

Section 3

Planning, Policy and Governance to Advance an Inclusive Green Economy

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Learning Unit

Developing Country Perspectives and Challenges

Developing countries face a number of varied challenges in their economic and social development, but are also in a position to take advantage of the opportunities that the green economy approach offers and “leapfrog” traditional patterns of industrialization and economic development. This unit gives an overview of developing country perspectives.

PAGE Green Economy Introductory Learning Materials



Different National Contexts across Developing Countries



➔ Many Challenges in Developing and Developed Countries are Similar...

Speaker's Notes:

- Common challenges for developed and developing countries include:
 - Unsustainable material and energy consumption
 - Increasing GHG emissions
 - Unemployment
 - Social inequality
 - Environment depletion

Key Message

- Emerging, lower-middle and upper-middle income countries face many of the challenges of developed countries: e.g. infrastructural and production lock-ins, high levels of pollution and emissions, and ensuring social welfare.

Green Economy Challenges in Particular in Least Developed Countries



➔ Many Challenges in Developing and Developed Countries are Different...

Speaker's Notes:

- Specific challenges for developing countries, in particular LDCs:
 - High dependence on natural resources
 - Insufficient environmental and social standards
 - High vulnerability to climate change
 - Lack of basic infrastructure
 - Insufficient financial, technical and institutional capacities of the government
 - In some case specific issues related to governance/corruption/rule of law - though not only specific to developing countries - may have more impact in developing countries and make it more difficult when related to business environment and law enforcement.

Key Message

- Least developed/ low-income countries face challenges related to high dependency on natural capital, lack of infrastructure and access to basic services, and poverty eradication.

«Green Economy» Concerns of Developing Countries

- “Commodification” of Nature
- Market Mechanism vs. Rights-based Approach
- Green Protectionism and Conditionalities
- “One Size Fits All” Approach



Speaker's Notes:

- This slide lists some of the challenges and concerns related to the concept of a green economy, which a number of developing countries have expressed in advance of the Rio+20 conference.

“Commodification” of Nature

- Several country submissions for the UNCSD highlighted that the concept of the green economy should not lead to the privatization and exploitation of nature (e.g. Bolivarian Alliance for the People of Our America – Peoples’ Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP), Declaration: Nature has No Price, 2010: <http://pwccc.wordpress.com/2010/11/05/declaration-alba-tcp-nature-has-no-price/>)

Market Mechanism vs. Rights-based Approach

- Some critics perceive the green economy as an approach that stimulates market mechanisms designed to exploit profits, instead of guaranteeing basic rights.

Green Protectionism and Conditionalities

- Some developing countries have raised concerns that the implementation of a green economy is an agenda of developed countries that could lead to trade protectionism and conditionalities including on development aid.

“One Size Fits All” Approach

- Concerns have been expressed with respect to the green economy being devised as a common model for all countries to follow.

Key Message

- Some of the concerns related to the green economy transition, that have been raised by developing countries, are increasingly being recognised and addressed at the international level and through international support programmes.

The Number of Countries adopting Green Economy is growing

Examples of countries adopting green economy strategies:

- **Chile** → National Green Growth Strategy (2014-2022)
- **China** → 12th Five Year Plan
- **Germany's** → Energy Transition / Energiewende (2010 - 2050)
- **Mozambique** → Green Economy Roadmap and National Development Strategy (2015-2035)
- **Cambodia** → National Green Growth Roadmap
- **Ethiopia** → Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE): 2011 - 2025
- **South Korea** → National Strategy for Green Growth (2009-2050) and Five-Year Plan for Green Growth (2009 – 2013)

Speaker's Notes:

- This slide lists some of the green economy strategy or similar policies that have been adopted by countries around the world.

Key Message

- Green economy (green growth) is becoming a preferred approach for countries around the world to achieve poverty reduction, environmental protection, resource efficiency and economic growth in an integrated way.

Example: Social and Economic Development via Tunisia's Solar Plan

- Upscaling national market for Renewables Energy and Energy Efficiency technologies
- Achieve energy security and independence from fossil fuel imports
- Reducing electricity price
- Job creation
- CO2 emissions reduction in targeted economic sectors



Speaker's Notes:

- This slide show-cases the experience of Tunisia in implementing Tunisia's Solar Plan (Plan Solaire Tunisien), a national strategy for developing a diverse and sustainable energy supply for the country.

Context

- Energy consumption in Tunisia is rising steadily as a result of economic and social developments. However, the cost of supplying energy is currently high and the way it is generated has a negative impact on both the environment and the climate.
- The country's heavy dependence on fossil energy, most of which has to be imported, is proving increasingly detrimental to the national budget and economy.
- The plan was approved in 2009 and reflects Tunisia's ambition to become a regional hub for industrial and energy production and aims to enable the country's transition towards a low carbon energy pathway.
- The plan focuses on:
 - A significant improvement in energy efficiency for a better control of energy demand; and
- A substantial use of renewable energy to diversify the mix energy for power generation.

Key Message

- Tunisia's Solar Plan helps reduce consumption of fossil energy sources such as oil and natural gas, thus driving down energy prices. Economic activity is stimulated and new jobs created. Reducing pollutant emissions improves air quality in Tunisia and helps to mitigate global climate change.

Further Reading:

- Mitigation Partnership: http://mitigationpartnership.net/sites/default/files/tunisia_gpa_long_0.pdf