



CC DARE Catalyzing a Green Economy in Africa

Success Stories from Countries

"Over the past two years, the Green Economy has gone from theory to practice... The inherent logic offers, perhaps for the first time, a sustainable growth paradigm that is as much a developing country agenda as it is a developed economy one".

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UNEP

A photograph of two large white wind turbines standing in a lush green field under a clear blue sky. The turbines are positioned on the left side of the frame, with their long blades extending outwards. The field is filled with low-lying green plants, and the horizon is visible in the distance.

The Green Economy and its vitality for Africa

Green economy (green growth) is the means by which the current economy can make the transition to a sustainable economy. It involves improving human wellbeing and social equity, promoting growth and development while reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, minimizing inefficient use of natural resources, maintaining biodiversity among others. It requires further “decoupling” of environmental impacts from economic growth while reducing poverty and improving health and jobs prospects. Countries still do not take full account of the costs of inaction on environmental challenges such as climate change, and inefficient use of energy and resources. Such cost of inaction can be considerable, especially for developing countries, Africa amongst them- whose economies rely more heavily on natural resources and where climate change is already hitting hardest. A new paradigm is needed to ensure that countries take better advantage of the larger potential benefits that can accompany the move towards greener economies. A paradigm which recognizes that to build a prosperous economy, “green” and “economy/growth” can no longer be considered in isolation.

Green Economy as an opportunity for Sustainable Development in Africa

In line with the principle of sustainable development, the green growth paradigm responds to the need for a new model of growth that is much less intensive in natural resources and that can lead to social well-being and poverty reduction in Africa. A major challenge in moving towards sustainable development is to balance and coordinate different interest: between economic growth/job creation and environmental integrity, between the rich and the poor, and between the present and the future generations. A green economy, by turning environmental imperatives into viable economic activities, helps reconcile the need for economic growth and the need to ensure the environmental basis for continued growth into the future. The green economy can contribute to the achievement of the MDG especially the achievement of the poverty eradication.

CC DARE: A Green Model of Growth in Africa

CC DARE approach in delivering the Green Economy:

The Climate Change, Development & Adaptation Programme (CC DARE) jointly implemented by UNEP and UNDP and funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs is using technical and financial assistance to respond to nationally defined needs of UN member states.

The programme approach is premised on using timely, flexible and targeted actions which constitute a true recipe of a fiscal stimulus that offers the opportunity for triggering bigger actions within the bigger framework of national development in Africa. Using this approach in the continent has shown its appropriateness on how best to realize a low-carbon, resource efficient economy for the 21st century. The uniqueness of the programme to kick off and rollout self-driven national actions using technical and financial backstopping in overcoming immediate and urgent capacity gaps is creating an enabling environment which is most needed in spurring and fostering the green economy in the African continent and beyond. The peculiarity of the funding approach used by CC DARE is a stunning-true-testament that even with smaller funds, activities can still be implemented especially where they serves as a stimulus of targeted actions that foster green growth and remove barriers to bigger actions.

CC DARE catalyzing an enabling environment for the green economy

Effective green growth requires an enabling environment- one that grants the poor citizens the rights, resources and access they need to sustain and benefit from markets, natural resources amongst others. A key lesson from decades of development experience is the importance of creating appropriate policies and effective institutions at all levels to support people-centered, sustainable development, green growth. The lesson is important to apply to the green economy, given the significant overlap between the green economy and development and of course the achievement of the Millennium development goals. Granting the citizens resource rights, representation in governance processes, participation rights and fair access to markets can build the resilience of communities and help them to shift towards a sustainable economy while at the same time adapting to the changing climate.

The CC DARE approach of engaging different actors/players through national and sub-national levels have helped in the mobilization of national interest, national governments, civil societies which have helped created the type of enabling environment needed for the green economy in Africa. The simplified, practical, easy to implement approach utilized by this programme has shown that tackling multiple developmental needs; opportunities could emerge from the actions that fosters green growth.

CC DARE addressing the Green Economy

Success Stories from countries

The examples below illustrate a positive benefit stream from specific green investments and policies, that if scaled up and integrated into a comprehensive strategy, could offer an alternative development pathway, one that is pro-growth, pro-jobs and pro-poor.

Four examples amongst many in countries are summarized below, highlighting their economic, social and environmental benefits. The collection of these few examples underlines that a green economy strategy is not limited to national or other government policy levels but can take root wherever there is the leadership and vision to make this transformation.

