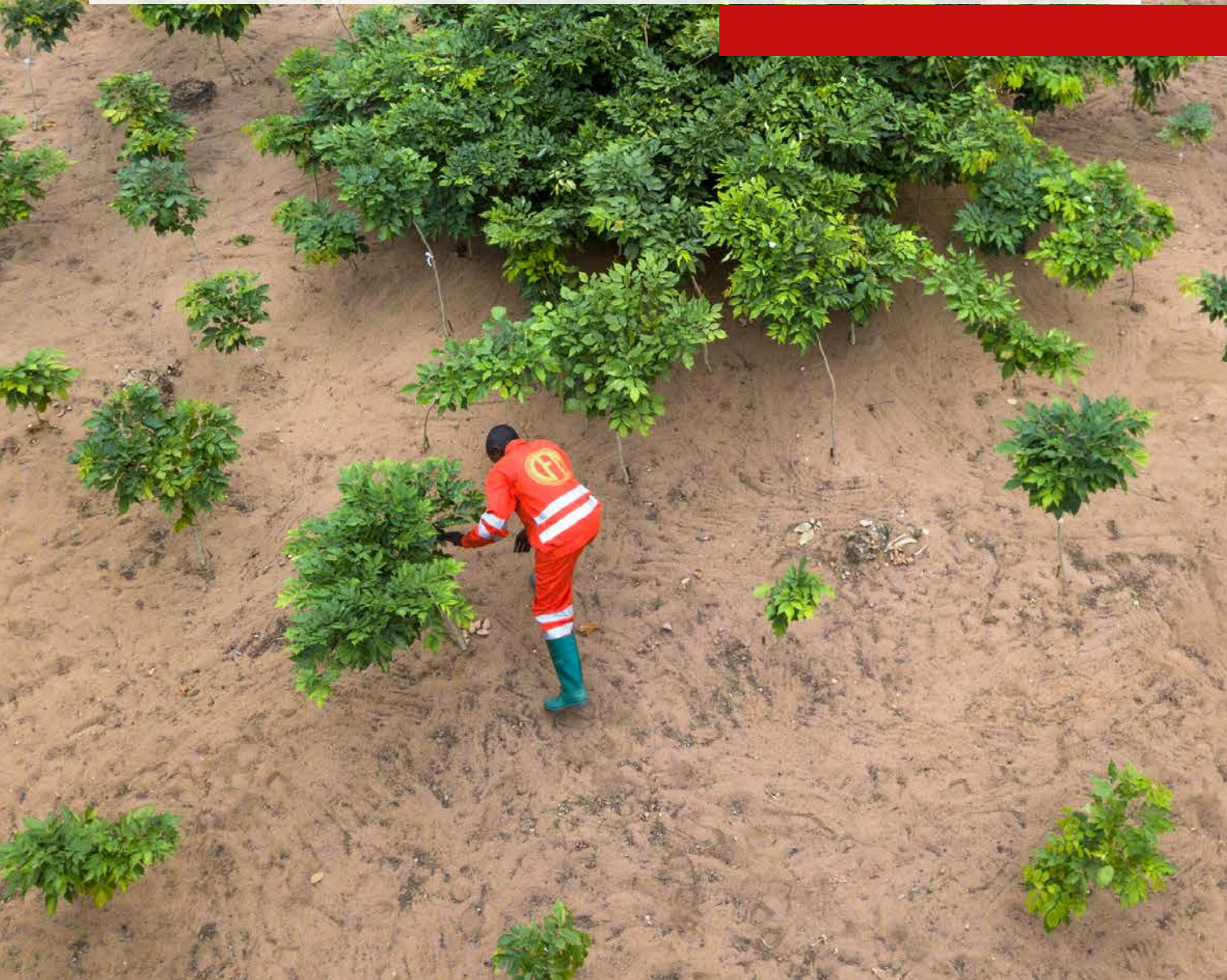


# Green Recovery for Practitioners

Setting the Course Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive  
and Resilient Transformation



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Berlin, Brussels, December 2020

# 1

# Green recovery: From ambition to action

This paper provides a **practical framework that captures the key elements of a green recovery** to inform the work of economic advisors who seek to support sustainable, inclusive and resilient recoveries for the ministries they work with. It draws upon and sits within a suite of existing frameworks and definitions by the [UN](#), [UN PAGE](#), [IMF](#), and the [Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action](#), amongst others. The paper first introduces the concept of a green recovery, setting out the **importance and benefits** of bringing this topic into the work of economy, finance and planning ministries. It then breaks down the **different components of a green recovery**, providing a practical list of stakeholders, tools and outcomes. Finally, it summarises **key takeaways** for economic advisors to consider in their assignments.

Green recovery is a widely used term for packages of measures which address the social, economic and political consequences of the Covid-19 crisis in a way that **sets a course for long-term structural reforms and a transformative shift towards sustainability, biodiversity protection, resilience and climate neutrality**. It can be pursued through a range of institutions, legal and policy approaches, including drawing upon existing tools developed through **established green economy approaches**.

[Evidence shows](#) that **green measures can boost economic growth, strengthen social cohesion and accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality more effectively than carbon-intensive recovery measures** (see Box 1). A green recovery will be **vital for making progress on international, national and local agendas**, including the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The term ‘recovery’ infers a longer,

enduring timeframe, beyond the short-term stabilisation measures applied at the beginning of the pandemic. **Therefore, the focus of this paper lies on medium- to long-term measures, investments and institutional changes** that can be made.

### Box 1: Key arguments in support of a green recovery

It can [boost job creation](#) by a factor of three, compared to fossil fuel investments.

It leads to [stronger economic growth](#) rather than stimulating demand in the short-term only.

It ensures a [better return on investment](#) and reduces financial risks.

It is backed by [strong public support](#), with the highest backing in India (81%) and Mexico (80%); as well as by the governments of major economies – including the [EU](#), [South Korea](#), [Japan](#) and newly elected [US government](#).

It is supported by scientific evidence about the [climate](#) and [biodiversity](#) crises and urgent need to act this decade.

It can help tackle biodiversity loss, which poses many [risks to societies and economies](#), including the risk of future pandemics.

It can strengthen social cohesion if linked to [just transition](#) plans, with other social co-benefits such as [better health](#).

It makes countries more [resilient to future crises](#), with developing countries often particularly vulnerable to [physical](#) and [transitional](#) climate risk.

It supports [green leapfrogging](#) and avoids stranded assets.

Decisions made during and after the pandemic will be central in determining whether it is possible for national economies to remain within ecological boundaries. Recovery programmes and stimulus packages put together by governments can lock large amounts of finance into multi-year programmes and infrastructure projects. **While there is growing recognition of the benefits of a green recovery**, many [governments continue to support high-carbon recovery strategies](#). Tracking of existing efforts suggests that high-level pledges to support green recovery are often not accompanied by concrete measures and funding (see: [Carbon Brief](#), [Energy Policy Tracker](#), [Greenness of Stimulus Index](#), [IMF](#), [OECD](#), [Sorbonne Business School](#) and [University of Oxford](#)). In addition, many countries are constrained in their recovery efforts by

macroeconomic circumstances. For this reason, it is important that ministries have the **capacity, knowledge and resources** to support an effective and implementable green recovery.

