Transition to Inclusive Green Economy: Time for Action

Project »Green Economy Transformation in cooperation with the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) – Synergies between low-emission paths and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)« (January 2018 – July 2021)

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Green Economy: Setting the course for our future

An inclusive green economy (IGE) improves human well-being and builds social equity while reducing environmental risks and scarcities. It is a key strategy to achieve shared prosperity within the planetary boundaries. In an inclusive green economy, growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Over the past decade, more and more governments and partners have begun to apply principles of green economy in planning policy reforms, regulation changes and strategic investments.

The Partnership for Action on Green Economy: A powerful model for cooperation, collaboration and synchronisation

Established in 2013, PAGE is a unique network of five UN agencies (UN Environment, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, and UNITAR) to transform economies and financial systems into drivers of sustainability and social equity. The network comprises currently eight funding partners and hundreds of knowledge experts, supported by the wider green economy community. PAGE seeks to put sustainability at the heart of economic policies and practices in order to advance the 2030 Agenda. While contributing to the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), PAGE is particularly well aligned with SDG 8: »Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all«.
The Green Economy Transformation Project: Together we can achieve more

The project assists up to six PAGE countries that are interested in greening their economies, achieving the SDGs and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Building on long-term BMU commitment to PAGE, the project interlinks green economy transformation with SDGs and NDCs both thematically and institutionally.

It shares and reinforces German and international know-how with project partners acting as a knowledge and network broker.

Our project enhances PAGE in-country work and complements and adds value to the partnership and its impacts through flexible, innovative, action-orientated and locally-rooted cooperation measures.

Thanks to PAGE, we are already seeing results of transition efforts towards an inclusive green economy in partner countries. With this project we want to strengthen and stabilize this forward-thinking development.
The Green Economy Transformation Project: Our areas of action

- In selected PAGE partner countries, we aim to strengthen transformation approaches which contribute to the implementation of NDCs and SDGs. Our partners are existing and new PAGE countries such as Peru, South Africa, Uruguay and Argentina.

- Fiscal policy plays a key role in the transition to a green economy. For example, green tax reform and green budgeting help address price externalities and create fiscal space that can be used for green investment. With a focus on green fiscal policy, we help countries create an enabling environment for green economy transformation.

- Shared knowledge is used to systematically drive change processes forward. We connect and enhance learning experiences and best practices on sustainable policies between countries and support the national and international exchange of knowledge and experience.

- The media is a key partner in bringing green economy concepts and approaches to the attention of the general public. We provide green economy training to media representatives so that they are able to spotlight positive IGE stories and trigger a public discussion around green economy.
Our goals

• Assist countries embarking on a transformation towards sustainable economies.

• Create economic and financial incentives for a green and inclusive economy.

• Ensure that relevant actors are capable of implementing SDGs and NDCs in a coherent way, using green economy approaches.

• Ensure that experiences are communicated internationally and encourage other countries in their efforts.

• Build knowledge and communication capacity on IGE, climate and SDG-related issues and on fiscal policy instruments that can support a green economy transition.

• Support the long-term sustainability of PAGE.

Our strengths

• Flexible, hands-on and partner-oriented.

• Ability to link knowledge, experience, tools and network partners with global, thematic, and country-based portfolios to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of transition efforts.

• Strong advocates for inclusion and dialogue partners for interested stakeholders.
Our project promotes and benefits from targeted cooperation

- The Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) is the leading source of knowledge and data on green growth, founded in 2012 by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UN Environment and the World Bank. With over 60 knowledge partners, including GIZ, the GGKP offers the latest know-how to support an IGE transition, including targeted policy guidance, best practices, tools and data, and the ›Expert Connect‹ service, which provides policymakers with direct, free-of-charge access to technical and policy experts for tailored guidance on a range of IGE topics. In the context of our project, the GGKP supports the development of communication materials for awareness-raising activities and a series of webinars spotlighting key tools and approaches for IGE transitions.  
  www.ggkp.org

- Our project is actively engaged in the inter-institutional Green Economy Collaboration Group formed by UN Environment, PAGE, the Green Economy Coalition (GEC), the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), ILO, OECD, GGGI, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IEED) and GIZ. This serves to connect and better coordinate with the international IGE initiatives both in general and in the context of project work in partner countries.

- The Green Fiscal Policy Network: The Green Fiscal Policy Network is a partnership between UN Environment, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and GIZ launched in 2011. The Network aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and dialogue on green fiscal policy reforms. It provides web-based resources and organizes technical events, working with currently nine associated partners.  www.greenfiscalpolicy.org
Achievements up to date

**Uruguay: Integrated change**

With our project’s support, Uruguay successfully applied for PAGE membership. The country has conducted one of the most complete and detailed green economy assessments worldwide. Uruguay has established an inter-institutional working group on IGE that is contributing to a better integration of economic, social and environmental aspects. Joint development and implementation of concrete interventions strengthened sustainability aspects in institutions involved.

**Peru: Green Investment and Social Inclusion**

In Peru, UN Environment conducted, among others, a Green Economy Assessment to evaluate the impact of green investments on key priority sectors, namely forestry, agriculture and transportation. Now that Peru is coming to the end of PAGE’s direct support, the project is helping the country to consolidate achievements and will continue to accompany Peru in the process of transitioning to a greener economy and enhancing its sustainability.

**South Africa: Financing the green economic transformation**

Support provided to South Africa included in particular an evaluation of projects funded by the national South African Green Fund on sustainable finance and investment policy. The Green Fund Impact Study findings demonstrated its contribution to national green economy priorities such as green jobs and low-carbon development.