusive green economy transition is outlined in its 2017 National Sustainable Development Plan (SNDD) that aims to reconcile economic growth, social inclusion, protection and enhancement of the environment by 2030. The Moroccan government had already started to roll out several green economy initiatives prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. These initiatives achieved significant results in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, water and waste management, sustainable agriculture and aquaculture, and eco-tourism.

Since 2019, Morocco has now engaged in a national consultation process to design the Model for Development, a set of guiding frameworks for economic, social and environmental growth. In June 2020, the King agreed to offer an additional six months to the Commission in order to allow the members to deepen the different aspects of the projected development model and to integrate into its work the implications and transformations engendered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The consultation process ended in September and is now followed by a period of consolidation before the recommendations are presented in early 2021.

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Economic Watch Committee (CVE) of Morocco has been formulating and implementing a number of recovery strategies with significant green potential, such as the industrial recovery plan 2021-2023, whose third pillar in particular aims to position Morocco as a low-carbon and circular industrial base, the Pact for Economic Recovery and Employment, and a set of sectoral recovery plans. These recovery plans complement other sectoral approaches with strong green economy dimensions, for example, the Industrial Acceleration Plan 2021-2025 (*Plan d'Accélération Industrielle 2021-2025*). The government took also the decision in 2020 to expand the mandate of the Moroccan Agency for Energy Efficiency (AMEE) to green economy and to attach it to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Green and Digital Economy.

Progress in 2020

Establishing the foundation for PAGE support: The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed progress with the inception phase and the development of a programme for PAGE in Morocco. In September 2020, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Green and Digital Economy nominated a focal point for PAGE. PAGE is also proceeding with the recruitment of the national coordinator and the initial arrangements for a virtual inception phase due to travel restrictions.

The inception activities will include bilateral meetings with key ministries, national focal points and other key stakeholders including the private sector, the trade unions and civil society (NGOs). It also includes meetings with relevant UN agencies and PAGE donors. The mission will feature a high-level event where PAGE will be presented to all key stakeholders, which may be accompanied by a media event. The inception activities will aim to define a governance structure for PAGE in Morocco and achieve a clear common understanding of the scope of PAGE and activities to be undertaken through the partnership, in particular in the inception workplan. It is also expected that the inception activities will deepen the knowledge of PAGE partners about national inclusive green economy initiatives and actors and establish communication channels in view of future collaboration partnership.

Green Recovery Support: Following a needs assessment on green economic recovery supported by PAGE in May, in September, UNIDO organized a meeting with the UNRC to Morocco, the PAGE Secretariat, and other PAGE agencies to discuss the potential of green economy to support the country response to the COVID-19 crisis. The commitment of Morocco to a green economy transition, as proved by the ambitious NDC targets, the fast development of renewable energies, and the country engagements in favour of improved energy efficiency and waste and water management, among others, was recalled. It was also noted that Morocco has a strong interest in South-South cooperation, both sharing of experiences and learning from others. Based on these initial consultations, the country started to develop a green recovery proposal, which PAGE received and started to review in 2021.

PAGE aims to undertake a policy analysis in the country to support its recovery response to the COVID-19 crisis and identify effective policy measures for greening the recovery. This exercise, in addition to the inception activities, will inform the scope of PAGE support in the coming years to engage in the green transition.

Foundational training on IGE and a green recovery: In 2020, PAGE developed a concept note and agenda for a virtual IGE training. The overall objective of the training is to achieve a common understanding of how inclusive green economy tools and approaches can support a post-COVID-19 economic recovery. During the training, participants will familiarize themselves with relevant policy measures and case examples and discuss the benefits of an IGE approach for economic recovery and resilience, especially in priority sectors. Participants will also be able to benefit from experience-sharing with other PAGE countries. The training is expected to take place after the virtual inception workshop and initial engagement with stakeholders.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support.](#)
- [Morocco in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

1.20 Thailand

Country context and PAGE portfolio

As a dynamic and emerging market economy, Thailand has recorded strong growth in recent decades, but this has come at a high environmental cost. The country's natural resources and environmental quality are deteriorating, including depletion of forests, reduction of soil fertility, and loss of biodiversity. High plastic and air pollution, inadequate treatment of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, and water pollution are also affecting the quality of life and resulting in economic cost. Unsustainable production and consumption patterns from the industrial sector – which accounts for almost 40 per cent of the country's GDP – is a key source of many of these environmental issues.

Simultaneously, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is a priority focus of Thailand. The country has embraced green economy principles under its 'Sufficiency Economy Philosophy,' which incorporates a green growth development model. This model is deep-rooted in the National Strategy (2018-2037), which acts as an overarching guide for national development and a framework for international cooperation. Green economy and green growth lie at the cornerstone of the strategy to reach high-income status within 20 years, while keeping environmental considerations at the forefront. The 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP) 2017-2021 envisions prosperity, sustainability, and happiness while simultaneously promoting the SDGs' implementation and climate change commitments under the NDC. In addition, the Government put forward

the Bio-Circular-Green Economy (B-C-G model) business model to promote sustainable growth that is environmentally friendly and socially inclusive.

The challenges of COVID-19 emerge as a new reality across the nation. The Government has acted swiftly to contain the virus and rescue the economy with three sizable fiscal stimulus packages worth USD 76.2 billion or 15 per cent of GDP, with a strong commitment from the Government to 'build back better'. On 21 May 2020, at the 76th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand stressed "the importance of supporting local economies, digital development and the promotion of the agricultural sector by strengthening community businesses and fostering sustainability of grassroots economies" in the country's efforts to "build back better."

The realization of a green economic recovery is certainly not an easy feat and requires collective commitment and orchestrated actions from all relevant actors, including the Government, the UN family, all sectors of the economy, and its citizens. Thailand has been an exemplary model of such solidarity and inter-agency cooperation. The Government's strategic priority to achieve the climate action goals is highlighted in the UNCT Thailand's Socio-economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19. Further to this assessment, the UN will provide technical assistance through integrated policy advice to at least 100 small, medium, and large enterprises to reduce carbon emissions and support Thailand's competitiveness through the building back of sustainable and eco-tourism. PAGE has been an integral part of the UN support to Government-led efforts for a job-rich green recovery that leaves no one behind.

Progress in 2020

Establishing the foundation for PAGE support: The COVID-19 global pandemic has delayed the commencement of the inception phase and development of PAGE activities in Thailand. Within the regular work plan, PAGE will organize a kick-off meeting with the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), the implementing partner in Thailand, in February 2021 to discuss initial priorities and plan inception meetings with key ministries and stakeholders in the following month. After the inception meetings, PAGE will undertake a stocktaking study to identify priority areas for PAGE's intervention in the following years.

The inception activities will include bilateral meetings with key ministries, national focal points, and other key stakeholders, including the private sector, the Chamber of Commerce, as well as NGOs and CSOs. Meetings with relevant UN agencies, development partners, and PAGE donors will also be scheduled to reinforce international cooperation. The inception phase will feature a high-level event and a media event where PAGE will be presented to all key stakeholders and to the public. The inception activities aim to define a governance structure and a logical framework for PAGE Thailand, and to create a collective understanding of PAGE's scope and actions to be undertaken through this partnership going forwards, including the recruitment of a National Coordinator. It is also expected that

the inception phase will deepen PAGE's partners' knowledge of inclusive green economy, including its initiatives and network of actors, and strengthen communication channels in view of future collaboration.

Green Recovery: In May, PAGE conducted a green recovery needs assessment survey to identify Thailand's needs and priorities for a green recovery, and initiated a partial work plan to analyse the effect of COVID-19 on the economy and identify effective policy measures for greening the recovery.

To support the country's response to the COVID-19 crisis, UNIDO, as Thailand's PAGE coordinating agency, organized meetings with the UNRC in Thailand, the PAGE Secretariat, other PAGE agencies, and the government focal point NESDC to discuss priority areas for PAGE to accelerate a green economic recovery and to join forces with the Royal Thai Government. The identified activities are expected to contribute to the implementation of the Government's 400-Billion-Baht Economic and Social Rehabilitation Fund (or 400B Baht Rehabilitation Fund), which was launched in June 2020.

PAGE will support the greening of Thailand's economic and social recovery projects funded under the government's 400 billion Baht Rehabilitation Fund and support their alignment with key SDGs, NDCs and other global sustainability frameworks. Activities include developing an evaluation framework for assessing the impacts of selected projects; providing policy advice for aligning recovery efforts with national targets on green jobs, resource and energy efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, among others; facilitating public discourse on the evaluation, results and policy implications; and strengthening the capacity of relevant ministries and government agencies on a green and inclusive recovery as part of the Government's recovery package.

Building capacity to support the recovery: Commencing in 2021, PAGE green recovery support in Thailand will organize capacity-building activities and media events on a green and inclusive economic recovery. Specific capacity-building efforts will target key government officials to harness knowledge for developing policy frameworks for green economic growth, including fostering green industrialization, circular economy and green jobs.

The media efforts will aim to improve the public discourse on green recovery and to advocate for a climate-friendly, low-emission environment. Activities will ensure that the public understands the concept and impact of a green economy as well as the actions that can contribute to its realization. Thailand also plans to share its experience in COVID-19 recovery efforts with other PAGE countries and global fora.

More information:

- [Summary of achievements across outcomes, links to SDGs and key milestones of PAGE support.](#)
- [Thailand in the 2020 Online Annual Report.](#)

2. OUTCOME 3 – BUILDING INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AT GLOBAL LEVEL

2.1 ROLL OUT OF A GREEN RECOVERY LEARNING INITIATIVE

Learning for a Green Recovery Initiative

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, PAGE, led by UNITAR, designed and developed a series of global learning actions in support of a green recovery. The aim was to provide a maximum number of individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to engage in an informed policy debate on how to 'build back better', while establishing PAGE as a global player in the area of green economic recovery. As online activities were becoming increasingly important, the



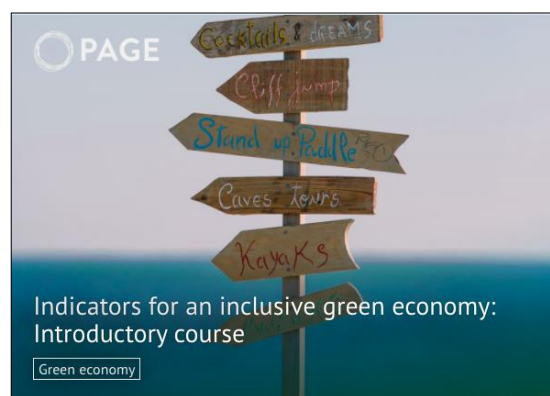
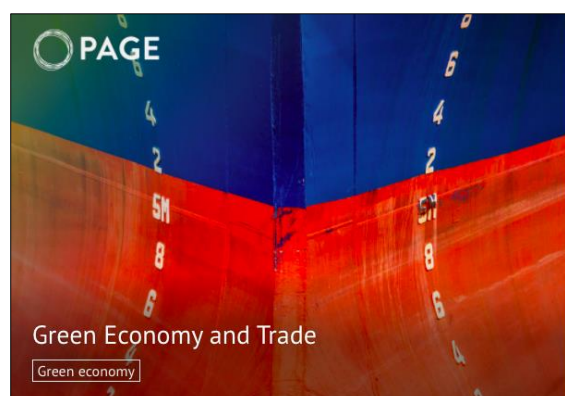
launch of four new e-courses in 2020 to complement the suite of self-paced training courses offered by PAGE since 2019 could not have been timelier. By the end of December 2020, more than 41,000 users enrolled for the six PAGE courses (described below). 8,233 users received a certificate, representing a completion rate of nearly 20 per cent.