**Countries are differently positioned to pave the way for a green recovery.** Some nations can afford to develop large stimulus packages, while others might struggle to meet the basic needs of their citizens and stabilise their economies – and may even redirect capital away from sustainable development programmes in order to meet urgent requirements. Other national circumstances – such as availability of and access to natural resources, social dynamics, feasible decarbonisation pathways, politics, and governance – will also inform the specific measures that are appropriate on a country-by-country basis.

In order to provide the most appropriate guidance, economic advisors can first **assess the social and economic impacts of Covid-19** on the countries they are working in. Box 2 outlines some tools and resources that might be considered, with a full table of examples in Annex III. This analysis can act as a departure point for the provision of advice for a green recovery, helping to identify the sectors and social groups most affected by the current crisis, in turn informing the priority areas to address.

### **Box 2: Tools for conducting socio-economic assessments**

The [International Labor Organisation \(ILO\)](#) has provided guidelines and a template to support Covid-19 impact studies.

The [UN Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#) has compiled assessment reports of the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, with regional and country analysis.

[World Bank datasets](#) provide real-time data and statistical indicators related to Covid-19.

Sectoral assessments have been compiled by the [International Energy Association](#), [UNCTAD](#), the [Food and Agriculture Organisation](#) and others.

Nature and climate tools include the [Climate Action Tracker](#), which assesses the impact of policy measures on progress towards climate goals, and the [Geneva Environment Network on Covid-19 and the Environment](#), which provides an oversight of research and data related to sustainability.

# 2

## What makes a recovery green?

There are various terms used to describe a transformative economic recovery that addresses the climate and biodiversity crisis in a way that is inclusive and promotes social justice. Terms commonly used include ‘*green recovery*’, ‘*build forward better*’ and ‘*better recovery*’. There are value-based differences which inform the approach of different countries, including different understandings of economic prosperity and models of human development, some of which are detailed in Annex II.

This section outlines common components that underpin a recovery which is green – **providing a practical list of outcomes** (Graphic 1), **stakeholders** (Table 1), **ways to define ‘green’** (Table 2), as well as **tools and examples** (Table 3). The sum of these parts can enable societal and economic transformations for a resilient, inclusive and sustainable recovery. As stated above, there is **no ‘one size fits all’** approach and the different elements need to be adapted to regional and local circumstances. Different regional understandings of a green recovery are included in Annex I.

### Stakeholder engagement

While recognising that economic advisors will not be able to engage with all stakeholders listed in Table 1, it is nonetheless important that a green recovery entails **engagement with actors across the whole of society**. A phased approach can be considered. As a rule of thumb, stakeholders should **first be engaged prior to decision-making, with ongoing dialogue, consultation and evaluation**, with focus on ensuring that those most affected – particularly marginalised and vulnerable groups – are centred in the dialogue in an inclusive manner. This might be aligned with best practices, such as [Free, Prior and Informed Consent](#). It should also be aligned with a [just transition approach](#), considering workers and communities impacted from a shift away from high-carbon industries and practices.

Graphic 1: Outcomes for a green recovery



## Defining green and avoiding high-carbon investments

It is important to note that a **green recovery necessarily excludes certain activities and outcomes** – for instance, investments in fossil fuels or polluting activities. In the European Union (EU), a ‘**do no harm**’ principle will inform decision-making regarding whether measures risk undermining a green recovery. Various jurisdictions have made efforts to **define what activities are green or contribute to a sustainable transition** through instruments including taxonomies and green bond standards. China is taking the lead on international harmonisation of taxonomies within the [International Platform on Sustainable Finance](#).

Table 2 outlines some existing frameworks and tools which can be utilised in the context to promote a green economy. **A green recovery might be considered a condensed, concentrated, accelerated manifestation of a green economy** – and existing toolkits can be used where possible, rather than seeking to reinvent the wheel.

Table 1: Stakeholders to engage for a green recovery

Which stakeholders can be engaged for a green recovery?
<p><b>International bodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● International governance bodies (e.g. UNEP, G77, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO, UNITAR)</li> <li>● International finance institutions (e.g. International Monetary Fund, Inter-American Development Bank)</li> <li>● International aid bodies (e.g. World Food Programme, Red Cross)</li> <li>● International knowledge and technology sharing forums (e.g. <a href="#">Platform for Redesign 2020</a>, <a href="#">Global Green Growth Knowledge Partnership</a>, <a href="#">UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy</a>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional bodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regional development banks (e.g. Asian Development Bank)</li> <li>● Regional organisations for cooperation (e.g. The Pacific Alliance)</li> </ul>
<p><b>National bodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Central governments - particularly finance, planning and line ministries</li> <li>● Central banks and financial regulators</li> <li>● Public services, including health and education bodies</li> <li>● National development banks</li> </ul>
<p><b>Subnational bodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Local governments and councils</li> <li>● City leaders and rural administrations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Third sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Civil society organisations</li> <li>● Academia</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commercial sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Manufacturers, industry, other businesses (incl. SMEs, informal sector)</li> <li>● Chambers of commerce</li> <li>● National/regional private sector associations</li> <li>● Financial institutions (lenders, investors, etc.)</li> <li>● Public-private partnerships</li> </ul>
<p><b>Citizens and communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Indigenous, frontline, marginalised communities</li> <li>● Women and youth</li> <li>● Migrant workers (including internal)</li> <li>● Workers and communities affected by sectoral interventions and transitions</li> </ul>

Table 2: Green economy tools and political frameworks

Green economy tools and frameworks
<p><b>UNEP's Global Green Deal</b></p> <p>The concept of a green economy is rooted in UNEP's Global Green Deal. Characteristics of an inclusive green economy include environmental sustainability, social equity, an enabling policy and legal framework, a low carbon economy and investments, and behavioural change for sustainable production and consumption.</p>
<p><b>Green Economy Model</b></p> <p>Established by UNEP, Green Economy Modelling is a tool that: (a) establishes a relationship between policy targets and relevant economic, environmental and social dimensions; (b) projects the impacts of policy measures; (c) analyses the effects of existing policies and; (d) identifies synergies and cross-sectoral impacts among policy choices.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable development models</b></p> <p>Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but the most frequently quoted definition is from Our Common Future, also known as the <a href="#">Brundtland Report</a> (1987): "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."</p>
<p><b>EU "do no harm" principle</b></p> <p>This principle states that no finance should support activities which are harmful to environmental objectives or social requirements defined in the <a href="#">EU's Taxonomy on sustainable finance</a>. The Taxonomy is a tool to help investors, companies and issuers navigate the transition to a low-carbon, resilient and resource-efficient economy.</p>
<p><b>Paris Alignment Framework</b></p> <p>The 2015 Paris Agreement includes a <a href="#">commitment</a> to make "finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low emissions and climate-resilient development." Toolkits exist for aligning financial bodies with the Paris Agreement and its target to limit temperature rises to below 2°C, with an ambition for 1.5°C, including for <a href="#">Development Banks</a> and <a href="#">other financial institutions</a>.</p>
<p><b>The European Green Deal</b></p> <p>A growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a resource-efficient and competitive economy with no net greenhouse gas emissions in 2050, and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It has goals relating to many sectors, including construction, biodiversity and food. The Green Deal is being used by the <a href="#">EU as a framework to guide recovery efforts</a>.</p>
<p><b>Science-Based Targets</b></p> <p>Science-based targets show companies how much and how quickly they need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to prevent the worst effects of climate change. This initiative defines and promotes best practice, offering a range of target-setting resources and guidance, independently assessing companies' targets in line with its strict criteria.</p>