1. Seychelles Schools save 250 USD on their monthly water bills from CC DARE Rainwater Harvesting project

Seychelles has two seasons, a rainy and a dry season. During the rainy seasons, when rain is in abundance, most of it is lost through run-offs. And during the dry season, water is scarce and what has been collected for distribution is usually not enough to meet consumption demand. Moreover, due to increased economic



and social development, as well as population growth, the demand for water consumption has increased tremendously. To address this, the country invested heavily in the construction of reservoirs and desalination plants, but this didn't help but instead skyrocketed the use of fossil fuel which only helped to emit more GhGs. Increased school population resulted in increased demand for water resulting in high water bills which led to cuts in the school budget.

- In an effort to address this and at the same time demonstrate adaptation to climate change in Schools, CC DARE assisted Seychelles with a timely-targeted rainwater harvesting project whose outputs created enormous green economic benefits and helped paved the way for other donors to inject funds into this great initiative.
- The outputs of this project enabled the school for the first time to make a saving of US\$ 250 on water bills. This is a great saving for the school as the money will be invested on other teaching and learning resources which are very much needed after the local economic crisis. The Water harvested at the school is now being used for school gardens, clean ups and toilets as well as during the dry seasons when there is water restriction.
- The Ministry of Education, with the support of the Public Utilities Corporation

(PUC), Sustainability for Seychelles and the Sea Level Rise Foundation is building on the successful CC DARE implemented project and further helping schools carry out the project and at the same time working towards passing a bill to include rainwater harvesting systems in building codes. This has attracted a lot of donor interest and the Environment Trust Fund has opted to sponsor 5 schools. <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=20152>.

2. CC DARE spurring a Green Economy with New Climate Change Adaptation Techniques in Xai-Xai City Mozambique

Mozambique is one country that suffers from pluvial top soil erosion and the problem is compounded by rising sea levels and coastal due to climate change. These problems are evident in most of the coastal cities of Mozambique but particularly acute in Xai Xai city which is situated on both sides of the exit of the Limpopo River as it empties into the Indian Ocean. In January 2010, CC DARE assisted the Municipal Council of the City of Xai Xai in the development of new adaptation techniques to assist the inhabitants of the City of Xai-Xai to adapt to the higher risk of pluvial top soil erosion that results from higher and more erratic rainfall. The project introduced sustainable and economical techniques for adaptation which squares with the PARPA (Plan of Action for Absolute Poverty Reduction) strategies and the Agenda 2025 which is being implemented by the Government of Mozambique in order to assure a sustainable development.

- The outputs of this project have benefited 15,000 people around the affected neighborhoods. The blocks and masonry techniques/skills acquired by the youth has led to an emerging block industry which is very vital for job creation.
- The vegetation cover which stabilizes the infrastructure is providing beautifying scenery which now constitutes a touristic arena with a huge potential to spurring a green economy.
- The construction of barriers which halted increased soil erosion run off improved the overall soil fertility in the area, which, in concurrence with increased rainfall, has led to a higher agricultural production, which in turn has led to increased livelihoods of inhabitants of the city.
- Also the technical training provided to the youth and women groups on the techniques of construction and maintenance of the infrastructure including tools, block making, masonry, etc. and identification of plant species, nursery development and maintenance, transplanting and maintenance of the plants and vegetation cover have strengthened their skills. The output of this project has helped Mozambique in sourcing other funds such as 13.3 million USD from the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF).

Highway in XAI XAI



Before intervention



After intervention



3. Equitable and sustainable woodlot management increases council revenues by 64% in Makete District, Tanzania

In an effort to minimize climate change risks on development efforts in Tanzania and empowered disadvantaged men and women, CC DARE assisted the country to carry out a study on improving smallholder livelihoods through woodlots management as an adaptation measure to climate change in Makete districts. The study assessed management practices of smallholder woodlots and marketing of timber with special attention to gender roles and tenure rights of land in order to improve livelihood of smallholders through woodlot management and gender mainstreaming. Woodlot user groups developed their own operational plans, set harvesting rules, set rates and prices for products, and determine how surplus income is distributed or spent. There is evidence of significant improvement in the conservation of woodlots (both improved area and improved density) and enhanced soil and water management.

- The outputs of this project has helped spurred both economic and environmental benefits. District financial report indicate that, more than 64% of the council revenues for the financial year 2009/2010 (leapfrogging from Tanzania Shilling 217,909,000 to 357,758,000) were generated from collection of timber royalty which is produced from smallholder CC DARE woodlot implemented project.
- “Tree growers SACCOS” for low income people has been set up to give credit to members who need early money using their woodlots as collaterals. This has promoted inclusive growth and promoted savings and credit operations among members, including loans to finance income generation activities.
- The Research helped developed good practice guideline for woodlots management in Makete district provided tools to empower the disadvantaged women and girls in the woodland management and marketing. This was carefully done by involving men, women, boys and girls and empowering them with information on tree species selection; source of planting material; land preparation; field planting and spacing; woodlot tending activities; suitable harvesting time; and marketing channels for timber. The flexibility with the implemented actions of CC DARE that targeted specific barriers allowed for a quick turnover and generated the catalytic effect for larger intervening actions by attracting national government interest. The output of this project has helped Tanzania in sourcing other funds such as **11 million USD from the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF)**.