From September to December 2020, a global campaign was launched to promote the complete suite of PAGE online courses as a package which was endorsed by Heads of Agencies from UNEP, UNITAR and UNIDO. Various UN social media channels and professional advertising was used to increase the visibility of PAGE, creating 156,047 and 383,694 impressions on The Economist and LinkedIn respectively. In addition, UNITAR started exploring new territory through a monthly PAGE podcast series 'The Green Renaissance' that is addressing key policy questions and issues central to the green recovery debate.

In 2020, UNITAR also introduced a new approach to PAGE's global capacity development work, moving beyond the development of individual courses. Instead, the aim is to capitalize on the existing set of products, engage with our growing alumni, connect with relevant thematic networks and evaluate impact more systematically.

2.2 FOUR NEW SELF-PACED E-LEARNING COURSES AND NEW TRANSLATIONS

Four new e-courses were launched in 2020, adding to the Introduction to Green Economy and Sustainable Finance courses already offered by PAGE. All courses are available on [UN CC:e-Learn](#) in a self-paced format and take between 2 and 30 hours to complete.



Green Fiscal Policy self-paced e-learning course: In 2020, huge government stimuli to revive lockdown-stricken economies and corresponding public debts have brought increased attention and scrutiny to fiscal policy. Helping to increase understanding of the topic, the [course](#) seeks to provide participants from government, business, civil society and academia with an introduction to approaches and policy instruments for reforming government spending and revenue generation with the goal of supporting the transition to an inclusive green economy. Developed in collaboration by UNITAR and UNEP, the course materials cover the basic concepts of green fiscal reform, as well as outlining how international collaboration enhances fiscal policy action taken at national levels. Since its launch in September 2020, 446 certificates of course completion have been issued (35 per cent to females and 45 per cent to participants from PAGE countries), with 2,636 total enrolments.

Green Economy and Trade self-paced e-learning course: Developed by UNITAR and UNEP, the [course](#) aims to provide participants from government, business and civil society with an understanding of the policy instruments and enabling conditions needed for countries to

advance the green economy transition by harnessing green trade. It is therefore an important resource for countries as they plan and design their economic recovery packages in response to COVID-19. Based on a moderated offer on Green Economy and Trade launched in 2016, the course contains lessons on the trade and environment interface, perceived tensions and synergies between trade liberalisation and the green economy, and policy design for green trade. Since its launch in September 2020, 415 certificates of course completion have been issued (30 per cent to females and 44 per cent to participants from PAGE countries), with 2,006 total enrolments.

Green Economy Indicators self-paced e-learning course: Countries need to develop tailored indicator frameworks that match their national priorities and statistical capacities whilst supporting efforts in monitoring progress towards a green economy. The newly developed Green Economy Indicator courses represent a response from PAGE to the growing demand for learning tools in the area of policy monitoring and evaluation. The [introductory version of the course](#) was launched in 2020, followed by the [advanced edition](#) in January 2021. Initially developed by UNEP in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the ILO, the course was integrated into a self-paced online format in 2020 with support from UNITAR. This course introduces the concept of indicators to support policymaking for an inclusive green economy and illustrates the use of methodologies for selecting and applying indicators relevant to country contexts. Since its launch in September 2020, 249 certificates of course completion have been issued (36 per cent to females and 47 per cent to participants from PAGE countries), with 1,224 total enrolments.

Green Industrial Policy self-paced e-learning course: In recent years, the considerable benefits of reviving the economies' industrial base by capitalizing on the growing demand for environmental goods and services has received increasing attention. Such comprehensive sectoral reform would simultaneously help deliver on multiple global sustainability commitments. Against this background, UNITAR developed the e-course '[Green Industrial Policy: Promoting Competitiveness and Structural Transformation](#)' in close collaboration with UNEP and UNIDO. The course offers high-quality, multimedia material designed to advance learning on green industrial policy at a high technical level, providing an immediate building block as countries plan their economic responses to COVID-19. Building on the trilogy of reports on green industrial policy developed under PAGE, this course enables its target audience to explain the rationale for advancing green industry, differentiate the main concepts related to green industrial policy and appraise strategic considerations during policy development. The course contains five green industry policy modules on challenges and opportunities, conceptual foundations, strategic policy development, policy instruments and trade. The course was formally launched at the Green Industry summer course in July and has been available on the UN CC: e-Learn platform since September 2020. So far, 251 certificates of course completion have been issued (29 per cent to females and 41 per cent to participants from PAGE countries), with 2,228 total enrolments.

Given the underlying complexity and transversal nature of industrial policy, this course was designed to match academic-grade seminars, and therefore covers a higher study volume

(30+ hours) than other PAGE e-courses. The methodology entails video lectures and extended audio interviews by acclaimed industrial policy scholars, longer readings per module as well as hand-picked multimedia resources, including videos, articles, podcasts and case studies, providing users with a panorama of the contemporary discourse at the nexus of industrial policy and sustainability. The content has been deliberately designed and arranged to facilitate uptake and integration into seminars and programmes delivered by academic staff, for instance through blending in video lectures or bibliographies into existing syllabi.

French and Mongolian translation of the Introduction to Green Economy self-paced e-course: With the aim of expanding the number of participants and providing new resources in additional languages other than English, UNITAR has translated the Introduction to Green Economy e-course to [French](#) and [Mongolian](#). The French course targets Francophone speakers from developing countries, in particular PAGE partner countries in West Africa. Launched in October 2020, by the end of 2020, the course had 219 enrolments and 16 certificates issued. The Mongolian course was launched during the 'Green Technology Exhibition 2020' on 2 October in coordination with the Mongolian Ministry of Environment and has been promoted through a social media campaign. The Introduction to Green Economy e-course is now available in English, Spanish, French, Mongolian, Romanian and Ukrainian and has amassed a total of 20,446 enrolments.

2.3 LAUNCH OF GREEN RENAISSANCE PODCAST SERIES

In December 2020, PAGE through UNITAR launched [The Green Renaissance](#) - a new monthly podcast series on green recovery. The need for informed decision-making to support a green recovery is now greater than ever, and The Green Renaissance aims to respond to this challenge by unpacking complex issues and presenting these in a clear and accessible way. In doing so, it aims to build awareness and support for green recovery options, while providing policy and decision makers with new ideas and impulses for taking action. The series is being widely distributed across all major platforms, with Episode 1 - featuring a Chief Economist of the United Nations, Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates and Youth Leader of the Youth for Climate Movement - has already been listened to over 400 times. Episode 2 was released in January 2021, with ten further episodes scheduled over the remainder of 2021.



2.4 DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGHER EDUCATION COURSE ON MODELLING

Higher Education Course on Inclusive Green Economy Modelling: PAGE, led by UNITAR in collaboration with UNEP, launched a package of teaching materials for a semester-long course on '[Inclusive Green Economy Modelling](#)' which was made freely available to higher education institutions around the world. The course enables participants to learn how to utilize IGE modelling to inform policy and decision-making processes through integrated analysis of economic, social and environmental impacts and deliver on the SDGs and Paris Agreement on climate change. The package includes the course syllabus, a facilitator guide, presentations for each of the three course modules and handouts for exercises, and also allows for the integration of some elements into an existing course portfolio or as part of a series of seminars. The course targets master's students and familiarizes them with various methodologies and models. Students have the opportunity to start using modelling tools, such as input-output, general and partial equilibrium, systems engineering, system dynamics and spatially explicit models, in an area of interest.

The materials were pilot tested in spring 2020 at the *Universidad del Pacifico*, Peru. They are available in English and have been translated to Spanish (translation to French to follow in early 2021). Two webinars were organized to promote the package: one in Spanish for the LAC region on 15 September 2020, and one in English on 19 November 2020. The webinars introduced the importance of green economic modelling for informed decision-making as well as presenting the application of the PAGE Integrated Green Economy modelling tool for assessing NCD policy in Peru and lessons learned from the application of the pilot course at the *Universidad del Pacifico*. A third webinar in French is planned for early 2021. Several bilateral discussions with interested education institutions are ongoing to explore opportunities for running the course.

2.5 DELIVERY OF GREEN INDUSTRY SUMMER COURSE

PAGE, led by UNIDO and in cooperation with the Central European University, organized the course '[Green Industrialization: Pathways towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development](#)' which equipped participants with the necessary knowledge and skills on green industry, and green industrial policy as a way to promote inclusive green economy transition in the context of the post-COVID recovery. The course was made up of two parts; Part 1 comprised a Self-paced Online Course on Green Industrial Policy: Sustainable Economic Transformation and Competitiveness. The self-paced online course, developed by UNIDO and UNEP in coordination with UNITAR, included five modules featured video lectures, reading material, factsheets and quizzes to develop a common understanding of the terminology and concepts of Green Industry and ensure that participants of the Part 2 training were acquainted with the subject matter. Building on this, Part 2 comprised a four-day virtual instructor-led in-depth training organized using a dynamic mix of lecture-based and participatory methods customized to meet the needs of the countries' desire to move

toward an inclusive green economy transition. 50 participants (18 from PAGE countries) completed Part 1 of the training, and 28 participants (12 from PAGE countries) completed Part 2.

2.6 REGULAR WEBINARS FOR PAGE NATIONAL COORDINATORS AND FOCAL POINTS

PAGE Family Gatherings:

From May 2020, the PAGE Secretariat began a series of informal monthly virtual meetings between the PAGE National Coordinators, partner agencies and Secretariat to initially take stock of country impacts from COVID-19 and support a partnership-wide adjustment to new realities. Met with



overwhelming enthusiasm and engagement, the series has grown into a regular dialogue and platform for PAGE counterparts to share best practices, discuss challenges and promote peer-to-peer learning, removing geographical barriers and strengthening ties.