Table 3: Tools and examples for a green recovery

## What tools and approaches can be considered for a green recovery?

### Alignment and reform of national planning

- Utilise existing planning tools, including national sustainable development plans
- Generate and / or further develop national Green Growth Strategies, Sustainable Consumption and Production instruments, and national biodiversity strategies
- Establish medium- and long-term climate plans, aligned with a just transition, integrated into national financing and development strategies, as well as macroeconomic planning
- Consider new metrics to define economic wellbeing and progress
- Declare a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure
- Enhance disaster management and alert systems

### Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

#### Financial and Planning Ministries

- Select public green infrastructure and investment programmes selected based on greatest multiplier effects
- Utilise existing planning tools, including national sustainable development plans, national Green Growth Strategies, Sustainable Consumption and Production instruments and Sustainable Public Procurement instruments
- Integrate risk and resilience considerations into macroeconomic management
- Consider green, solidarity-based tax reform
- Increase taxes for polluting industries
- Remove fossil fuel subsidies
- Impose moratorium on fossil fuel investments
- Expand green industries and markets through government purchasing
- Expand planning capacity for green industrial policy and pipelines of green infrastructure projects
- Move to cost-reflective energy tariffs, while protecting the poor
- Foster green procurement for public bodies, supporting sustainable supply chains

#### Central Banks

- Apply green and social conditionality on lending
- Include climate change in mandate for economic stability
- Launch green bonds and gilts, considering SDG-linked sovereign debt
- Ensure asset purchase programmes exclude carbon intensive assets
- Stress test all portfolios against climate risks
- Create fiscal space for system transformation
- Set capital ratios, with higher ratios for holding high-carbon assets
- Cap lending for fossil fuels, end lending to companies without just transition strategies
- Consider digital currencies that enable microfinancing of green and social solutions

#### National Investment / Development Banks

- Update mandate of local Development Banks to support a green recovery
- Form and adopt 'exclusion lists' of high-carbon projects and programmes
- Support green budget lines and financial products
- Identify pipelines of sustainable, green projects in order to develop better practices

## What examples can be drawn upon?

- [Costa Rica's](#) National Decarbonization Plan can serve as a template for a green recovery strategy, supported by the Inter-American Development Bank.
- [Rwanda](#) was the first African country to submit a higher UN climate target, pledging to cut emissions by at least 16% until 2030 (May 2020). An overview of countries that have agreed updated climate targets can be found [here](#).
- [New Zealand's Wellness Index](#), and the [Doughnut Economics model](#) being introduced in [Amsterdam](#) and other cities are examples of alternative metrics to define economic wellbeing and progress.
- Examples of sectors that green public infrastructure investment programmes could be applied to include: Electricity; Transport; Industry; Buildings (including energy efficiency, cooling and heat); Fuels; Low-carbon technologies; Waste management; Public infrastructure; Education; Agriculture and forestry; Tourism; Digital economy.
- [Ghana](#) launched a process for developing a National Adaptation Plan, under the leadership of the Environment Ministry, to build resilience to climate impacts, and will also use this process to ensure that recovery investments are 'climate-proof' (July 2020).
- [Nigeria](#) used the collapse in oil prices at the beginning of the crisis to remove fuel subsidies, in a move that is expected to save at least US\$2 billion per year (May 2020).
- [Indonesia](#) plans to offer retail green sukuk (Shari'ah compliant investments) to raise Rp 2 trillion (US\$136.6 million) to finance green projects and support the cash-strapped state budget to finance green recovery measures, a process led by the Finance Ministry (October 2020).
- [Egypt](#) launched its first US\$750 million green bond, in an event personally attended by Egypt's Finance Minister (October 2020).
- [Colombia's](#) US\$26 billion investment programme includes the acceleration of 27 renewable energy and transmission projects in an all-of-government effort (August 2020).
- [Rwanda](#) received US\$150 million in energy financing from the World Bank with the aim of improving its electricity services and developing a sustainable market for clean cooking solutions (September 2020).

## Just transition and employment

- Support public work programmes in green sectors
- Ensure social dialogue and workers' representation in decision-making
- Embed a just transition into policies affecting high-carbon sectors
- Improve education and training in green skills
- Enhance social resilience to future crises and managing structural change, including through creating and supporting national and local care systems
- Redesign social pacts to address social unrest and inequality – with decision-making for marginalised and indigenous communities
- Support informal workers to adapt for resilience through the pandemic and recovery
- Protect vulnerable groups, e.g. women and girls, to ensure representation and inclusion

## Local action and sustainable urban development

- Expand sustainable transport infrastructure
- Develop and prioritise low-carbon and resilient urban infrastructure, as well as rural and community-based solutions
- Improve residential infrastructure in marginalised areas, improving health and living conditions
- Foster green public procurement

## Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

- Support mitigation activities, such as forest preservation and afforestation, peatland protection, etc.
- Enhance ecosystem-based adaptation, including mangrove protection, biodiversity conservation, etc.
- Protect and improve water sources and infrastructure
- Support sustainable agricultural systems, securing rural workers' rights
- Prioritise food sovereignty and resilient, climate-smart agriculture
- Support sustainable ocean activities aligned with biodiversity conservation (fisheries, eco-tourism, etc.)
- Adopt pooled, parametric insurance mechanisms

## International cooperation and financing

- Enhance international and regional coordination
- Engage with international finance institutions as shareholders to steer the direction of the institutions to provide financial and technical support to align with a better recovery
- Engage international creditors to negotiate "debt for climate/nature swaps", i.e. debt relief in exchange for pursuing more ambitious environmental goals
- Create new finance vehicle(s) and an international framework to buy out fossil fuel assets, so that they can be wound down over time
- Build alliances around sustainable finance, including green taxonomies

- [South Africa's](#) new Economic Reconstruction and Recovery plan references a just transition, with support for cooperatives and SMEs in the green economy (October 2020).
- [Ethiopia](#) and the Economic Commission for Africa launched a programme focused on Nature-based Solutions for water resources infrastructure and community resilience, with focus on rural women and girls (August 2020). Within Ethiopia, the programme is spearheaded by the Environment Ministry, building on a prior initiative by the Prime Minister.