Woodlots in Makete district -



Before Intervention



After Intervention

4. Improvement of the Land Suitability and Land Use Map Plan stretches Rwanda's opportunities for the establishment of new carbon sinks and potential participation in the global carbon trade

The rolling terrain of Rwanda particularly when cleared of its vegetation cover, exacerbate the risks of extreme climate events such as landslide, gully erosions etc. especially under torrential rainfall triggering earth movements. The consequences on human life and property could be devastating especially where human settlement and activities are wrongly situated on the sloppy land predominantly characterising the landscape of the country. In an effort to speed up the integration of climate risk consideration into policy and national planning to curb vulnerability to climate impacts, CC DARE provided timely-targeted support to a nationally driven projects on Adapting to Climate Change through Land and Biodiversity Conservation. This project swiftly and timely implemented over six months period have paved the way to bigger actions by guiding Grand National implementation using national funds; one of rare cases for green adaptation investment outside of multi-lateral or bilateral funding.

The output of this project in the improvement of the Land Suitability and Land Use Map Plan stretches Rwanda's opportunities for the establishment of new carbon sinks and potential participation in the global carbon trade besides addressing adaptation and land degradation. Local government implementation of the relocation of communities to lower and safe grounds supported by national budgetary allocation represents the type of devolution of power and partnership that is required to fastrack the implementation of green investments but keeping the actions within national development programmes.

The updating of the old Land Suitability and Land Use Map and Plan of the Gishwati has proven to be very effective tool in providing a useful guide to the Local Government Authorities of the Nyambihu District to manage human settlements and the rehabilitation of the natural ecosystems of the area.

The availability of an updated Land Suitability and Land Use Map and Plan for the Gishwati Area of Nyabihu District has provided the opportunity for the *Ministry of Agriculture of Rwanda* to access 25 Million USD for its implementation. Furthermore, the output of this projects is also helping Rwanda in sourcing other funds such as 15.9 million USD from the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF). This is stunning example that adaptation stimulus works for green economy.



Tree planting for the rehabilitation of the hill slopes after relocation of the communities

5. Rehabilitation of Togo small dams spurs economic activities

Like many countries located in the transition zone between the Sahara Desert in the north and the Guinea Forest in the south, the northern part of Togo uses Earth Water Reservoirs as water supply sources during periods of water shortage. This technology has worked for many years in this region and provided water for communities and their livestock during difficult times. Based on the Initial National Communications and National Adaptation Programme of Action of Togo and 2007 IPCC Assessment Reports water stress will exacerbated by climate change in this region. The current state of the Water Retention Reservoirs will be inadequate to provide water for communities and their livestock under the projected climate change. In July 2009, CC DARE provided the Government of Togo, through the Department of Village Water Supply financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate some of the Water Reservoirs and use the economic information and expertise gained during the rehabilitation to develop a project proposal for the rehabilitation of all Water Reservoirs in Togo. The outputs of this project has enabled the local communities to have improved access to water. The completion of the project has peg accurate economic figures which will be useful in the determination of cost of replication in similar Districts of Togo and within the Region.

- The rehabilitation has translated to an increase in the capacity of the storage from 9,000 to 24,000 cubic meters of water at Damone Reservoir and from 50,000 to 70,000 cubic meters of water at Timbou Reservoir.
- The cost of the rehabilitation of these reservoirs has provided reliable economic data and information related to concrete adaptation activity that is useful for future interventions.

- Based on the lessons already learnt from this project, replication and up-scaling of the activity in other parts of Togo and the Region will involve reduced cost.
- Downpours of heavy rain will be collected from these rehabilitated dams and will be harvested for domestic and agro-pastoral consumption.
- Landscaping the surroundings of these water points with appropriate vegetation cover reduces evaporation and encourages accumulation and maintenance of biodiversity.

The following represent pictorial show of activities before and after project intervention.



Fig 1: Small Rural dam - **Before intervention**



Fig. 2: Small Rural dam- **After**

For further information please contact:

¹Richard Munang Richard.Munang@unep.org;

Bubu Jallow Bubu.Jallow@unep.org;

Johnson Nkem Johnson.Nkem@undp.org