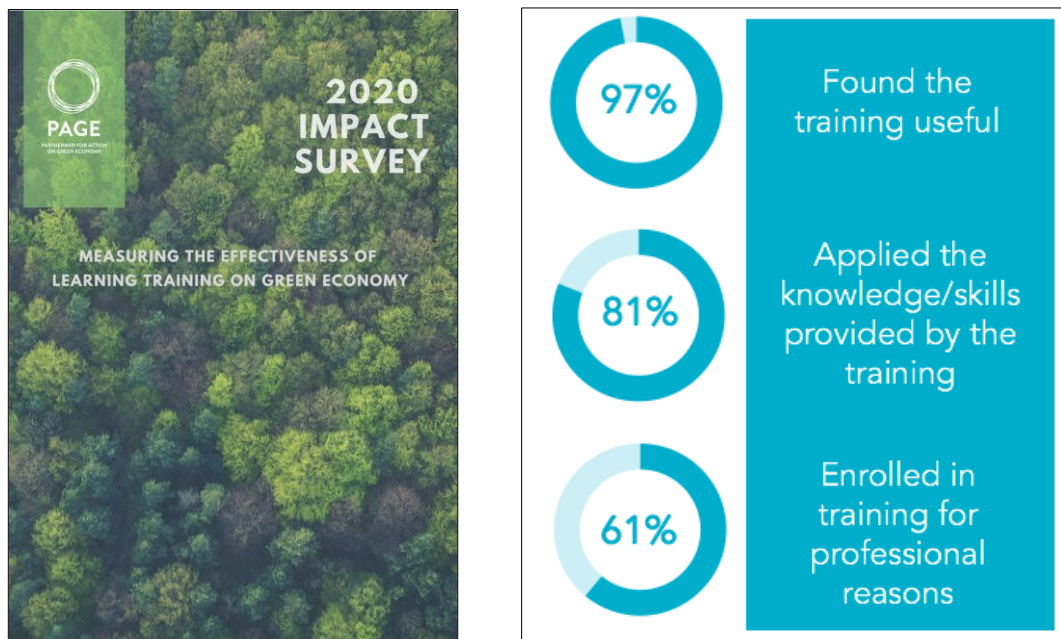
2.7 PEER TO PEER GREEN RECOVERY LEARNING INITIATIVE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Peer-learning for a green recovery: Peer-to-peer exchanges can go a long way to pass on knowledge and experiences between countries, enable mutual learning and increase momentum to address climate change, advance the green economy, and achieve the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, PAGE through UNITAR reached out to key stakeholders and designed a survey to better understand the interest and thematic priorities of PAGE partners countries. A concept note for PAGE peer-learning events was created, outlining plans for a series of events in 2021 that will focus on issues related to a green recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. These events will be smaller and informal, providing a space for PAGE countries, agencies, and funding partners to come together to exchange successful approaches in green economy transformation and identify opportunities for collaboration.

2.8 EVALUATION OF PAGE CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING

Impact survey: UNITAR conducted an impact survey with the aim of measuring the effectiveness of PAGE learning events at regional and global levels. The survey also aimed at assessing to what extent trainings have been impacting individual behaviours and attitudes through the acquiring of new knowledge and skills. The survey took place from 5 January to 15 January 2021 and included 35,000 participants from eleven trainings

delivered online, face-to-face or blended in 2020. 2,690 individuals completed the questionnaire. The results indicated that 93 per cent of participants increased their capacity to identify and create opportunities for the promotion of an inclusive green economy. In addition to that, 94 per cent of respondents became more confident to advocate for an inclusive green economy after taking a PAGE training. In terms of the use of skills or knowledge, 81 per cent of respondents have applied the knowledge/skills provided by the training. The complete set of results are available in the enclosed report.



Developing a systematic approach to evaluating learning: Systematic evaluation of learning events is a fundamental step to assess the effectiveness of the various training and learning products provided by PAGE and to identify opportunities for improvement. In 2020, UNITAR has been developing a common evaluation framework for PAGE learning events to be applied across the Partnership. The framework includes a set of standard online surveys that can be used for national trainings, as well as regional and global trainings. Evaluation results will be consolidated in one common database. The evaluation framework strengthens PAGE's monitoring and evaluation system and is feeding directly into the global results-framework which is currently being updated.

The five PAGE agencies provided inputs throughout the development of the evaluation framework and meetings were held to discuss how the evaluation can be implemented to events held by UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP and ILO. The surveys will be available through Survey Monkey and accessible in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. UNITAR will deliver three workshops to guide partners at the global and local level on how to use the resources.

3. OUTCOME 4 – IMPROVING COUNTRIES’ KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR ADVANCING IGE

3.1 COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH, AND VISIBILITY

Bringing green economy thinking into guiding UN documents

Through different channels, PAGE contributed to the development and incorporation of environmental sustainability and green economy thinking into guiding UN documents:

- [A UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19](#);
- the UN Sustainable Development Group’s (UNSDG) [guidance note to UN Country Teams on Economic Transformation](#);
- [The UN Secretary General’s Policy Brief on The World of Work and COVID-19](#); and
- the [Report of the UN Economist Network for the UN 75th Anniversary: Shaping the Trends of Our Time](#).

In addition, a [joint policy paper](#) with the Partners for Inclusive Green Economy was launched on World Environment Day, identifying ‘Ten Priority Options for a Fast, Fair and Green Recovery’.

Side-event at the High-Level Political Forum



On 13 July 2020, PAGE held an official side event at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), ‘[Green Economy and COVID-19 Recovery: Implications for the Decade of Action](#)’. The event brought together UN Heads of Agencies and ministers from PAGE funding and partner countries, to contribute to a high-level discussion on a renewed commitment towards the Sustainable Development Goals and climate and biodiversity targets, highlighting the ways in which an inclusive green economic recovery can support the Decade of Action. Speakers included the Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay, the Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway (also President of the United Nations Environment Assembly), Indonesia’s Deputy Minister for Maritime and Natural Resources at the Ministry of National Development Planning the Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda at the Federal Ministry for

the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany and the Head of agencies from UNEP, ILO, UNIDO and UNITAR. The event served to launch the new PAGE 2030 Strategy and announce a 7 million USD additional contribution from Germany to fund green economic recovery.

COVID-19 Hub, PAGE website and bulletin

As part of PAGE's immediate response to the pandemic, a PAGE [COVID-19 Hub](#) was developed in May 2020 to offer relevant news and academic articles on green economic recoveries. The aim was to equip PAGE partners and national teams with global information and resources that could support informed thinking and decision-making leading to long-term, sustainable recovery in a post-COVID-19 world.



The [PAGE website](#) had 59,780 users visiting in 2020, reflecting a 50 per cent increase in visitors. The PAGE monthly newsletter was redesigned as [the PAGE Bulletin](#) and sent to 2,564 subscribers. The newsletter also served as a channel to release PAGE thematic briefs as well as provide updates on PAGE's green recovery work. The [PAGE Twitter account](#) (@PAGEExchange) grew to 2,564 followers and the [PAGE YouTube channel](#), launched in 2017 for videos on PAGE work and IGE, has amassed 15,050 views. In 2020, PAGE increased its outreach on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) with 154 and 1,071 followers respectively. Furthermore, PAGE has a [Flicker](#) account where it collects and shares pictures from PAGE global and national events.

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New thematic briefing materials

In collaboration with partner agencies, the PAGE Secretariat developed and promoted a series of thematic briefs, highlighting the accumulative achievements of PAGE in the areas of [climate change](#), [circular economy](#) and [sustainable finance](#), contributing to the discourse on the need for a green and inclusive economic recovery.

PAGE also leveraged existing analytical [tools and services](#) in 2020 to support governments in the creation of their respective economic recovery efforts – knowing that smart recovery policies and investments are integral for sustainable, long-term inclusive green economy transformations. Specifically, these tools were designed to aid economic policymaking, which



can explicitly support economic recovery options, by guiding analysis, promoting green jobs and fostering sustainable investments and business models.

PAGE visibility through engagement in international and national events

Throughout 2020, PAGE colleagues were engaged in a wide range of technical and policy-oriented meetings, which allowed PAGE agencies and the PAGE Secretariat to share information on the partnership, its tools, services and achievements. The Head of the PAGE Secretariat participated in various events, including:

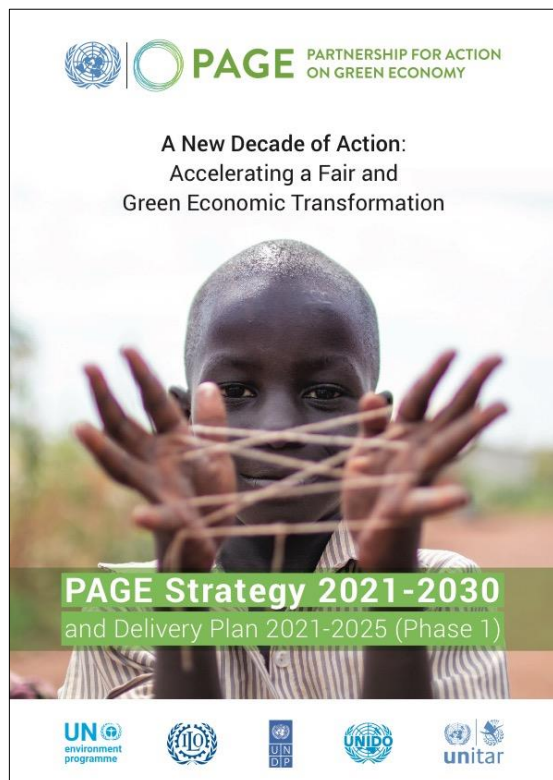
- Speaking on the panel of the UNEP Faith for Earth and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) event 'The Role of Faith Organizations in the Green Recovery' on 4 June;
- Speaking at the [virtual event](#) for the launch of the [Amazon Hub](#) on 23 September, with the Green Economy Coalition and Fundação Amazonas Sustentável (FAS), on PAGE work and perspectives in the region including for a green recovery;
- Presenting PAGE support for an inclusive green recovery at a UK-based green recovery webinar organized in the context of COP26 by the Scottish public policy magazine and conference organizer Holyrood on 19 November, as part of their '[Climate Emergency Series: Green Recovery](#)';
- Speaking at the Lancaster Environment Centre to students about the humanitarian and environmental industry on 21 October; and
- Presenting alongside three PAGE Management Board members in the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) event '[Building Forward Better: Prospects for Green Recovery Efforts](#)' on 17 December.

Additionally:

- PAGE contributed to a session on 'Green Recovery and Green New Deals' on 28 September at the Nature for Life Hub organized by UNDP, UNEP and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and
- In collaboration with GIZ and GGKP, ILO on behalf of PAGE co-organized a webinar on '[Green Jobs and a Just Transition](#)', featuring country perspectives from Argentina and South Africa, on 18 November.