- [Bogotá \(Colombia\)](#) made a 75-mile network of streets traffic-free, and opened a further 47 miles of bike lanes (May 2020). Furthermore, the city has [begun](#) to deploy 480 electric buses (September 2020).
- Mayors from across the world, assembled in the C40 network, have agreed a [Mayor's Agenda for a Green and Just Recovery](#), which includes an overview of best practice examples in cities.

- [Pakistan's](#) 'green stimulus' package aims at promoting plantation and natural forests, employing people who lost their jobs to work on the 10 Billion Trees programme. It received US\$188 million from the World Bank to support these plans (April 2020).
- [India's](#) government is providing US\$800 million to tribal communities in forest management, wildlife protection and other related activities, as part of a larger recovery package announced by the Finance Minister (May 2020).

- [Morocco](#) has received €300 million from German development bank KfW for the development of green hydrogen technology, indicating the potential of clean energy cooperation between developing and developed countries (June 2020).
- The [IMF's](#) Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) is providing grants for debt relief for the poorest and most vulnerable countries, and there are calls for more fundamental action on [linking much-needed debt relief and sustainable development](#).

# 3

## Key takeaways

Below, the key points to consider when advocating for and supporting the delivery of a green recovery are outlined.

### What is a green recovery?

- A green recovery is a **transformative package of policies, investments and reforms** that will ensure the recovery from the Covid-19 crisis has **wide-ranging benefits** for the climate, nature, communities, economies and workers. A green recovery should support a new vision and narrative, with a **society-wide transformation** for sustainability, resilience and climate neutrality.
- A green recovery **builds upon the principle of an inclusive green economy**: one which is low-carbon, resilient, resource-efficient and socially inclusive.
- Benefits include that green recovery measures support **multiple international sustainability goals** and agendas, have **greater job creation potential**, lead to more **resilient and sustainable economic growth**, and are backed by **strong public support** in many countries across the world.
- **International dynamics are favouring green recovery efforts.** While the EU is leading efforts, a Biden administration in the US might also accelerate efforts to achieve a green recovery world-wide. Other countries, for example China, South Korea and South Africa, have recently committed to more ambitious climate targets and plans, and indicate that recovery efforts will be linked to these commitments. Therefore, countries that align their recovery with green goals may be able to benefit from **better access to multilateral financing and climate finance, as well as from political alignment with important international agendas.**

## How to support the pursuit of a green recovery?



In theory, a green recovery is easy: **invest in activities that lower emissions, create jobs and improve wellbeing; do not invest in activities that lock in high emissions.** This simple approach of what (not) to do can and should inform the general approach taken towards the recovery, while being aware of the political challenges arising during decision-making processes due to differing short- and long-term interests among stakeholders.

**In practice, there is no 'one size fits all' solution,** so decision-makers must combine the right elements from the green recovery toolkit. Best-suited policy tools will depend on **national circumstances.**

An essential element for the quick adoption of green recovery measures is to **utilise existing and functioning policy mechanisms and structures.** This will also allow for any new measures to be built into the policy fabric post-Covid-19. This can include national sustainable development plans, national Green Growth Strategies, Sustainable Consumption and Production instruments, Sustainable Public Procurement instruments, national biodiversity strategies, NDCs, long-term strategies.

In order to pursue a green recovery in each national context, economic advisors can seek to engage a **wide range of stakeholders; employ a range of different tools** (fiscal, monetary, regulatory, etc.); **and seek multiple social and environmental outcomes.** More about this can be found in Tables 1, 3 and Graphic 1.

It is important to seek **measures that provide co-benefits, long-term fiscal multipliers, and that put resilience at the heart of recovery efforts.** Greening national economies is only one of the many challenges that countries face. Therefore, measures should be assessed not only by their green contribution but also the other benefits they bring, e.g. creating jobs, improving health, promoting peace. The concept of **resilience** can be used to unite these different aims, ensuring that all actions taken **enhance a country's ability to respond to future crises,** while taking measures that reduce countries' vulnerability to potential health, climate and economic crises.

There is no blueprint nor historical precedent for achieving a successful economic recovery from a global pandemic, while working to mitigate the global climate crisis. This means that **readjustments of measures may be necessary,** and that **peer-to-peer learning in real time is crucial.**

**Global cooperation** such as the NDC Partnership's Green Recovery Network of government focal points and economic advisors has a key role to play in enabling mutual learning about what measures work, and what measures do not work, for achieving a green recovery in different contexts.

Bear in mind that **well-designed governance must consider a 'winding road' towards recovery:** It starts from early and continuous consultation of stakeholders; works towards well-designed funding instruments; and ensures the monitoring of the effectiveness of spending.

# Overview of green recovery literature

This annex provides a brief literature review of work related to defining and conceptualising a green recovery, looking at both global and regional definitions. We note that similarities between countries are not limited by region – for instance, there are both African and Latin American countries highly dependent on oil revenue and countries around the world with high rural poverty. Different means to categorise ‘archetype’ countries have been considered in [other papers](#).

## Global definitions

### [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#)

In *Greening the Recovery*, the IMF notes that decisions taken now to address the Covid-19 crisis may shape the climate, and human health, for decades. “This calls for fiscal policymakers to “green” their response to this crisis to prevent one crisis leading to another.” While noting that each country’s circumstances will be different, it notes a range of general policy measures including: supporting **green public investments and work programmes**; making support to **high-carbon activities conditional** on making progress on climate; **assessing the climate impact** of support measures; developing **new, ambitious medium-term climate plans**; and **coordinating and supporting** others.

### [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#)

IEA’s *Sustainable Recovery Plan* considers cost-effective measures and actions that can be taken over the next three years (2021-2023). It spans six key sectors – **electricity, transport, in-**

**dustry, buildings, fuels and emerging low-carbon technologies**. It notes that a successful recovery will require a wide range of policies, initiatives and new regulatory frameworks, in addition to short-term stimulus measures.

### [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#)

In *Covid-19 and the World of Work*, the ILO notes that through **social dialogue**, governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations have a key opportunity to forge a strong consensus and broad-based support for a sustainable recovery that promotes decent work, resilient enterprises and workplaces, as well as environmental sustainability. Enterprises, supported by employers’ organizations, can build on innovative business continuity measures to scale up **green innovation and entrepreneurship, enhance resilience** against future shocks by integrating environmental risks and technology into **enterprise risk management practices** and into climate-related financial disclosure, and invest in **sustainable supply chains**.

## [The World Bank](#)

In its *Proposed Sustainability Checklist for Assessing Economic Recovery Interventions*, the World Bank asks whether interventions are consistent with and supportive of existing long-term decarbonization targets and strategies, including Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. It also indicates a strong recovery should prioritise economic revitalisation and job creation; have strong economic multiplier effects; and can be implemented straight away.

## [Green Growth Knowledge Partnership](#)

The Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP) shares a broad variety of knowledge on green recovery from more than 75 organisations through its **Covid-19 library** and engages in conversations on green recovery in its new **Covid-19 Discussion** on the **Green Forum**.

