

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS MAP COMMON APPROACH ON GREEN GROWTH INDICATORS

On April 4, 2013, four leading international organisations on green growth launched a joint report, “Moving towards a Common Approach on Green Growth Indicators,” under the auspices of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP).

COORDINATING EFFORTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS ON GREEN GROWTH

This work is the result of coordinated efforts by the Global Green Growth Institute, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Bank as part of the GGKP’s program on green growth measurement and indicators. Strong international cooperation on testing, exploring, and refining measurement tools on green growth is essential for supporting practical implementation and assessing progress of policies in both developed and developing countries in their transition to green economies.

SUPPORTING DECISIONS WITH FACTS

In offering a conceptual framework for green growth indicators, this preliminary report marks the first time that the participating international organisations have shared a joint vision for a set of indicators that can help communicate the central elements of green growth and green economy. The indicators alert governments and citizens to pressing issues where policy action and societal responses are needed to address the environmental challenges. Indicators on green growth and green economy provide information on and communicate the need for policy action and national plans for green growth. They also help the public to better understand how they can contribute to green growth and support the transition to a green economy.

A COMMON BASIS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARDS GREEN GROWTH

This report is the first step towards an internationally agreed approach to monitor progress towards green growth. Converging towards a common measurement approach and a set of indicators will facilitate their application. This publication is a concrete example of GGKP’s mission to help address knowledge gaps in green growth theory and practice and to support design and implementation of policies to move towards a green economy. It sets a new threshold for global cooperation aimed at accelerating and scaling up the use of measurement tools on green growth. Importantly, it also sets out an agenda for further progress, highlighting outstanding challenges for the measurement, interpretation and implementation of green growth indicators in practice.

WHAT TO MEASURE? DO IT YOURSELF GREEN GROWTH ANALYSIS

While there is no single green growth model, and green growth strategies need to be tailored to country conditions, the following areas are identified as central to monitoring progress towards green growth:

- ✓ environmental and resource productivity and innovation,

- ✓ natural assets (including biodiversity) and their cost-effective management,
- ✓ the environmental quality of life (including access to basic services such as clean water),
- ✓ related green growth policies, economic opportunities and social context of green growth,
- ✓ monitoring sustainability of overall economic developments, for example through comprehensive wealth accounting.

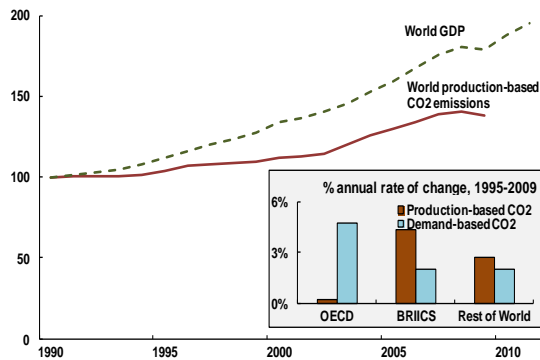
The green growth measurement framework gives countries flexibility to incorporate the green growth agenda into their national development plans and to monitor progress on tackling their main environmental, economic and social concerns.

ENGAGING GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO REPORT AND MONITOR PROGRESS

A common framework will help to bridge the experience of governments, the private sector, and civil society on reporting and measurement tools for green growth. It can contribute to aligning government and corporate information on environmental impacts and to identify obstacles to economic opportunities and growth.

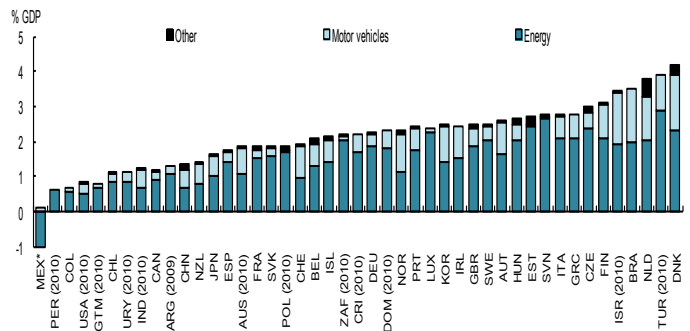
EXAMPLES OF GREEN GROWTH INDICATORS

Figure 1. GDP and CO₂ emissions, as index (1990=100), 1990-2011



* Demand-based CO₂ emissions are calculated by adding the emissions in imports to the emissions from the economy, and subtracting the emissions in exports.
Source: OECD Green Growth Indicators database.

Figure 2. Environmentally-related taxation revenues, as % of GDP, 2011 or latest



* Since 2000 Mexico has applied a price-smoothing mechanism. If petrol and diesel prices are higher than international reference prices, the differential effectively represents an excise duty.
Source: OECD/IEA Environmental Policy Instruments Database.