In addition to visibility gained in global events mentioned above, media attention was also garnered through national events hosted by PAGE countries, including the Senegal Green Economy Days, Peru PAGE Programme Closing Ceremony Event, Uruguay Second Circular Economy Awards and High-Level Dialogue held in Argentina. Further details of these and other national events can be found in the individual country sections.

3.2 PAGE STRATEGY 2021-2030 AND OPERATIONAL MANUAL



The [PAGE Strategy for 2021-2030](#) and Delivery Plan for 2021–2025 was finalized in the first half of 2020, alongside a summarized [synthesis and overview of the strategy](#), [snapshot brochure](#) and presentation to communicate and disseminate developments regarding the next phase of PAGE. PAGE is entering a new phase: between 2021 and 2030 - the Partnership will deepen its engagement with current partner countries, assist new countries in integrated economic policy development and national planning, and widen its alliance with other institutions, initiatives and programmes, including from the private sector and civil society, with special attention to youth and gender movements. Taking into account the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic recovery, the PAGE 2030 Strategy outlines how PAGE and its partners will deliver on the promise to catalyse and

strengthen a fair and green economic transformation. These activities will add to the momentum for a sustainability revolution and create an enabling environment to achieve goals and targets of global sustainability agreements, especially the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. The PAGE 2030 Strategy and the Delivery Plan for 2021–2025 outline the planned activities clustered under a Country Support Package and a Global Services Package.

In 2020, the PAGE Secretariat worked in collaboration with the five PAGE partner agencies and an extended network of colleagues to develop a revised Operational Manual in line with the PAGE Strategy for 2021-2030, providing guidance on operational aspects of the Partnership. The Operational Manual, to be finalized in mid-2021, takes into consideration the challenges and lessons learned of the first phase of the PAGE programme and puts in place new procedures and operations of best practice to overcome them, striving to increase efficiency, effectiveness and ambition of the programme.

3.3 NEW KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS AND LEARNING NETWORKS

Green Economy Learning Network

UNITAR and GGKP, with the support of PAGE, launched the [Green Learning Network \(GLN\)](#) on 3 November 2020 in the GGKP Webinar on 'Rebuilding Better: The role of training and education'. The GLN is

a space uniquely suited for learning institutions and education professionals to share, collaborate and learn from each other. The Network aims to improve existing education and training opportunities and facilitate the creation of new courses, programmes and learning resources to build a critical mass of professionals that understand the risks and opportunities of a green transition.



The Network has three interconnected elements:

1. A [Learning Hub](#); publicly accessible catalogue containing courses, academic programmes or events on green economy learning hosted on the GGKP website. Institutions can publish information about existing courses and resources and raise their visibility.
2. An online interactive community space for professionals to share and discuss insights in the pursuit of a sustainable economic transition, find partners, ask for advice, and even create new joint learning programmes. Set up in November 2020 as a [LinkedIn group](#) (featuring 104 members from over 45 countries), the final [Green Forum](#) was launched to the public on 18 February 2021 at the Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly.
3. A series of online events, webinars, short trainings and discussions on various topics, to keep members informed and inspire future action. The first GLN newsletter was issued in December 2020 to an audience of over 300 subscribed readers. The first webinar 'Changing Curricula to Educate for Sustainable Development' took place on 11 February 2021.

PAGE Data Observatory

Following the development of the COVID-19 resource hub, the [PAGE Data Observatory](#) was developed to track socio-economic and health impacts from COVID-19, track policy responses and assess potential focus areas for green recovery in PAGE Countries. This collection of data aims ultimately to inform PAGE partners and beyond as well as support decision-making that can lead to long-term, sustainable recovery in a post-COVID-19 world.



The information provided includes data and projections on GDP growth, impacts on trade, employment, manufacturing and air quality. Information is also provided on country policy response measures, for example on fiscal stimulus, financial policy, social policy and specific green recovery measures. Key findings include:

- **Trade:** Data on trade from WTO shows that most PAGE countries are slowly recovering in the imports and exports sector. Some countries, such as Morocco, India, Guatemala and China are even experiencing increases in percentage change in exports compared to 2019, in the months of July, August and September.
- **Fiscal policy responses:** IMF's October 2020 database of country fiscal measures show that the percentage of GDP spent on above-the-line measures, which includes additional spending and foregone revenue in areas other than health, ranges from 8.3 (Brazil) to 0.8 per cent (Uruguay) in PAGE Countries. Below-the-line fiscal measures, which include equity injections, loans and guarantees, contribute to about 32.5 to 0.3 per cent of GDP in PAGE countries.
- **Manufacturing:** Performance in manufacturing, compared to 2019, varies greatly by country. While there are increases in annualized percentage change in industrial production in China and Kazakhstan, other countries such as India, Thailand and South Africa are still experiencing a decline in production compared to 2019.
- **Social policy responses:** The World Bank and UNICEF's living paper on social protection and job responses to COVID-19, updated in September, shows that the number of social policy responses in PAGE countries has increased since April. The most common response is cash transfers, which 90 per cent of PAGE countries have implemented, followed by in-kind transfers and utility waivers. Other common responses in PAGE countries include wage subsidies, social security contributions, and unemployment and paid leave.

The Data Observatory also includes tracking on green economy progress in partner countries by using selected indicators from The Green Economy Progress (GEP) Measurement Framework and its Dashboard of Sustainability.

Further developments on Green Industry and Finance Platforms

Progress on GGKP's three knowledge platforms:

In 2020, with financial support from PAGE, the Green Industry Platform and Green Finance Platform continued to grow and establish themselves as the leading sources of knowledge supporting a green economy transition.

Green Industry Platform: The [Green Industry Platform](#) currently hosts 1,186 knowledge products and saw a 61 per cent increase in average monthly visits from the previous year. In 2020, it underwent a major reorganization to better serve small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and SME service providers. The current knowledge database is being expanded to include information (case studies, technical guides and tools) and support

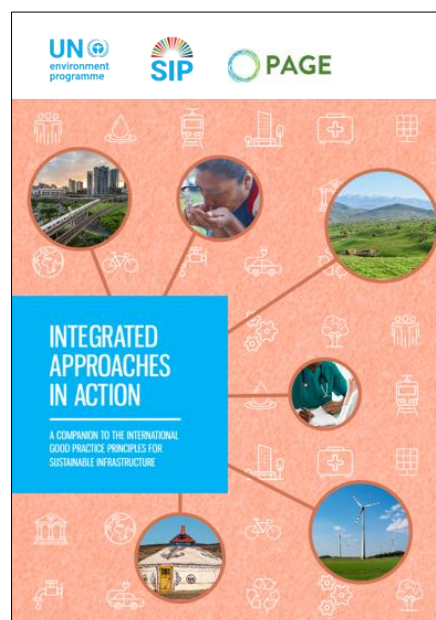
services (training, financial incentives and technical assistance) that will form a virtual SME Operations Support Centre. The update also includes a new user-friendly interface to ensure SMEs can easily and quickly access the resources most relevant to their activities and location. The Green Industry Platform is also developing a self-assessment tool – the Integrated Greening Operations (I-GO) tool – that will enable SMEs to quickly assess their resource efficiency status and direct them to the most relevant information and support services to implement recommended actions.

Green Finance Platform: At the end of 2019, the GGKP’s Green Finance Platform, together with the UNEP Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System initiative, launched the [Green Finance Measures Database](#) – a library of policy and regulatory measures across developed and developing countries that support green finance. As of December 2020, the database comprises 500+ policy and regulatory measures across 75 developed and developing countries. The total number of knowledge products featured in the Green Finance Platform is 2,083, and the platform experienced a 212 per cent increase in average monthly visits as compared to 2019. Additionally, in 2020 the Green Finance Platform welcomed 17 new Knowledge Partners, bringing the total to 31.

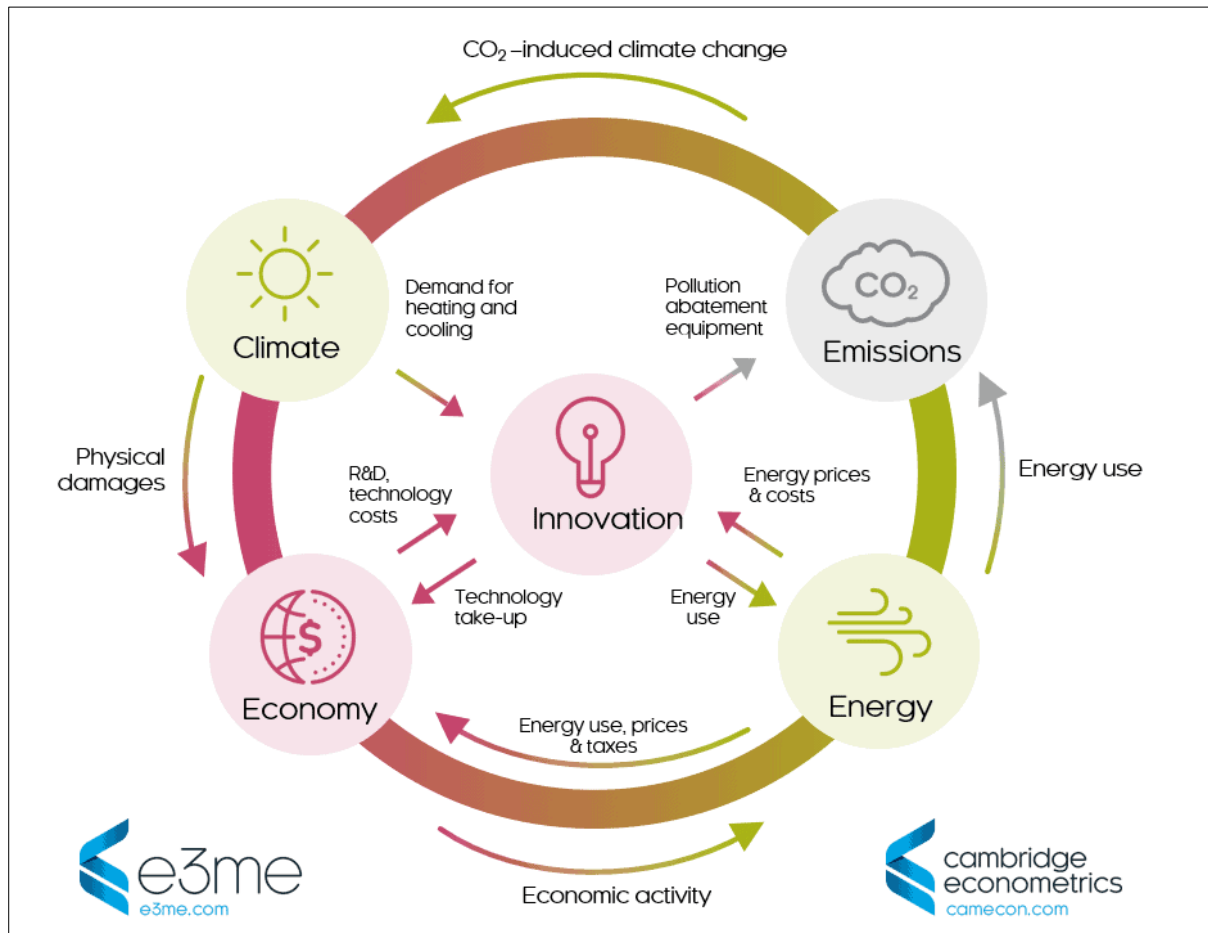
3.4 KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Compilation of case studies and best practices on Sustainable Infrastructure:

To complement and illustrate the principles contained in UNEP’s [International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure](#), UNEP and UNDP collaborated to produce a report of 10 case studies – [Integrated Approaches in Action](#) – on Sustainable Infrastructure. Each case study illustrates one of the 10 principles, documenting integrated, systems-level approaches to sustainable infrastructure. The cases also consider lessons learned, alignment with SDG goals and replicability and have broad geographic representation. The cases cover a range of types of infrastructure, from nature-based solutions to digital and health infrastructure, highlighting relevance to COVID-19 and a green recovery where appropriate. In 2020, the 10 case studies were identified and drafted in collaboration with contributing partners, including UNOPS, The Nature Conservancy, the European Investment Bank and the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative. The case studies were finalized in February 2021 to coincide with UNEA-5, aiming to inspire policymakers with concrete examples that can inform the impending wave of infrastructure spending. In the following months, the case studies will also be translated into French and Spanish and further disseminated by a webinar organized with GGKP.