## [Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership](#)

In their *10 Principles for Investing in Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure*, partner organisations including UNEP, the WFP and GIZ put forward ten principles, with the first principle being that “decisions on infrastructure spending for post-Covid-19 recovery should begin with strategic planning that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement”. They furthermore stress the need to integrate different considerations, such as resilience, social effects, and environmental aspects.

## [The network of Partners for Inclusive Green Economies \(PIGE\)](#)

It has identified *Ten Priority Options for a Just, Green & Transformative Recovery*, emphasizing the importance of science-based decision-making and the central role of the Sustainable Development Goals in devising recovery efforts. The priorities also recognize the risks arising from significant increases in public debts, stressing that “collective action is needed to fund a strong, equalising and smart recovery”. The partners explicitly call on national governments to “develop and actively use national green economy plans, ‘Green Deals’, green

industrial strategies and green Covid-19 recovery plans to build long-term resilience and prosperity”.

## [Outputs from a series of global dialogues coordinated by WRI and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety \(BMU\)](#)

WRI and BMU arrived at 5 high-level pillars for a green recovery. These include: **1)** That people must be at the heart of a green and resilient recovery, shaping packages through **social dialogue**; **2)** Governments must ramp up investments in a green recovery, with clear **metrics for sustainability**; **3)** Resilience will be key – encouraging measures that support **adaptation to climate shocks** and nature-based solutions; **4)** Global crises are often interlinked – these links should be recognised and **cross-theme alliances** should be built with those working on health, labour, inequality and nature; **5)** **International cooperation and solidarity** are critical, with support from multilateral development banks and private finance – including on debt cancellation.

## [UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(PAGE\)](#)

PAGE provides a range of tools and services to support professionals in realizing a green recovery in order to “accelerate a fair and green economic transformation in the new Decade of Action for the SDGs”, with tools that “can guide analysis, promote green jobs and foster sustainable investments and business models – boosting economies to build a better future for all”.

## [Christian Aid](#)

Christian Aid suggests that so far there has been insufficient focus on developing countries, who do not all have the same capacity as richer nations to act. They suggest a range of steps that could be taken to ensure a “truly global green recovery”. This includes debt repayment cancellations; removing fossil fuel subsidies; that OECD countries cease all new direct and indirect public support for fossil fuels projects in other countries; donor countries must allocate at least 50% of their climate finance support in poorer countries to adaptation; countries incorporate nature-based solutions into their NDCs; and bailouts of carbon-intensive companies should be conditional on these companies having plans to transition to net zero.

# Latin America & the Caribbean

## [Inter-American Development Bank \(IDB\)](#)

In *Sustainable and digital infrastructure for the post-Covid-19 economic recovery*, IDB notes that the region should avoid errors of the past in which economic crises left an enduring **legacy of low investment in infrastructure**. Sustainable infrastructure minimizes greenhouse gas emissions, local pollution of air, water and solid wastes, and is more resilient to the effects of climate change and natural disasters than traditional infrastructure. The region should invest better and more efficiently – improving the **targeting mechanisms** for subsidies to infrastructure services, increasing the **efficiency and transparency** of state-owned service providers and involving the private sector are all possible avenues to free resources that enable investing more in the post-Covid-19 economic recovery. Investing at the right time has two purposes: to achieve a **greater multiplier effect** of the investment on demand as well as to **adjust to fiscal constraints**. These benefits are particularly important in developing countries with **limited fiscal space**.

## [Nuestra America Verde](#)

*Our Green America* brings together legislators and other political and social leaders from various countries to implement the Economic Recovery Plan with social and environmental justice (2020-2030) in the region. The plan notes the regions' exposure to climate risk, and deep inequalities that exist along racial lines. It sets out 14 suggestions including a New Deal with the global north; strengthening peace to facilitate demilitarization; defence of indigenous peoples, of the Quilombola communities and environmental activists; sustainable food sovereignty and conservation and regeneration of biodiversity.

## [Columbia University](#)

In *Planning a Sustainable Post-Pandemic Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean*, it is noted that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) will experience the most severe economic recession in decades. High **pre-pandemic sovereign debt levels**, worsening **credit ratings**, and **low tax revenues** limit the fiscal space to overcome the health and economic crises. Social unrest and the political dynamics of the region may force governments into avenues that involve the **redesign of social pacts** – as in Chile – rather than exclusively “recovery packages.” From a macroeconomic viewpoint recovery packages should focus on **bringing back output and employment** to long-run sustainable levels. This calls for government expenditures that have the **largest fiscal multipliers** possible and that are particularly **labour-intensive**, with **clear guidelines** for selection that **maximise co-benefits** of social and environmental outcomes. The authors propose a combination of fiscal policy responses combined with new sources of financing to unlock a sharp recovery with **minimal harm to fiscal sustainability** in the long run. Through expanded **public-private partnerships** and blended finance structures, governments should be able to leverage private financing in large job-creation undertakings. Additionally, the issuance of **SDG-linked sovereign debt** and **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** with SDG conditionality could also provide much-needed liquidity at low cost.

## [Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe \(CEPAL\)](#)

The *Big Push para a Sustentabilidade* focuses primarily on shifting development models in Brazil, but could also help guide the way to resilient, low-carbon economies and address longstanding structural problems elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean. The 'Big Push' concept came about before the pandemic but has been suggested as a model for a green recovery. A repository of over [60 case studies](#) has been assembled of practical measures and examples that could be acted upon.

## [Pacto Ecosocial del Sur](#)

Pacto Ecosocial del Sur – The *Social, Ecological, Economic and Intercultural Pact for Latin America* seeks to connect redistributive, gender, ethnic and environmental justice through recovery measures. Measures include solidary-based tax reform, cancellation of external debt, creating national and local care systems, establishing a universal basic income, prioritising food sovereignty, building post-extractivist economies and societies, strengthening the economic, political and cultural self-determination of indigenous, rural and Afro-Latin American peoples.

## [World Resources Institute](#)

In *A Fairer and More Sustainable Post-Covid-19 World in Latin America*, authors consider a green recovery for the region's cities, considering barriers to accessibility created by "exclusive and inefficient urban development policy". Priority measures are identified: 1) Improving existing **public services through low-cost, high-impact** investments such as cycle and bus lanes; 2) Invest in social, economic and **residential infrastructure in marginalised areas** to improve minimum living standards; 3) Think **innovatively about the mobilisation of resources** – for example, introducing charges for those using private motorised vehicles in city centres to fund public transport improvements; 4) Make sustainability the axis of city development through a) investments in **energy, construction, transport, waste management and industrial energy efficiency**, b) creating **global alliances to mobilise resources** and c) developing a **pipeline of sustainable infrastructure projects** relating to mobility, housing, energy, water, waste and the digital economy that makes it possible to develop better practices from the start of these projects.

