

Introduction to Green Economy

*A DEVCO Training Course Prepared in Partnership with UNITAR,
UNEP and ILO*

27 September 2013, Brussels

Annotated Reference List

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2011.

Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

Available at:

http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/88/documents/ger/ger_final_dec_2011/Green%20EconomyReport_Final_Dec2011.pdf

This analytical report demonstrates that the greening of economies is not generally a drag on growth but rather a new engine of growth. It can also be a net generator of decent jobs and a vital strategy for the elimination of persistent poverty. The report seeks to motivate policy makers to create the enabling conditions for increased investments in a transition to a green economy. It makes a compelling economic and social case for investing two per cent of global GDP in greening ten central sectors of the economy in order to shift development and unleash public and private capital flows onto a low-carbon, resource-efficient path.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2012.

Measuring Progress towards an Inclusive Green Economy.

Available at:

http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/88/documents/research_products/Measuring%20Progress%20report.pdf

This working paper introduces a framework for the use of indicators in developing and tracking green economy policies. The objective is to provide brief guidance on the use of indicators in major stages of policymaking using environmental issues as an entry point. The paper provides examples of policies and the indicators that can be utilized to evaluate them, as well as the next steps that could facilitate the use of this framework.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2013.

Green Economy and Trade: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

Available at:

<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/88/GETReport/pdf/FullReport.pdf>

This study undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), seeks to identify and assess trade opportunities associated with a green economy transition, and in particular how developing countries can increase exports to respond to international demand for environmentally-friendly goods and services. The study focuses on six economic sectors considered to have a high potential to generate trade opportunities while contributing to the transition to a green economy: agriculture, fisheries, forests, manufacturing, renewable energy and tourism.

United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG). 2011.

Working Towards a Balanced and Inclusive Green Economy, A United Nations System-wide Perspective.

Available at:

<http://www.unemg.org/Portals/24182/Documents/IMG/GreenEconomy/report/GreenEconomy-Full.pdf>

This comprehensive report assesses how the United Nations system could coherently support countries in transitioning to a green economy. The report facilitates a common understanding of the green economy approach and the integrated measures required for the transition to an inclusive green economy United Nations. 2012. The Future We Want.

International Labour Organization (ILO). 2011.

Skills for Green Jobs: A Global View - Synthesis Report Based on 21 Country Studies. Geneva

Available at:

http://www.ilo.org/wcmstp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_156220.pdf

This analytical report examines the experiences of 21 developed and developing countries in adjusting their training provision to meet the new demands of a greener economy. It shows that skills development is critical to unlocking the employment potential of green growth, yet skills shortages are becoming an obstacle in realizing this potential. The report recommends that countries devise strategies based on well-informed policy decisions, social dialogue, and coordination among ministries and between employers and training providers.

International Labour Organization (ILO). 2012.

Working Towards Sustainable Development: Opportunities for Decent Work and Social Inclusion in a Green Economy: ILO. Geneva.

Available at:

http://www.ilo.org/wcmstp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_181836.pdf

This report is the result of the collaborative efforts of the Green Jobs Initiative (which includes UNEP, ILO, IOE and ITUC) and the International Institute for Labour Studies of ILO. It explores the drivers of change and transmission channels for the shift to a green economy. It also identifies successful policies and good practices, to ensure that the green economy is characterized by gains in job quality, reductions in poverty and improvements in social inclusion. The report starts with an overview of the main environmental concerns and analyzes the sustainability of the current economic development model. The next chapters discuss the specific challenges, drivers of change, opportunities and technical and policy options in seven key sectors. Lastly, evidence on net employment effects, highlighting the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges, is examined.

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). 2011.

The Transition to a Green Economy: Benefits, Challenges and Risks from a Sustainable Development Perspective. Report by a Panel of Experts to Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Available at:

http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/Green%20Economy_full%20report.pdf

This comprehensive report examines the impact of the green economy transition, underscoring the links between the economy and environment to achieve sustainable development. It contains three papers: The first one, by José Antonio Ocampo, looks at the macroeconomic policy implications of the transition to the green economy. The second, by Aaron Cosbey, focuses on the interlinked issues of trade, investment and technology. The third, by Martin Khor, considers the risks that this concept generates for developing countries and the domestic and international policies necessary to promote the green economy in these countries according to the principles of sustainable development.

**United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). 2012.
A Series of Guidebooks to the Green Economy.**

Available at:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1224>

In order to overcome knowledge gaps, demystify concepts, and collect valuable national practices UN-DESA has produced a series of Guidebooks on the Green Economy. The first issue of the Guidebooks centers on the history, definitions, and a recent publications in the GE/GG area. The second one explores green economic principles, while the third one focuses on green economy policies and international experience with national strategies.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). 2011.

UNIDO Green Industry: Policies for supporting Green Industry

Available at:

http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/Services/Green_Industry/web_policies_green_industry.pdf

This report identifies the broad range of policy measures required by national or federal governments to promote and facilitate the greening of industries and accelerate growth in their environmental goods and services sector. UNIDO has prepared a 3-stage policy programme for assessing the effectiveness of governments in developing countries in supporting the greening of their industries through national strategies, policies and integrated governance structures. The report focuses on small to Medium enterprises (SMEs) in the manufacturing sector; however, the issues raised are equally relevant for other industry sub-sectors (e.g. services and extraction sectors). Emphasis is placed on policies which impact sustainable production rather than consumption, although it is acknowledged the two concepts are inextricably linked.

The Future We Want, Rio+20 Outcome Document. 2012

Available at:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/727The%20Future%20We%20Want%2019%20June%201230pm.pdf>

The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development adopted the outcome document, The Future We Want, which addresses a range of global issues to advance sustainable development. The document calls for a wide range of actions, among many other points, including: launching a process to establish sustainable development goals; detailing how the green economy can be used as a tool to achieve sustainable development; and strengthening the UN Environment Programme and establishing a new forum for sustainable development.

Green Growth Knowledge Platform: GGKP (UNEP, OECD, WB, GGGI). 2013.

Moving towards a Common Approach on Green Growth Indicators: A Green Growth Knowledge Platform Scoping Paper

Available at:

<http://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Paris%20Conference/GGKP%20Moving%20towards%20a%20Common%20Approach%20on%20Green%20Growth%20Indicators.pdf>

This report makes a contribution towards developing a comprehensive framework to monitor progress on GG/GE and is a joint effort by the OECD, UNEP, the World Bank, and GGGI as part of their collaboration on the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP). The report first offers a conceptual framework to help select and organize indicators, then proposes a "long list" of indicators selected from among the multitude of indicators that are currently used. Then it explores a proposed dashboard of headline indicators to be used in order to monitor progress towards set goals. The final section looks at the limitations of these approaches and the challenges ahead.

**Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). 2011.
Towards Green Growth. Paris: OECD.**

Available at:

<http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/48224539.pdf>

This publication summarises the work done by OECD on development of a green growth strategy. As a lens through which to examine growth, the analysis presented here is an important first step to designing green growth strategies while at the same time providing an actionable policy framework for policy makers in advanced, emerging and developing economies.

**Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). 2011.
Tools for delivering on Green Growth**

Available at:

<http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/48012326.pdf>

Concise policy toolkit, which aims to provide concrete recommendations and measurement tools to support countries' efforts to achieve economic growth and development. This document accompanies the publications Towards Green Growth and Towards Green Growth: Monitoring Progress -OECD Indicators.

Poverty-Environment Partnership (PEP). 2013.

Building an Inclusive Green Economy for All: Opportunities and Challenges for Overcoming Poverty and Inequality

Available at:

<http://povertyenvironment.net/files/PEP%20GE4All-Final-logos%20front.pdf>

This report finds that many developing and least developed countries (LDCs) are pursuing a transition towards low-carbon, resource efficient economies, and provides policy options to encourage the growth of the green economy. The paper also includes five "building blocks" necessary to move towards a green economy, namely: the development of national economic and social policies; increased local rights and capacities; the development of inclusive green markets; harmonized international policies and support; and new metrics for measuring progress.

World Bank. 2012.

Inclusive Green Growth: The Pathway to Sustainable Development.

Available at:

<http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821395516>

This analytical report argues that sustained growth is necessary to achieve the urgent development needs of the world's poor and that there is substantial scope for growing cleaner without growing slower. It highlights that green growth is necessary, efficient, and affordable. This is seen as the only way to reconcile the rapid growth required to bring developing countries to the level of prosperity to which they aspire with the needs of the more than 1 billion people still living in poverty and the imperative of a better managed environment.