PAGE COVID-19 IGE Response Modelling



UNEP, in collaboration with UNITAR, ILO and UNDP, partnered with Cambridge Econometrics (CE) to conduct a modelling exercise analysing and comparing the potential immediate to long-term impacts of varying recovery scenarios. Focusing on multisectoral impacts, employment, resource-efficiency and nature, the analysis compared brown recovery scenarios and Inclusive Green Economy recovery scenarios in order to provide global guidance and messaging to promote a future that would reverse current unsustainable practices. The activity utilized the Cambridge Econometrics E3ME model with integration on biodiversity components provided by UNEP-WCMC, applied to 50 countries. Complementing the global modelling, this exercise included bespoke modelling of South Africa's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) in order to demonstrate how analysis of a national COVID-19 recovery package can be conducted through an IGE lens. Both the global and the bespoke modelling analysed scenarios and their potential to attain Inclusive Green Economy objectives, such as job gains,

3.5 PAGE UNDP-LED REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE-SHARING IN LATIN AMERICA

Through engagement with several broader UNDP-led initiatives, including events and assessments, PAGE has increased its outreach for sharing knowledge on green economy and green finance in countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

'From Commitment to Action' Initiative

UNDP, through PAGE, continues to support the 'From Commitment to Action' Initiative in Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. Many commitments have been made by governments and companies, to reduce deforestation resulting from the production of cash crops, but progress in achieving the goals set out in these commitments has been slow and uneven. Starting in the Amazon, where the production of commodities including soy, beef, palm, coffee, and cocoa continues to contribute to forest loss and degradation, UNDP is helping countries to act on these commitments.



A [synthesis report](#) outlining the results of this work was prepared and launched in 2020. Overall, the report found good progress has been made across all three countries, for example, there is strengthened land use planning, legislation is in place governing land use, and national level satellite and on the ground monitoring systems have been set up. However, many challenges that have been identified repeatedly persist, including lack of coordination between Ministries, contradictory policies, poor sub-national policy implementation and lack of market incentives for sustainable production practices. Suggestions are provided for actions needed and proposed next steps, requiring deeper multi-stakeholder collaboration to review and jointly agree on the identified gaps and what is needed to close them.

Latin America Green Awards



For the third straight year, Latin America Green Awards ([Premios Latinoamérica Verde](#) or PLV) and PAGE worked as strategic partners to promote local actions towards sustainable development in the region. In 2020, the alliance had two main components, a [High-Level Dialogue on Green Economy and Sustainable Development](#) and a [PLV-PAGE Connects Market Place](#). From the conclusions and lessons learned from the 2018 and 2019 editions, improvements were made in 2020 to increase the regional reach and discover more ventures in Latin America and the Caribbean. Due to COVID-19, the Awards were conducted online from 18-22 August which enabled participation to increase substantially. 2,540 projects from 25 countries and 560 cities participated in this year's PLV edition. The top 500 were invited to participate in the events of which 209 completed the Strengthening Program, which was a prerequisite to participate in the business conference, representing an increase of over 150 per cent since the 2018 Awards. The online events provided a platform for hundreds of participants to connect and share their ideas on a range of Green Economy themes in the COVID-19 context including innovative finance, fashion, gastronomy and communication, among others.

To expand the message beyond those directly involved in sustainability, the PLV-PAGE alliance organized a two-part [Journalist's Workshop](#) on August 18. With the attendance of 176 journalists and communication specialists from 17 countries, the workshop was comprised of a discussion with four internationally recognized journalists and a co-creation forum where a group of journalists had the opportunity to build and prepare an environment decalogue. An open call was made to promote an exchange of ideas among projects and build a team with a regional impact. The [Co-creation Lab](#) emerged with the objective to connect the PLV community, strengthen projects' networking abilities and for them to participate in a group activity.

The High-Level Dialogue, the Journalists' Workshop and the Co-creation Lab were live streamed on PLV and UNDP LAC's official accounts and a [video](#) produced in collaboration with PLV and UNDP representatives was emailed to greet all the Commercial Platform's participants.

Targeted Scenario Analysis to inform greener and more Inclusive Investments

In LAC, a series of sectoral green policy and investment decisions are being informed by a participatory economic valuations approach called [Targeted Scenario Analysis \(TSA\)](#). UNDP's TSA is an innovative approach designed to provide sector-focused economic information to decision makers from the public and/or private sector, who have the mandate to design and implement policies, development plans, and investment strategies at national and sub-national levels. TSA recommendation will be used to make informed decisions that will result in more sustainable policies and better-funded implementation plans.

In 2020 PAGE continued to support the implementation of demand-driven TSA applied to priority economic sectors in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. The TSA studies are linked to ongoing national policy revision processes and related GEF Projects in each country. Despite delays due to COVID-19, two of the three PAGE-financed TSA were completed, with significant progress on the third.

- In **Ecuador**, [the TSA](#) focuses on illegal artesian and small-scale mining and is linked to the ongoing revision of mining policies. The TSA study has been finalized and offers policy recommendations on how to ensure more sustainable small-scale mining. Officials of the Ministry of Mining and Ministry of Environment have revised the document and have endorsed the results. The study also incorporates comments from other stakeholders and will now be formally shared with the Vice Ministers of Mining and Environment. A complementary policy brief has been prepared and is under review.
- In **Peru**, [the study](#) focuses on deforestation-free palm oil production. It is part of a broader TSA that includes sustainable cacao and coffee production in the Amazon. The TSA in Peru supports the formulation of national coffee, cocoa, and oil palm action plans. A draft TSA report on cacao and palm (two TSAs in one) has been completed and the government, and cacao and palm producers, including JUNPALMA have welcomed the initial study results and policy recommendations. The report and policy brief are in their final stages of review.
- **Colombia's TSA** is analyzing deforestation and livestock production in the Amazon region. The TSA process has been launched but is delayed due to COVID-19.

PAGE supported TSAs are part of a broader UNDP effort to use economic valuation to advance the mainstreaming of sustainable development policies. Lessons learned from the direct support of PAGE describe above are being used to also to influence and inform additional TSAs financed by UNDP-managed GEF projects including some PAGE countries:

- **Paraguay** on livestock/beef: the final report will be available in January 2021 (in Spanish);

- **Thailand** in Illegal Wildlife Trade: the final report expected for April 2021 (in English); and
- **Kazakhstan** on Forestry: The final report is expected for March 2021 (in English).

Communications strategies and policy discussions are being planned to promote and disseminate the TSA results. All finalized TSAs summaries are available on the UNDP website.

4. PAGE SECRETARIAT AND GOVERNANCE BODIES

The PAGE Secretariat, serving as the central point of liaison between the PAGE partners, provides services to the Technical Team, the Management Board and the Steering Committee. Under the direction of the Technical Team, the Secretariat ensured smooth inter-agency cooperation in planning and implementing PAGE activities.

In 2020, the PAGE Secretariat raised to the challenge of COVID-19 and became a driving force behind PAGE's response and related alignment of the PAGE programme, working very closely with the PAGE agencies through the Technical Team and Management Board. Under the guidance of PAGE COVID-19 response Task Team, bringing together Management Board members and funding partners, the Secretariat coordinated and disseminated the following outputs in the first half of 2020:

- A [Statement on COVID-19 by the PAGE Management Board](#) emphasizing that policy and investment decisions taken to stimulate the economies will be decisive to mitigate or amplify future threats to economies, jobs and humanity;
- Formation of a COVID-19 Task Team, comprised of PAGE Steering Committee and Management Board members, to help assess the initial impacts of COVID-19 and assist in shaping the PAGE response. The strategic guidance provided by the Task Team enabled PAGE to act rapidly and with flexibility, developing its response and support in close coordination with PAGE country teams and UN Resident Coordinators;
- A [Data Observatory](#) tracking fiscal and finance measures announced by partner countries along with social, economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19;
- A dedicated online [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#);
- Summary of [Policy analytical tools](#), promoting four PAGE tools linked to green economic which can assist countries in forecasting growth, jobs and sustainability outcomes of different policy and investment options; and
- A [joint paper](#) with the Partners for Inclusive Green Economy [launched](#) on World Environment Day, identifying ten policy options to guide a fast, fair and green recovery.

In July 2020, a remarkable moment for PAGE coordinated by the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Technical Team and Management Board, was an official HLPF side-event, which provided the unique opportunity to launch the [PAGE Strategy](#) for 2021-2030 together with the confirmation of additional support to PAGE countries for green economic recovery.

In addition, with the beginning of the socio-economic crisis, the PAGE Secretariat and Technical Team initiated the reprogramming of PAGE support under ongoing workplans, supported with a COVID-19 PAGE Country Impact survey and a comprehensive Needs Assessment for a Green Economic Recovery in all PAGE countries.