## [Revolución Sostenible](#)

This paper, jointly developed by multiple partners such as CAF, the Climate Reality Project and GIZ, is the product of an exchange amongst practitioners

across the region and internationally, to determine emerging and key topics in the field of green recovery in LAC countries. It recognizes the interconnectedness of the current health and climate crises. Developed in a dialogue between representatives from the public, academic and private sectors, the paper outlines possible and necessary green recovery approaches in the fields of urban planning, forestry, mobility, energy, finance, subnational government, private sector, air quality, and combines them with wider social issues, adding an additional social justice perspective. It outlines five approaches to green recovery for each sector and combines them with an identification of current knowledge gaps and a vision for the future.

# Asia

## [ASEAN Catalyst Green Finance Facility and Asian Development Bank](#)

In *Green Finance Strategies for post-Covid-19 economic recovery in South East Asia*, authors note that countries in developing Asia were **already facing the triple threats** of climate change, biodiversity loss, and declining ocean health before the pandemic. Several countries in Southeast Asia were already in the **high debt-to-GDP** ratio bracket before the pandemic. This, in conjunction with **reduced economic activity**, increased **capital outflows**, and (possibly) **increased borrowing costs**, could threaten the ability to borrow further in the future. Four 'criticalities' are identified as underpinning a green recovery: creating **long-term jobs**, accelerating **climate resilience**, **catalysing capital** at scale and **protecting environment and natural capital**. The report considers green recovery packages and finance mechanisms around the world, as well as green finance concepts to stimulate post-Covid-19 recovery.



## [Nanyang Technological University, Singapore](#)

*Green Recovery in Post-Covid-19 Southeast Asia?* highlights that currently, green measures are not common among Southeast Asian recovery measures – with the pandemic **holding back green infrastructure** projects in the region, and **low oil prices** making renewables face stiff competition. Among other reasons, the integration of a green agenda in development plans has been challenging, partially because of the **imperative to grow the economy**, secure energy, food, and other needs, as well as the **high costs** often associated with the acquisition of technology and **expertise** needed to transition to a low-carbon economy. To keep global temperature rises below 1.5 °C, in Southeast Asia, this may mean eschewing the current **linear production-consumption model** and urgently implementing **circular economy**, strengthening the **waste management sector**, and **enforcing environmental laws** consistently. **Mainstreaming climate into economic plans** was suggested as a means to increase focus on climate measures, as currently the imperatives of economic growth and climate action are not widely seen as compatible.

## [Asian Development Bank](#)

*A Pathway to a low-carbon and resilient future* sets out a framework for assessing low-carbon and resilient recovery interventions. These can include: a short implementation timeline; job generation or **labour intensity** (particularly in the early stages); **skill development**; minimized **supply chain risk**; and **high economic multipliers**. In the longer term, governments may look for measures that contribute to the **productive asset base** and promote positive transformation, while also delivering environmental and social outcomes. Covid-19 has also led to asymmetric socioeconomic impact across sectors, and within and between countries; for this reason, recovery interventions should also target the **most affected groups or regions**, where possible. This is particularly critical with regards to addressing the **gender-related** implications for women, especially those belonging to vulnerable groups. The framework should be adapted for the specific needs of the country. Low- and middle-income countries have limited fiscal space to respond, and many will need substantial international support (in addition to support already

received), with implications for debt and fiscal positions. Recovery packages also need to be flexible to accommodate the uncertainty around the future of the pandemic, the potential for future “waves,” and the timeline for developing a vaccine.

## [World Resources Institute](#)

*Clean energy can help South East Asia recover after Covid-19* notes that pre-pandemic, Southeast Asia was **becoming an economic powerhouse**. **Manufacturing, industry and services** expanded across the region in recent decades. **Energy demand** also grew by an average of 6% per year, with countries having largely embraced **fossil fuels** to meet their growing energy needs. The pandemic has exposed the vulnerabilities of fossil-driven economies and provides an opportunity to pivot to cleaner power – **creating jobs** and **improving public health** in the process. **Decarbonisation, decentralisation** (such as distributed renewable energy systems) and **digitisation** are key elements for a Southeast Asian energy transition. Southeast Asia’s energy systems need to embrace digital solutions in order to usher in a power sector transformation, helping to manage **large amounts of data collection and analysis** and **optimizing increasingly complex energy** systems.

## [The World Bank](#)

The World Bank identified 5 key actions for a green recovery in **India**. These include 1) Ecological restoration is included in India’s vast **public works programmes** – using the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhyaan - which have a combined annual outlay of US\$20 billion - to build the country’s green infrastructure; 2) Returning rural workers can be encouraged to set up **new forest-based enterprises**; 3) Thriving forests can benefit agriculture by helping regulate sediment and water flows in large river basins such as the Ganges and Brahmaputra, making agriculture, hydropower, water supply and roads **more resilient** to the impacts of climate change, and reducing **air pollution**; 4) Restoring India’s natural heritage and unique ecosystems can boost opportunities for **nature-based tourism**; 5) Restoring forests and terrestrial landscapes will help India meet its **international commitments** towards climate change and land degradation.

## [Energy and Resources Institute \(TERI\), National Institute of Public Finance and Policy \(NIPFP\) and Global Green Growth Institute \(GGGI\)](#)

In *Greening Post Covid-19 Economic Recovery in India*, authors consider short-, medium- and long-term steps to support a green recovery – considering sustainable demand, skills and labour markets, fiscal measures and market regulation, green infrastructure and improved systems and governance. It is essential to go beyond liquidity issues and delve into the domain of **environmental reforms** and changes in **decision-making processes** – with the informal sector and general public involved. **SDG-aligned budgeting** or green budgeting should be used as a framework for better alignment of government spending with environmental objectives and sustainable development goals. Taxing **regimes on fossil fuels** and luxury goods with negative environmental impact can help raise necessary capital. Banks can **nudge MSMEs** towards resource efficiency and circularity. More projects need to be initiated through **bilateral cooperation** with other countries.

# Africa

## [Sustainable Energy for All \(SEforALL\)](#)

The *Recover Better with Sustainable Energy Guide for African Countries* notes that 565 million people on the continent lack access to electricity, and 900 million are without access to clean cooking. SEforALL make the case a Sustainable Energy Recovery could use recovery actions to support NDCs, encouraging countries to pursue **large-scale investments in centralised and decentralised renewable technologies** – driving investment in the **upstream value chain** and also supporting **local supply chains**. Eight key dimensions are identified, including 1) Increase the **ease of doing business** through reducing red

tape and permits required for renewable energy and clean cooking equipment and appliances; 2) Develop **robust policy and regulatory frameworks** to support take off; 3) **Invest in data** – for instance, to identify optimal renewable sites; 4) Move towards **cost-reflective tariffs** while protecting the poor; 5) **Eliminate fossil fuel subsidies**; 5) Declare a **moratorium on new coal-fired power**; 7) Invest in **energy efficiency** to reduce costs and emissions; 8) Invest in **human capital** – including technical, business and entrepreneurship training.