Further, the Secretariat assisted PAGE partners in organizing the following governance meetings:

- 1 PAGE Technical Team meeting with partial Management Board participation, held on 9-10 March 2020 in Geneva focused on operationalizing the PAGE Strategy for 2021-2030;
- 1 Virtual Steering Committee meeting on 24 and 25 June and a series of conference calls involving funding partners as part of the PAGE COVID-19 Response Task Team on 30 April and 20 May, and 25 November 2020);
- 7 Management Board calls held on 23 March, 3 April, 16 June, 6 July, 28 July, 25 September, and 8 October (related to PAGE's response to COVID-19, budget framework and delivery of work programme, guidance for PAGE support on green economy recovery, and review and approval of green recovery proposals);
- Monthly Technical Team Meeting calls, held on 14 January, 18 February, 31 March, 28 April, 26 May, 18 June, 14 July, 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 17 November and 15 December;
- A series of 'Family Gathering' webinars with National Coordinator and agencies held on 11 and 12 May, 8 and 9 June, 7 and 8 July, 11 and 12 August, 8 and 9 September, 6 and 7 October, 3 and 4 November, and 1 and 2 December (further described under outcome 4); and
- A series of 'help desk' bilateral calls offered over the summer to all National Coordinators, to provide support on work planning and gain a better understanding of the country situation with COVID-19 and areas for PAGE assistance.

In close cooperation with the Technical Team and the Secretariat developed concepts, agendas and background materials, coordinated with partner agency focal points, ensured logistical arrangements, minutes and meeting summaries, and follow-up activities.

The PAGE Secretariat also played a central role in:

- Revision of the PAGE Operational Manual to align with the PAGE Strategy for 2021-2030 describing key processes, approaches, roles and responsibilities in the partnership. Under the lead of a senior consultant, this revision included the analysis of all operational processes in PAGE, related consultations with agencies, and the drafting of a series of primers.
- Facilitating contributions from funding partners to the PAGE MPTF (amendments for 2020 contribution with the Republic of Korea and additional funds from Germany for green economy recovery, and 2020 instalments from Finland, Norway and Switzerland);
- Finalizing the amendment and financial reporting for the ongoing EC-UNEP agreement for PAGE;
- Developing the overall 2020-2021 Annual Work Plan, which was approved by the Management Board on 14 August 2020;
- Supporting country teams in the development and monitoring of country work plans;
- Facilitating disbursements to agencies from the PAGE MPTF (3 rounds of disbursements in 2020); and

- Developing the 2020 PAGE Annual Report in different formats (online and detailed progress report).

Finally, the PAGE Secretariat led a comprehensive communications effort in 2020 featuring the COVID-19 response, green economy recovery, as well as its substantive contributions to resource efficiency, climate change and sustainable finance. The monthly PAGE bulletin and related 'blasts' were scheduled to draw attention to the latest developments in PAGE countries and at the global level as well as to release substantive policy briefs accompanied by related campaigns on social media.

5. COOPERATION WITH OTHER INITIATIVES

Collaboration is embedded within the PAGE identity. Relying on shared expertise, dialogue and alignment of efforts strengthens the partnership's effectiveness and enables synergy on the country and global level. In 2020, this collaboration with partners was a key ingredient in a comprehensive and coordinated COVID-19 response, adaptive work planning and enhanced strength.

Since its inception, PAGE has developed models at the country and global level for promoting collaboration with initiatives working on different dimensions of the green economy. These include: the UNEP-UNDP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals (PEA); SWITCH Africa Green and SWITCH-Asia; UN-REDD; One Planet Network; Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN); the UNDP Green Commodities Programme; GGGI; GEC; GGKP; the UNEP's Environment and Trade Hub; UNEP FI; and GIZ among others.

Building on this, in 2020 PAGE established partnerships with NDC Partnership and SEED Initiative and strengthened collaboration with the Partners of Inclusive Green Economy, through the launch of a joint policy paper on World Environment Day.

In addition, PAGE has engaged with the UN Resident Coordinator Offices from the early stages of the programme to ensure complementarity and coherence. This coordination was strengthened substantially in 2020, as PAGE country proposals for green economic recovery were developed in close cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinator Offices.

The below provides a cumulative summary of collaboration with key partners at the country and global level.

5.1 IN-COUNTRY COOPERATION

At the country level, PAGE has deepened existing cooperation and expanded collaboration with several organizations and initiatives. These collaborations are country-driven, dependent on the opportunities offered by the local context and needs. In that sense, PAGE offers a flexible mechanism for engaging with a large number of global, regional and local organizations and initiatives.

Collaboration is done through organizing joint events, implementing joint activities, and strengthening common platforms for a coordinated country delivery. The following section presents a brief description of the most relevant examples. Further details of each of the cooperative efforts listed below can be found in the individual country reports.

Cooperation with GIZ: The project 'Green Economy Transformation in cooperation with the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) - Synergies between low-emission paths and the SDGs (GIZ-GET project)', jointly implemented by GIZ, UNEP and the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) enhances PAGE in-country work and complements the partnership and its impacts through flexible, innovative, action-oriented and locally-rooted cooperation measures. This project is active in five PAGE countries: **Indonesia, Peru, South Africa, Uruguay and Argentina**. Beyond this specific project, PAGE and GIZ have collaborated in the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan, with plans for collaboration in Guatemala:

- **Peru:** The project has been helping to consolidate achievements and support the elaboration of the country's Sustainability Strategy for PAGE. Going forward, the project will take a lead role in assisting Peru in the process of transitioning to a greener economy and enhancing its sustainability. In 2020, PAGE continued to work closely with the GIZ-GET project in promoting sustainable finance and supporting preparation for the launch of the National Circular Economy Platform.
- **South Africa:** The project has been complementing PAGE work by implementing several activities in South Africa, jointly with the Department for Environment, Forestry and Fisheries. This has included building capacity on green bonds, supporting a high-level national dialogue on green jobs, initiating an informal Green Economy Advisory Group and conducting a training course on circular economy.
- **Uruguay:** The country received support from GIZ for its application to PAGE in 2017. PAGE is building on previous work done by the project, notably the green economy assessment and well established inter-institutional coordination. Joint work plan development and implementation of concrete interventions are among the successes of this collaboration. In 2019, PAGE and GIZ organized the first international event on Cleaner Production and Formalization of Brick Production Activities of Uruguay, organized the Interinstitutional Working Group on Green and Inclusive Economy; and supported discussions with International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre to turn Uruguay into a regional hub of Green Chemistry. In 2020, PAGE collaborated with GIZ on a Sustainable Entrepreneurship Training Programme for youth.
- **Argentina:** The project supported the PAGE inception phase through assistance for strategic planning and technical support for stakeholder engagement, including participation in the inception mission in May 2019. During 2019, PAGE worked closely with GIZ on national outreach on green economy and South-South exchange, including the Global Exchange Forum on Inclusive Green Economy and the second national Resource Efficiency Panel of the German-Argentinean Chamber of Commerce. PAGE Argentina also facilitated the participation of stakeholders in a study visit to Berlin on Green Entrepreneurship, organized by GIZ. In 2020, PAGE and the GIZ-GET project focused on deepening collaboration on South-South cooperation and capacity development, including participation in a webinar on Just Transition with South Africa in November 2020 and follow-on exchange.

- **Indonesia:** GIZ project activities in support of PAGE include the organization of the PAGE inception workshop, as well as the development of a 'Study on Carbon Taxes as Fiscal Incentives to Reduce GHG Emissions and Develop a Carbon Market in Indonesia' and a jointly conducted introductory training on System Dynamics Modelling targeted at regional governments. PAGE's work on green recovery in Indonesia will further complement the work of GIZ and other development partners.
- **Kyrgyz Republic:** PAGE and GIZ are engaging in supporting the country's transition to an IGE, for example through the organization of the 2018 and 2019 Annual Green Economy Forums. In 2018, PAGE and GIZ commenced green economy modelling support with a focus on identifying sectors for IGE intervention, with work continuing in 2019 and 2020. PAGE, together with GIZ, supported the development of a Sustainable Finance Roadmap that has been incorporated into the Green Economy Development Programme, launched in 2019.
- **Kazakhstan:** Starting in 2019 as part of the inception period and continuing through 2020, PAGE coordinated efforts with the GIZ project 'Low Carbon Development Strategy for Kazakhstan'. This includes supporting the development of the waste section of the Low Carbon Development Concept (LCDC) and complementing this with a technical study on how fiscal policies can support needed investments for the LCDC and implementation of Kazakhstan's NDC. GIZ is also supporting PAGE efforts on the development of a legal framework for environmental permissions through reinforcing Best Available Techniques and a 'Build back better training' for civil servants in Kazakhstan.
- **Guatemala:** PAGE has been acquainted with GIZ's agenda in supporting national environmental fiscal strategy and through UNEP has coordinated with a GIZ local initiative on Green Public Procurement, which is complementary to the planned work of PAGE in Guatemala and may provide an entry point for the programme.

Cooperation with the Global Green Growth Institute: PAGE and GGGI have been efforts to support common partner countries in their transition to an IGE, including **Peru, Mongolia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, India and the Kyrgyz Republic**. GGGI also supported the application of Morocco in 2019 to PAGE through a letter of support. Further details are as follows:

- **Mongolia:** Collaboration has focused on different workstreams, yielding concrete results including i) measuring green economy progress; ii) financing green growth; and iii) supporting green buildings.
- **Peru:** PAGE and GGGI have been supporting the Ministry of Finance to green economic policies. This work yielded results through the adoption in 2019 of the National Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity, with specific milestones identified on environmental sustainability.
- **Burkina Faso:** Complementarity of work is ensured through regular coordination meetings with both organization's government agency focal points. In 2019, GGGI participated actively in the first PAGE Sustainability Workshop to discuss the sustainability plan of PAGE Burkina Faso.

- **Senegal:** PAGE and the GGGI have combined resources and technical support on the employment impacts of green economy policies. Both organizations joined efforts in the development of a methodology for data collection and statistical analysis of green jobs creation that has been integrated into the National Employment Survey.
- **India:** a PAGE mission held in 2019 started discussions with GGGI on synergies and complementarity between the two programmes to be explored further.
- **Kyrgyz Republic:** The country joined GGGI during the 2019 Green Economy Week co-organized by PAGE, highlighting their commitment to IGE and facilitating greater coordination in coming years.

Cooperation with UNEP Finance Initiative: UNEP FI and PAGE have collaborated on sustainable finance in partner countries including Ghana, Mauritius, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Indonesia:

- **Mongolia:** Engagement has focused on developing the Mongolian Green Credit Fund (now Mongolian Green Finance Corporation - MGFC), to serve as a vehicle to bring long-term financing to projects and companies that stimulate green growth in the country.
- **Ghana:** A joint scoping study was completed in 2019 to identify green finance interventions, investment opportunities and barriers and support domestic resource mobilization and development of targeted training to players in the finance sector.
- **Mauritius:** Partnership has focused on informing the future development of a green bonds programme. Additionally, in 2019, PAGE and UNEP FI initiated a study on access to green finance which will provide recommendations on expanding SME access to green finance.
- **Kazakhstan:** UNEP FI provided substantive inputs to the chapter 'Financial Green Economy Transition' of the country's green economy stocktaking study.
- **Kyrgyz Republic:** PAGE and UNEP FI organized an introductory training workshop on Environmental and Social Risk Analysis during the 2019 Green Economy Week. The training aimed at sensitizing banks and micro-finance institutions on green finance opportunities.
- **Indonesia:** UNEP FI is supporting PAGE work on green and innovative financing for the LCDI through an assessment of existing and potential economic incentives, funds and green financial mechanisms to mobilize financing for LCDI priorities.

Cooperation with the Environment and Trade Hub of UNEP: PAGE and UNEP's Environment and Trade Hub have joined forces to explore and harness trade and investment opportunities arising from the transition to an IGE in partner countries. So far, the collaboration has focused on Mongolia, Ghana, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Peru, Guyana and Jiangsu province (China).

- **Mongolia:** Collaboration has included a study and technical note on trade and green economy that was broadly discussed with stakeholders and policymakers.

- **Burkina Faso:** Collaboration has focused on the development of an Action Plan for Sustainable Management and Export of Non-Timber Forestry Products. This plan included institutional and individual capacity-building for key decision makers.
- **China, Jiangsu Province:** PAGE and the UNEP's Environment and Trade Hub conducted a study on south-south trade in environmental goods and services (EGS) and collaborated on a baseline assessment of sustainable textile trade and value chains in Jiangsu, along with targeted training for textile producers and retailers.
- **South Africa:** The focus has been on identifying trade opportunities from the perspective of green industrial development (i.e., Green Economy Industry and Trade Analysis). A second workstream centred on 'Trade in Certified Organic Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities for South Africa' including a consultation workshop on scaling trade in organic and biodiversity-based agriculture.
- **Ghana:** The Green Industry and Trade Assessment, produced jointly by the UNEP's Environment and Trade Hub and UNIDO at the beginning of PAGE engagement in the country, has guided the support PAGE is providing in this area.
- **Peru:** As a result of collaboration between the Environment and Trade Hub and PAGE, green trade policy proposals have been generated and discussed with relevant stakeholders for biotrade and the sustainable management of water resources.
- **Guyana:** UNEP's Environment and Trade Hub contributed to Guyana's Green Industry and Trade Assessment, fostering thematic reforms in line with the country's Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040. Building on this, in 2020 UNITAR and the UNEP Environment and Trade Hub collaborated with the University of Guyana to deliver a green trade and industry training in December.

Cooperation with UNDP-Biodiversity Financing Initiative (BIOFIN): BIOFIN and PAGE have collaborated on sustainable finance solutions including issues of fiscal reform for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity in partner countries including the **Kyrgyz Republic and Peru**.

- **Kyrgyz Republic:** PAGE is collaborating with the BIOFIN team to deliver technical support on the reform of environmentally harmful agriculture subsidies. Additionally, a joint side-event was organized at the 2019 Green Economy Week in Bishkek and in July 2020 the Programme for the Development of Green Economy in the Kyrgyz Republic, which was jointly developed by BIOFIN and PAGE, was officially adopted.
- **Peru:** UNDP is using PAGE funds in collaboration with BIOFIN to support sustainable finance and investment through the mechanism for Public Works for Tax Deductions.

Cooperation with SWITCH Africa Green: Complementarity of PAGE and SWITCH Africa Green programmes has been key to supporting the greening of the economies in common partner countries. Both initiatives are present in **Ghana, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Mauritius**. An important element of this success has been the sharing of PAGE National

Coordinators in three countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana and Mauritius). While PAGE is supporting the countries to create an enabling environment for economic transformation and working to strengthen institutional and individual capacities, SAG has mobilized and made a case for eco-entrepreneurship and sustainable consumption and production practices. Going forward, as these three countries phase-out of PAGE, SWITCH Africa Green will provide invaluable support to continue the transition to an IGE.

- **Burkina Faso:** The validation of the National Green Economy Strategy took place in July 2018 as part of SWITCH Africa Green's National Policy Dialogue in Ouagadougou. In 2019, PAGE agreed to integrate ten micro-enterprises in waste management, agriculture and food processing into a pilot coaching and training programme on green entrepreneurialism, already part of the SWITCH Africa Green programme. The two programmes have also worked closely on the development of the sustainability plan for PAGE Burkina Faso.
- **Mauritius:** The two programmes have undertaken complementary work on green industry. SWITCH Africa Green will continue supporting the country to reach its sustainable development objectives following phase out of PAGE.
- **South Africa:** PAGE in South Africa is designed to reinforce and complement other support programmes on the green economy, such as SWITCH Africa Green.

Cooperation with SWITCH Asia: PAGE and SWITCH Asia have been collaborating in **India and Mongolia**, as follows:

- **Mongolia:** Close cooperation between the two programmes enabled the adoption of an amendment to the Law on Procurement of Goods, Works and Services with State and Local Funds. The SWITCH-Asia Programme is providing further guidance on the implementation of the law.
- **India:** The two programmes are joining forces in India to support the Ministry of Finance to introduce sustainable public procurement at national and state levels including the possible leveraging of further funding to support the country on SPP from the Switch Asia II grant facility.

Cooperation with One Planet Network (OPN):

- **Senegal:** A group of OPN partners was set up to support Sustainable Public Procurement which is led by UNEP and comprised of FAO, China Environmental Certification Centre, ICLEI and independent SPP experts. PAGE collaborated with the group in 2020 to deliver several events on sustainable consumption and production (SCP), including an e-learning course, webinar and training workshop.
- **Mauritius:** The PAGE programme has used the SCP-HAT tool jointly developed by the OPN and the Life Cycle Initiative to conduct a rapid assessment of the national budget and illustrate the relative environmental footprints of the key sectors included in the budget. Additionally, there are plans for collaboration between OPN and PAGE India for 2021.

PAGE countries are also collaborating with various other initiatives working on green economy and related areas. Select examples from 2020 are included below:

- **UNEP with funding from the European Union:** In the framework of the project Inclusive Green Economy Policy Making for SDGs, in 2020 UNEP completed pilot tests of the Green Economy Policy Review in South Africa and Mongolia. **In Mongolia, the review centred on the National Green Development Policy and in South Africa it focused on greening the South African Industrial Policy Action Plan, which was validated at a virtual workshop on 8 December 2020.**
- **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED):** PAGE, under UNEP lead and in collaboration with the IIED, is supporting analysis on fiscal policies in Guyana aimed at transitioning agriculture to more sustainable operations. In Indonesia, PAGE is collaborating with IIED, as well as the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), on a new work stream on Food Loss and Waste.
- **Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO):** PAGE Barbados in collaboration with FAO, alongside UNDP and UNEP, has contributed to the successful development of Joint Programme proposal entitled: Harnessing Blue Economy Finance for SIDS Recovery and Sustainable Development.
- **ILO-SIDA Partnership:** PAGE Ghana, together with an ILO-SIDA Partnership project, has supported the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations on a National Strategy for Green Jobs. The strategy acts as an instrument of policy coherence across employment and environmental objectives. In Jiangsu Province, an online discussion on Just Transition in the Textile and Garment Sector in China was co-hosted under PAGE in November 2020 by ILO and the China National Textile and Apparel Council in partnership with an ILO-SIDA regional project on Decent Work in Garment Supply Chains in Asia.
- **International Finance Corporation (IFC):** PAGE is working with the IFC in the Kyrgyz Republic to develop recommendations for the implementation of sustainable finance.

5.2 GLOBAL COOPERATION

The new emerging focus on green economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic provided momentum for PAGE to establish new partnerships in 2020 and strengthen global collaboration for capacity-building and dissemination of IGE knowledge and ideas.

Partners for Inclusive Green Economy: PAGE is a member of the global inter-institutional group the Partners for Inclusive Green Economy – comprised of the Green Economy Coalition, GGKP, UNEP-UNDP PEA, ILO, UNID), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), GGGI, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and GIZ. The Partners meet regularly to share ideas and plan joint initiatives. In June 2020, the group launched a [policy paper](#) on Priority Options for a Just, Green and Transformative Recovery on World Environment Day.

Cooperation with NDC Partnership: PAGE and the NDC Partnership began their collaboration in August 2020, aligning efforts to strengthen governments' green recovery measures in response to COVID-19. With country and development partners, the NDC

Partnership's Economic Advisory initiative and PAGE's support for green and inclusive recovery will assist up to 49 countries throughout the coming year to incorporate green growth and climate resilience into their economic recovery plans and stimulus packages, to promote a job rich green and inclusive economic recovery. In addition, the PAGE and NDC committed to sharing knowledge and lessons from these countries across the globe.

Cooperation with SEED: PAGE and [SEED](#), a global partnership promoting sustainable development and enterprise support, are uniting efforts to help amplify the impact of green enterprises – particularly for a green and inclusive economic recovery from COVID-19 and a greener economy beyond the crisis. The collaboration aims at reducing poverty and sustaining livelihoods through the creation of green jobs and income, with small green enterprises as an entry point. At the country level, the focus will be on mutual programme countries, including India, Indonesia, Thailand, South Africa and Ghana.

Capacity-building and green economy learning: In 2020, PAGE collaborated with various partners on the development and implementation of global learning initiatives and programmes. These activities are briefly listed below as examples, with full details presented in Section 3:

- UNIDO and the Central European University organized the course 'Green Industrialization: Pathways towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development';
- PAGE through the UN CC: Learn platform launched four new self-paced e-learning courses as part of the UNITAR Learning for Green Recovery Initiative as well as a French version of the self-paced course on Introduction to Green Economy;
- Under PAGE, UNITAR and GGKP have jointly launched the [Green Learning Network](#), a digital space for education and training professionals from around the world; and
- In collaboration with GGKP and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany, the [Green Forum](#) was established as an online interactive community space for professionals to share and discuss insights on a range of themes and issues in the pursuit of a sustainable economic transformation.

6. SOUTH-SOUTH COLLABORATION

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) allows countries to exchange knowledge, to learn from each other and utilize in the local context evidence-based solutions from one country to another. The common frameworks provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Climate Agreement, offers excellent opportunities to establish good practices, identify factors for success and share those with countries that are also in search of pathways to a resource-efficient, low-carbon and socially inclusive economy.

An important aspect of SSTC lays in its primary purpose to empower countries to design tailored responses to development challenges taking into consideration evidence-based solutions from their peer countries. With 20 partner countries and eight funding partners engaged at different stages of a green economy transformation, including policy development at national and sectoral levels, capacity-building and awareness-raising, PAGE provides an ideal platform for SSTC. The specific situation in 2020 with all countries around the world affected by COVID-19, provided a new angle to South-South Cooperation, and PAGE countries have responded very positively to the opportunities provided by PAGE to exchange on experiences and potential avenues to address the crisis. Notable examples of cooperation throughout 2020 are outlined below.