## [Ideas for a prosperous Africa, UN Economic Commission for Africa, and African Climate Policy Centre](#)

In a discussion paper, authors note the systematic weaknesses in global health systems exposed to the virus, and note parallels with under-preparedness for climate breakdown. Apart from South Africa, measures adopted across Africa to cushion the impact of the pandemic on the economies and livelihoods are mostly **minimalist welfare**, and largely **dependent on international aid**. There are opportunities to address the structural defects of African economies post Covid-19. The continent is in dire need of **major infrastructure** investment. The **energy deficit** needs to be urgently addressed in order to ensure sufficient energy to drive industrialization. However, states **lack domestic resources** for such investments. A post-Covid-19 recovery should **address the fundamental causes of vulnerabilities** and should go beyond fiscal and monetary adjustments whose sole aim is to ensure the survival and perpetuation of the **current system of production, consumption and distribution**, which is responsible for the climate crisis.

## [Global Center on Adaptation and African Adaptation Initiative \(AAI\)](#)

In *Integrated Responses to Building Climate and Pandemic Resilience in Africa*, the authors note many countries in the continent are **ill-prepared for shocks** such as Covid-19 and climate for a number of reasons including pervasive poverty, limited fiscal

capacity, extreme commodity exposure and a fragile informal economy. They recommend focusing stimulus investment on **resilient infrastructure** and **food security** to overcome the Covid-19 and climate crisis. These recommendations must be underpinned by **multiple stakeholders**, including multilateral development banks. All proposed interventions should make **citizens** instrumental to the response. Our priority policy recommendations apply resilience actions to three key systems affected by both the pandemic and climate change in Africa: systems that **produce food, protect and manage water** and plan and **build infrastructure**.

### [Rocky Mountain Institute](#)

The Rocky Mountain Institute suggests to define green recovery as an **inclusive** approach and ensure the most vulnerable are not left behind; prioritize a **short implementation timeframe with scalability, long-term green job** creation, leverage favourable economics of **clean technologies** and other sectors, as well as increase **resilience to external shocks** and **reduce dependence on imports**. It suggests six actionable interventions by governments, development partners, and the local private sector: 1) Power critical facilities to boost large-scale deployment and electrification; 2) **Accelerate electrification** - address the need for emergency liquidity for clean energy and high cost of commercial capital to avoid millions of people falling back into energy poverty; 3) **Electrify local economies and catalyse domestic manufacturing** - re-orient public funds toward a matching fund, co-financed by stimulus incentives, for electric productive use equipment and energy efficiency programs; 4) **Electrify transportation** - trigger the transition towards green mobility by investing in the development and deployment of charging infrastructure, especially for electric two- and three-wheelers; 5) **Unlock energy efficiency** - establish tax relief schemes to encourage local banks to direct funds towards lending for energy efficiency programs dedicated to SMEs and priority sectors such as tourism and construction; 6) **Accelerate utilities' transitions towards modern, clean technology** - set up a green

guarantee mechanism to enable sub-Saharan African utilities to prioritize holistic plan-based power sector investments.

## Middle East

### [World Bank](#)

Within MENA, there are certain sectors that should be priorities for 'going green', such as transport and fuel. In the region, **industries and traffic** are the main contributors to emissions causing **local air pollution**. Examples of globally tried-and-tested policies for such sectors include mandating energy efficiency targets, energy efficiency standards for firms, fuel efficiency standards for vehicles and fuel switching. Working towards an inclusive green stimulus means that low-cost financing will be made available for green activities, and that benefits from these investments **accrue to lower income groups**. Even though most of MENA's population lives in urban areas (60%), most of MENA's poor live in **rural areas**. There are also opportunities for coastal management and creating a sustainable **Blue Economy**. For example, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) programme in Morocco helped boost incomes of low-income coastal communities by supporting their livelihoods with alternative activities.

# Definitions of key terms for development and economic models

Around the world, there are different understandings regarding how societies and economies should be structured. These are briefly outlined in the table below. Noting these different value-based understandings is important for informing the approaches taken in different countries and navigating the expectations of different stakeholders.

## Term

[Better Life Index](#)

[Big Push para a Sustentabilidade](#)

[Buen vivir, Spanish for “good living” or “living well”](#)

[Degrowth economic models](#)

## Definitions and considerations

This index allows for a comparison of well-being across countries, based on eleven topics the OECD has identified as essential, across the areas of material living conditions and quality of life.

The ‘Big Push for Sustainability’ originates in Latin America, and represents an approach to articulate and coordinate measures and policies (public, corporate and community, national, regional and local, sectoral, tax, regulatory, fiscal, financing, planning, innovation, training, etc.) that leverage sustainable investments (national and foreign) to produce a virtuous cycle of economic growth, generating employment and income, reducing inequalities and structural gaps, as well as promoting environmental, social and economic sustainability.

According to leading proponent Eduardo Gudynas, executive secretary of the Latin American Centre for Social Ecology, *buen vivir* calls for a new ethics that balances quality of life, democratisation of the state and concern with biocentric ideals, moving away from individualistic and monetarised views of ‘well-being’ to focus on the community.

The term degrowth refers to an economic situation during which the economic wealth produced does not increase or even decrease. It is based on the principle of awareness of a finite world, with limited resources, and on the idea that only a reduction in global production and consumption can ensure the future of humanity and the preservation of the planet. To be distinguished from recession, degrowth means a phase of planned and equitable economic contraction in the richest nations, eventually reaching a steady state that operates within Earth’s biophysical limits.

## Term

## Definitions and considerations

### [Doughnut Economics](#)

The “Doughnut” consists of two concentric rings: a social foundation, to ensure that no one is left falling short on life’s essentials, and an ecological ceiling, to ensure that humanity does not collectively overshoot the planetary boundaries that protect Earth’s life-supporting systems. Between these two sets of boundaries lies a doughnut-shaped space that is both ecologically safe and socially just: a space in which humanity can thrive. Doughnut Economics proposes an economic mindset that is fit for the 21st century context and challenges. Drawing on insights from diverse schools of economic thoughts - including ecological, feminist, institutional, behavioural and complexity economics - it sets out ways in which economic activity can thrive within the doughnut.

### [Green New Deal](#)

A Green New Deal is a political plan for tackling the climate and ecological emergencies through restructuring the economy in a way that benefits workers and communities, addressing inequalities. It seeks to deliver an environmental transformation catalysed by public investment and regulatory reforms that solves these connected challenges at the same time and makes life better for all of us. While the concept originates in the UK, the framework has gained political traction in the [EU](#), [South Korea](#) and [US](#).

### [Green economy](#)

Various institutions, including the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), have [developed the concept of a green economy](#), measuring “the progress made in improving the well-being of current generations in relation to economic opportunities, social inclusiveness and environmental protection”. Other available resources on this include the [GEC’s Green Economy Global Barometer and Dual Citizen’s Global Green Economy Index](#).

### [Green growth](#)

Green growth means fostering economic growth (generally defined in Gross Domestic Product - GDP) and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. To do this it must catalyse investment and innovation which will underpin sustained growth and give rise to new economic opportunities. The Global Green Growth Institute has developed a first-of-a-kind [index for measuring green growth](#). [Critics of ‘green growth’](#) suggest that it is not possible to pursue endless growth (as conventionally understood) within ecological boundaries.

## Term

### [Gross Domestic Production \(GDP\)](#)

### [Gross National Happiness](#)

### [Happy Planet Index](#)

### [Human Development Index](#)

### [Legatum Prosperity Index](#)

## Definitions and considerations

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period. GDP is a common indicator used to describe the economic position of a country, but has [been critiqued](#) for its limited insights on social wellbeing or respect for ecological boundaries.

Gross National Happiness is a philosophy that guides the government of Bhutan, which is enshrined in its constitution. It includes an index which is used to measure the collective happiness and well-being of a population. The index includes both traditional areas of socio-economic concern such as living standards, health and education and less traditional aspects of culture and psychological wellbeing. It is a holistic reflection of the general wellbeing of the Bhutanese population rather than a subjective psychological ranking of 'happiness' alone.

The Happy Planet Index (HPI) is an index of human well-being and environmental impact that was introduced by the New Economics Foundation in 2006. Each country's HPI value is a function of its average subjective life satisfaction, life expectancy at birth, and ecological footprint per capita.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a single measure composed of indicators for life expectancy, mean years of education, expected years of schooling for children, and GDP per capita. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) formed the HDI and issues annual reports ranking 180 countries. Reports contemplate other indices measuring issues of inequality in terms of development, income and gender. Reports are used by policy makers and others.

The Legatum Prosperity Index is an annual ranking developed by the Legatum Institute, a division of the private investment firm Legatum. The ranking is based on a variety of factors including wealth, economic growth, education, health, personal well-being and quality of life.

## Term

### Post-Development critique

## Definitions and considerations

Since the 1990s, the Post-Development critique has rejected the paradigm of 'development' – that there are 'developed' and 'less developed' countries, thus a universal scale, and that the former can be found in the industrialised West. It criticised the paradigm's colonial continuities – a Eurocentric perception of difference as backwardness, legitimising interventions by claiming to 'develop the underdeveloped' allowing for the preservation of a colonial division of labour. They argued it was necessary to look for alternatives to development. These were to be found in concepts and practices beyond those Western models (to be more precise: those that were hegemonic in the West) which were to be universalized through 'development'.

### Sustainable Economic Development Assessment

The Sustainable Economic Development Assessment (SEDA) developed by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) is a proprietary diagnostic tool that gives countries insight into their overall social and economic conditions. SEDA offers a current snapshot as well as a measure of progress over time, and it complements purely economic indicators like GDP. SEDA does not include purely subjective measures. Other metrics based on subjective measures – such as the ones used in the UN's Happiness Report – offer valuable complementary, but separate, analysis. In fact, BCG has found a strong overall positive correlation between the UN's Happiness scores and SEDA scores.

### The Genuine Progress Indicator

The Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) is a metric that begins with the Gross Domestic Product (the sum of all goods and services produced in a year), adds "goods" not counted such as child and elder care and volunteerism, subtracts "bads" such as oil spills and crime, and evens out long-term investment spending, such as roads and sewage systems. In the U.S., Maryland's legislature is currently using the GPI in lieu of a state-specific version of GDP.

## Term

### [The Sustainable Development Goal Indicators](#)

### [Well-being indicators and indexes](#)

## Definitions and considerations

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicators are an evolving set of indicators developed by the United Nations to measure sustainable development. There are approximately 232 indicators. The indicators are predominantly objective, although they include a few subjective metrics for issues such as sense of safety. The indicators measure progress towards the SDGs and encompass the areas of biodiversity, cities and communities, consumption and production, economy and work, education, energy, health, fisheries (life below water), hunger, industry and infrastructure, inequality, and partnerships and peace. The SDG Index and Dashboards produced by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Bertelsmann Stiftung provide a report card for country performance on the UN's historic Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.

Well-being indicators move away from traditional, GDP-based understandings of prosperity. Many countries routinely collect data on various factors that are considered indicators of objective well-being, including measures of educational attainment, safety, income, life expectancy, and so forth. Only a few countries have begun to collect data on subjective well-being measures, notably life satisfaction and happiness, on a regular basis. For instance, the government of [New Zealand](#) has acted to include well-being indicators into government policy and budget decision-making.



# Tools for assessing the social and environmental impact of Covid-19

The table below overviews different tools and resources that can be used to help advisors assess and evaluate the impact of the pandemic in the countries they work in. This can help identify appropriate measures and areas to focus upon when advancing a green recovery.

## Overall socio-economic assessments

### [GEF: Covid-19 Updates](#)

News, analysis and tools from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and partner organisations.

### [World Bank Datasets](#)

Real-time data, statistical indicators and other types of data related to Covid-19. Data is drawn from the World Bank's data catalogue and other authoritative sources.

### [World Economic Forum: Strategic Intelligence](#)

A platform to explore strategic issues related to the pandemic, covering more than 250 topic areas, helping identify relevant publications, videos, data, events, initiatives and stakeholders.

### [IMF: Special Series](#)

Notes produced by International Monetary Fund (IMF) experts to help members address the economic effects of Covid-19.

### [UNDP: Impact Assessments](#)

Assessment reports considering the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, with regional and country analysis.

### [IIED: Impact of COVID-19 on sustainable development](#)

Information from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) on the impacts of the pandemic on the people and places where IIED works, how communities may be affected and how they are responding.

### [Oxford Business Group: Covid-19 Economic Impact Assessments](#)

Provides focused analysis on the implications for key sectors and the investment environment, drawing on the OBG's on-the-ground networks of experts and business leaders for informative insights.

[International Labor Organisation](#)

Supports the conduct of Covid-19 impact assessment surveys, with guidelines and a template.

[Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(PAGE\) data observatory](#)

Tracks the socio-economic and health impacts, policy responses and assesses potential focus areas for green recovery in PAGE countries.

## Sectoral assessments

[International Energy Association: Covid-19 Hub](#)

This page captures IEA's research and analysis regarding a green recovery for the energy sector.

[World Trade Organisation: Covid-19 & world trade](#)

Provides trade-related information including relevant notifications by WTO members, the impact the virus has had on exports and imports and how WTO activities have been affected.

[UNCTAD: Covid-19 Response Centre](#)

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD) is monitoring the effects of the pandemic on manufacturing, trade, foreign direct investment and economic growth.

[Food & Agriculture Organisation: Covid-19 Data Lab](#)

The Data Lab developed a new set of tools in order to assist analysis of how Covid-19 is affecting food value chains and food security around the world.

[UN World Tourism Organisation: Tourism Dashboard](#)

The UNWTO Tourism Data Dashboard provides statistics and insights on key indicators for inbound and outbound tourism at the global, regional and national levels.

## Nature and climate impact assessments

[Covid-19 Impact on Climate Action](#)


The Climate Action Tracker assesses the impact of policy measures on progress towards climate goals.

[Umweltbundesamt Paper](#)

Approaches for a substantive reorientation of international environmental and sustainability policy.

[Geneva Environment Network on Covid-19 and the environment](#)

This page aims at listing relevant information, research, data and/or press releases issued by the Geneva Environment Network partners in Geneva and other institutions around the world.



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