West African Regional Learning Platform on Climate Change: PAGE is collaborating with the [West African Regional Learning Platform on Climate Change](#), a programme initiated by UN CC:Learn in partnership with the Agrhyment Regional Centre, to facilitate experience sharing, training and dialogue between countries and institutions in the region on learning on inclusive green economy and climate change. Activities include webinars, expert debates, training and the development of learning materials adapted to the context of the region, helping to strengthen synergies and collaboration. In 2020, three webinars were held, enabling eight countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte-d'Ivoire, Guiney Conakry, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo) to share experiences and resources, with more events to take place in 2021.

South Africa-Argentina Exchange on Green Jobs and Just Transition: In November 2020 a GGKP webinar on '[Green jobs and a just transition: Country perspectives](#)' featured a discussion on how governments and business can lead a just transition to greener economies. This provided an opportunity for Workers Unions of South Africa and Argentina to share lessons learned and best practices for overcoming social, political and technical challenges.

This was followed by bilateral exchanges between the unions of the two countries and the decision to feature South Africa as a case study within the PAGE Argentina Workers Union position paper on Green Recovery and Just Transition currently under development. The exchange is focused on developing national tripartite Just Transition Strategies and the

related question on how the Decent Work agenda can be strengthened through transition policies that are supported by all stakeholders and especially the social partners.

South-South exchange on the development of online monitoring platform: Since 2020, UNDP is supporting the development of an online platform with Guyana's Ministry of Finance to facilitate monitoring and reporting on national development plans and policy targets such as low carbon development. In this context, exchanges were facilitated through UNDP offices in Jamaica and Chile to connect the Ministries of Finance in the different countries through 'virtual study tours'. More specifically, the Ministry of Finance of Guyana started to exchange with the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) on lessons for developing and operating a national monitoring platform and the role of the Jamaica Statistical Institute (STATIN) for reliable national statistics.

Journalist workshop on green economy in Latin American region: As part of the seventh Latin America Green Awards, a virtual workshop took place in August 2020 for journalists in the Latin American region attended by 176 journalists and communication specialists from 17 countries. Led by four internationally recognized journalists, the workshop focused on how to communicate green economy efforts in the region and created a forum of exchange on innovative experiences and trends. Based on the knowledge acquired in the workshop, attendees will be able to support the dissemination of these efforts in their home countries.

Series of 'Family gatherings': Since May 2020, the PAGE Secretariat organized monthly virtual meetings between the PAGE National Coordinators, partner agencies and Secretariat to initially take stock of country impacts from COVID-19 and support a partnership-wide adjustment to new realities. Met with overwhelming enthusiasm and engagement, the series has grown into a regular dialogue and platform for PAGE counterparts to share best practices, discuss challenges and promote peer-to-peer learning, removing geographical barriers and strengthening ties.

7. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income and contributions: 2020 was the last year of PAGE's Operational Strategy 2016-2020 and a year in transition to the new PAGE Strategy for 2021-2030. The multi-year commitments from funding partners had allowed agencies and countries to already plan strategically into the future, and commitment to countries for ongoing work will transition into the new strategic phase. With the 4-year agreement signed in 2019 with the EC, PAGE has already secured funds for period up to the end of 2023.

2020 was further remarkable, as PAGE was identified as a programme ready to support countries' green economic recovery efforts as a way out of the COVID-19 related social and economic crises. This opened an unexpected opportunity for new income to the trust fund. In 2020, MPTF signed a new agreement with Germany for USD 7,057,200 - an additional contribution to support green economic recovery in PAGE countries. PAGE further secured additional funds for the implementation of the new Strategy, by signing an amendment with the Republic of Korea (for a contribution of USD 853,164) and an amendment with SIDA (for a contribution of USD 2,357,467). Switzerland, Finland and Norway proceeded with the payment of instalments under their current multi-year agreements. Going forward, the PAGE Multi-Partner Trust Fund will remain the primary avenue for PAGE funding and the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) will continue to administer the PAGE Trust Fund as Administrative Agent.

In parallel in 2020, UNEP continued the fund management related to the UNEP Trust Fund for the earlier four-year contribution of the EC (2017-2021).

With the new agreements signed in 2020, the total amount of PAGE funds received since 2013 are USD 87 million and since the establishment of the PAGE MPTF in 2017 USD 54.59 million¹.

The commitments and the contributions received in the PAGE MPTF in 2020 are summarized in Table 2 of the Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Administrative Agent for the PAGE Fund. The overview is limited to the commitments to the PAGE MPTF and does not include the 2017-2021 contribution from the EC or contributions received before 2017 in the UNEP Trust Fund.

2020 allocations: Throughout 2020, the disbursement of funds to agencies has been facilitated by the PAGE MPTF, based on the overall annual PAGE work plan and the country work plans for the 20 PAGE countries. Fund transfers are initiated after the Management Board approves a request for fund transfer to the MPTF Office.

¹ Includes pledges and the amount held by UNEP outside the MPTF.

From the income received in the PAGE MPTF, the MPTF Office has processed fund transfers in 2020 for:

- The remaining part of the 2019-2020 work plan (two transfers disbursed in 1st half of 2020), and
- the first part of the allocations under the 2020-2021 workplan (one transfers disbursed to agencies between August and December 2020).

The remaining part of the allocations under the 2020-2021 work plan and related to the green recovery programme will be processed in 2021.

Table 4, Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 in the Consolidated Annual Financial Report summarize the allocations per agencies from the PAGE MPTF, related projects and expenditures.

One aspect to note on the disbursements and associated expenditures is that the overview includes work plans with different timelines. Work plans for UNEP-GGKP and the UNDP Special Project cover multi-year programmes.

The delivery of country and global work led by UNEP under the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 overall workplans (different from the UNEP-GGKP project) and the larger part for the services of the PAGE Secretariat in 2020, was funded from the EC contribution held in the UNEP Trust Fund and is not included in the Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Administrative Agent.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABS	Access and benefits sharing
AUCA	American University of Central Asia
AVZUR	University Alliance for Green Economy and Sustainable Development
BAPPENAS	Ministry of National Development Planning (Indonesia)
BAT	Best Available Techniques
B-C-G	Bio-Circular-Green Economy
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BMU	German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CCICED	China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development
CE	Circular Economy
CEMPRE	Compromiso Empresarial Para el Recycling (Uruguay)
CIPPEC	Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth
CRSAP	Climate Change Resilience Strategy and Action Plan (Guyana)
CSCM	Civil Service College Mauritius
DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (South Africa)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EGS	Environmental Goods and Services
EGSS	Environmental Goods and Services Sectors
EMPAER	Mato Grosso Company of Research, Assistance and Rural Extension
ENA	Senegalese National School of Administration
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (Ghana)
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FLW	Food Loss and Waste
G20	Group of Twenty
GAIN	Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEC	Green Economy Coalition
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEP	Green Economy Progress
GES	Ghana Education Service
GET	Green Economy Transformation
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GGKP	Green Growth Knowledge Partnership
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GITA	Green Industry and Trade Assessment
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

GJAM	Green Jobs Assessment Model
GLN	Green Learning Network
GNCPC	Ghana National Cleaner Production Center
GSDS	Green State Development Strategy (Guyana)
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HPU	Housing and Public Utilities
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
ICF	International Finance Corporation
IFL	Innovative Financing Lab
IGE	Inclusive green economy
IGEM	Integrated Green Economy Measurement
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IMT	Institute of the World of Labour
ILO	International Labour Organization
IR	Indian Railways
ITC	International Training Center
IWA	Industrial Waste Assessment
LabEC	Circular Economy Laboratory (Uruguay)
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LCDC	Low Carbon Development Concept (Kazakhstan)
LCDI	Low Carbon Development Initiative (Indonesia)
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy (Guyana)
MCSAR	Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform (Mauritius)
MCSFF	Mongolia-China Sustainable Fibers Fund
MEDD	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Senegal)
MEGNR	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources (Kazakhstan)
MENB	Minister of Environment and National Beautification (Barbados)
MESTI	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (Ghana)
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism (Mongolia)
MGFC	Mongolian Green Finance Corporation
MIEM	Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining (MIEM)
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (Ghana)
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (India)
MOF	Ministry of Finance (Mongolia)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner-Trust Fund
MSMEs	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
MSW	Solid municipal waste
NAIR	National Academy of Indian Railways
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy (Mato Grosso State)
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission (Ghana)
NESDC	National Economic and Social Development Council

NESDP	National Economic and Social Development Plan (Thailand)
NGO	Non-government Organization
NGDP	National Green Development Policy (Mongolia)
NITI	National Institution for Transforming India
NPCC	National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (Mauritius)
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSP	National Strategic Plan (Barbados)
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PAG	Ghana's Coronavirus Alleviation Programme
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PAP	Priority Action Plan (Senegal)
PCI	Produce, Conserve and Include (Mato Grosso State)
PEA	Poverty Environment Action
PGEER	Public Green Economy Expenditure Review
PNDES	National Programme for Economic and Social Development (Burkina Faso)
PREN	Programme for the Relaunch of the National Economy (Senegal)
PRODUCE	Ministry of Production (Peru)
PSE	Plan Senegal Emergent
RPJMD	Regional Medium-term Development Plans (Indonesia)
RPJMN	National Medium-Term Development Plan (Indonesia)
RPRKD	Provincial Low Carbon Development Plans (Indonesia)
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
SAG	SWITCH Africa Green
SA-LEDS	South Africa Low Emission Development Strategy
SARUA	Southern African Regional University Association
SCIESU	State Committee for Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use (Kyrgyz Republic)
SCORE	Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprise
SCP	Sustainable consumption and production
SCP-HAT	Sustainable consumption and production Hotspot Analysis Tool
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDV	Sustainable Development Vision (Mongolia)
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEBRAE-MT	Brazilian Support Service for Micro and Small Enterprises - Mato Grosso
SEEA	System of Economic and Environmental Accounts
SEIAF	State Government Integrated Farming System (Mato Grosso State)
SERRP	Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (Ghana)
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIDS	Small Island Development State
SIYB	Start and Improve your Business
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SNDD	National Sustainable Development Plan (Morocco)

SNEV	Stratégie National de l'Économie Verte (Burkina Faso)
SPP	Sustainable public procurement
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
TSA	Targeted Scenario Analysis
UGBS	University of Ghana Business School
UN CC: Learn	One-UN Climate Change Learning Partnership
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP FI	United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UFMT	Federal University of Mato Grosso
UNCT	United Nations Country Teams
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WIEGO	Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing
WRI	World Resources Institute
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Wildlife
WxT	Work for Taxes
YREB	Yangtze River Economic Belt



PAGE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION
ON GREEN ECONOMY

PAGE would like to thank its funding partners:



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
and Nuclear Safety



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland



**NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**



Ministry of Environment
Republic of Korea



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO