

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa

1. BACKGROUND

The Green Economy paradigm

The phrase ‘green economy’ was first coined in 1989 in the title¹ of the pioneering report: Blueprint for a Green Economy commissioned by the UK Government². It was in late 2009, in the search for response to the international financial crisis and economic downturn against the backdrop of increased prices of commodities and climate change, that UNEP helped to popularize the ‘green economy’ phrase when it shifted focus from its 2008 call for a “Global Green New Deal” (GGND)³ to a ‘green economy’. UNEP (2011) defines Green economy as one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

The twin concept of ‘green growth’ was also initiated before the financial crisis of 2007-2008 at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) held in Korea, in March 2005, where the Asia and the Pacific region agreed to move beyond rhetoric and materialize sustainable development by adopting a path of “green growth”⁴. According to OECD (2011), green growth aims at fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring that natural assets are used sustainably, and continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which the growth and well-being rely.

The OECD approach to the green economy focuses on the contribution of environmental technologies to a growing economy and emphasizes the importance of economic growth (e.g.: Sutton et al., 2014). Based on GGKP (2013) green growth can be perceived as the process that leads to the given state of the economy that can be named as a green economy. The phrase green growth is a policy perspective aimed at operationalizing the normative concepts of green economy and sustainable development. It seeks to advance green economy and sustainable development in reengineering growth models in a way that simultaneously expand the economy, prosperity for all, and preserve the environment (Samans, 2013). The two concepts are intimately linked and similar.⁵

An Inclusive Green Economy that explicitly addresses the social dimension

Although the concept of green economy encompasses the economy, the environment and the social dimensions of sustainable development, it cannot be presumed that green growth (or green economy) is

¹ Apart from the title there is no further mention to the term ‘green economy’ in the report.

² The report was prepared by the London Environmental Economics Centre (LEEC) and authored by David Pearce, Anil Markandya and Edward B. Barbier.

³ The GGND of UNEP followed an appeal launched by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in its Address before the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan, for a Green New Deal that works for both rich and poor in the world, in December 2008. Before that, in 2009 the Republic of Korea launched a national Green New Deal. In the United Kingdom, a report entitled ‘Green New Deal: new initiative for economic and environmental transformation’ was initiated in the summer 2007 and published in 2008. The New Deal idea is inspired by the one launched by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt faced with the Wall Street crash of 1929.

⁴ The concept ‘green’ was then championed by the Republic of Korea.

⁵ As argued by Sheng Fulai from UNEP:

http://www.rona.unep.org/documents/partnerships/GreenEconomy/GE_Conceptual_Issues.pdf. (Accessed: 24 February 2014.) Other related concepts are ‘low carbon economy’, ‘circular economy’, ‘Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)’, ‘ecological modernisation’.

inclusive per se and automatically foster more equitable societies. As argued by the Nobel laureate, Stiglitz (2013), some countries reduce inequality as they grow while it increases in others, implying that policy matters, and inequality is a choice.

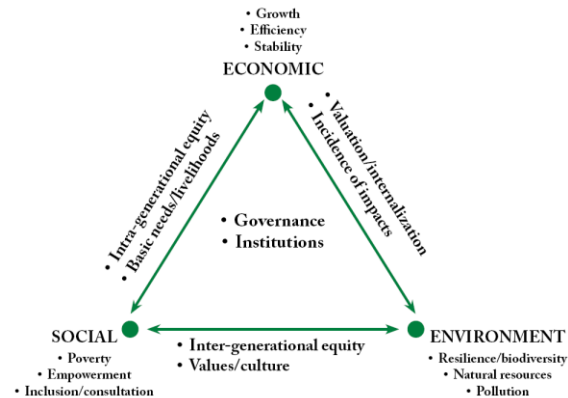
Africa remains the second most unequal region of the world after Latin America. In 2010, six out of the 10 most inequitable countries were in Sub-Saharan Africa. The poor account for 60.8% of Africa's population and 36.5% of total income. The rich account for 4.8% of the population and 18.8% of total income. Striking trends are found especially in South Africa and the Central African Republic with Gini coefficients rising from 58 to 67 between 2000-2006 and from 43 to 56 between 2003-2008, respectively (AfDB, 2012). This demands that policies aiming at greening the economy be carefully designed to maximize benefits for, and minimize costs to the poor and most vulnerable people of our societies (World Bank, 2012). Thus, a broader concept of 'inclusive' green economy incorporates fully the social sustainability aspects, in particular enhancing human development and the conditions for the poor and vulnerable (Samans, 2013). An inclusive green economy vision carries the promise of tackling the structural causes of social vulnerability, thereby ensuring that any transformation is both green and fair, leading also to a green society, not just a green economy. The inclusive green growth paradigm also recognizes that current growth patterns are both unsustainable and deeply inefficient. But it stands that growth is still much needed, especially in developing countries.

An inclusive green economy strategy presents an additional window of opportunity for Africa to leverage the current growth momentum, and accelerate its sustainable development path. Stimulating green growth through green investments and technology can provide the financing, innovation platform and political attention to achieve a structural transformation of African economies for a long-run economy growth and job creation (Bass, 2011). In Africa, countries are increasingly showing interest in inclusive green economy as a development strategy. For example, South Africa has adopted its New Growth Path, which integrates the transition to a green economy. The Government of Mozambique adopted a Green Economy Action Plan, for the transition period 2013/2014, in December 2013. This plan is viewed as a concept for the rational and sustainable use of natural resources through the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental development. As part of its Vision 2020 Rwanda has adopted the Green Growth and Climate Resilient (GGCR) Strategy as a strategic direction for the country and a set of measurable goals aimed at ensuring the emergence of a green economy. The government of Ethiopia has launched the Climate Resilient and Green Economy (CRGE) strategy with the dual objective of lifting the country to a middle income economy by 2025 and keeping greenhouse gas emissions constant.

Sustainable Development, Inclusive Green Economy and Integrated Assessment

The concept of Sustainable Development is generally viewed through the integration of its three dimensions: environmental, social and economic, while an equal emphasis can also be given to governance and institutions as fundamental and overarching requirement for sustainable development (UNECA, 2012) (Figure 1). There are clear and strong linkages within the economic-social-environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Figure 1. Sustainable development concept and interlinkages



Source: Munasinghe (1996) in UNECA (2008)

Inclusive green economy is considered as one of the means for operationalizing sustainable development (United Nations, 2011). Its ultimate goal is to align the economy with the principles of sustainable development. Inclusive green economy and sustainable development rest on the same economic, social and environmental pillars. Thus, the inclusive green economy paradigm, as supported by its conceptual framework, also requires an integrated analysis. As such, it also lends itself to integrated methodologies and tools that can take into account and reflect the sectoral win-win and examine “trade-off” issues within various policy scenarios.

Integrated Assessment (IA) is the science that deals with an integrated systems approach to complex societal problems embedded in a process-based context. It aims to analyse the multiple causes and impacts of a complex problem in order to develop policy options for a strategic solution of the problem in question. IA itself involves a process whereby IA tools form the equipment to perform the assessment. The IA toolkit is rich, including both analytical tools/methods (such as models, scenarios, uncertainty and risk analyses), and participatory methods (such as focus groups, policy exercises and dialogue methods) (Rotmans, 2006). Examples of IA tools and methodologies include modeling (see for example Musango et al. (2014) for a recent application); Environmental and Social Assessments methods (World Bank); econometric analysis dealing with integrated indicators; Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (World Bank); UNDP’s methodology for governance related analysis; ECA’s Sustainable development indicator framework for integrated analysis; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) promoted by UNEP and others; System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) of UNSD and others; and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology.

Justification

Research on tools and methodologies for green economy policy and planning is timely, in response to needs expressed to ECA and partners by African countries that would like to engage in this transition. The Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20 calls for support to African countries evaluate the costs and benefits associated with a green economy transition, and formulate and implement relevant policies accordingly. The Outcome document of the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for the post-Rio+20 follow-up processes also calls on the coordinating bodies to adopt or enhance the use and application of approaches and tools including integrated assessments to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The Outcome Document of the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals notes that data should be systematically and regularly collected, disaggregated and analysed. Furthermore, it suggests a common reporting framework for the indicators in order to compare performance across countries, subregions and regions. At the global

level, the Outcome document of the Rio+20 Summit, The Future We Want, calls on organizations of the UN System, other international organizations and donors to assist countries in their green economy transition, including by methodologies, toolboxes and models for evaluating/ applying green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

2. OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE CONSULTANCY

Against the above backdrop, the Special Initiatives Division (SID) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) wishes to engage the services of a consultant to undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of tools and methodologies for inclusive green economy policies in Africa. The study report will inform an in depth assessment of tools and methodologies deemed appropriate for analyzing inclusive green economy policies in Africa, The selected tools and methodologies will serve as key resources for capacity building and advocacy activities on inclusive green economy.

2.1 Objectives

The main objective of the study is to produce a robust, analytical and well-informed report on tools and methodologies for integrated assessment of inclusive green economy policies.

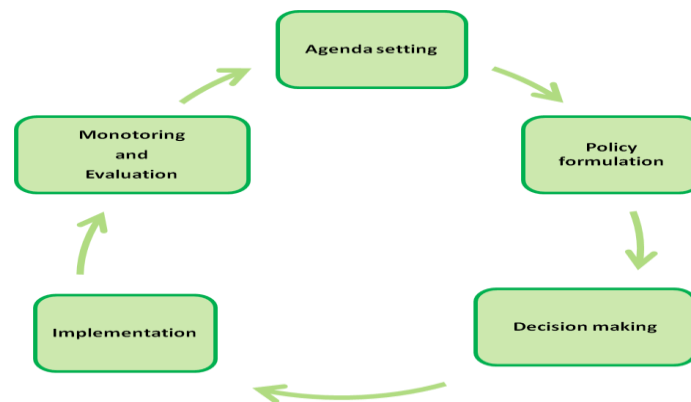
2.2 Consultancy tasks

In order to accomplish the above objective, and building on existing work on tools and methodologies relevant to inclusive green economy, the consultant will, in consultation with the statistical expert⁶, carry out the following tasks:

- a) Prepare an inception report detailing among other things, the work to be undertaken, the methodology, work plan and report outline;
- b) Present a conceptual framework for the analysis that relates the tools and methodologies to the different stages of the policy cycle, from formulation to monitoring and evaluation;
- c) Carry out a comprehensive assessment of inclusive green economy related tools and methodologies, identify and analyze tools and methodologies that are relevant for integrated assessment of inclusive green economy policies, taking into account the policy cycle from formulation to monitoring and evaluation (see Figure 2);

⁶ The terms of reference for the statistical component are provided as an annex.

Figure 2. The Policy Cycle



Source: Adapted from UNEP (2009)

- d) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the various tools and methodologies in relation to enabling an integrated assessment;
- e) Analyze their suitability and adaptability to Africa's specific context, taking into account data and capacity issues;
- f) Provide timely feedback in writing to the initial, interim and final deliverables of the statistical expert (from inception to final reports);
- g) Present and discuss the most suitable tools and methodologies for Africa;
- h) Recommend tools and methodologies for in depth analysis, capacity building and advocacy purposes, as follow up interventions;
- i) Prepare and submit for peer review a robust analytical draft Report on Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy Policies in Africa. The report shall cover, but not be limited to the issues identified in (a) to (h) above;
- j) Participate in, and present the study report at the Experts Meeting on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa to be held either in November 2014 or early 2015. Exact dates will be communicated as soon as confirmed;
- k) Finalize the report on the basis of comments and inputs provided by key stakeholders.

The methodology of the study should ensure that the integrated assessment tools and methodologies support:

- (i) A normative policymaking approach covering environmental, social and economic implications and associated policy issues and their potential solutions;
- (ii) Place solutions within a policy cycle in order to ensure that policy issues are appropriately defined, potential solutions compared, the solution that increases synergies and reduces trade-offs adopted, and the adopted solution implemented, monitored, evaluated and reported;
- (iii) Align policy development with the political, institutional, and analytical realities of Africa.

3. DELIVERABLES AND OTHER PROVISIONS

The consultant shall deliver the following:

- (i) A robust, analytical, and well-informed report on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa, including an Executive Summary and Key Messages.
- (ii) A Power Point presentation prepared in accordance with agreed guidelines and delivered at the Experts meeting on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa.

All the deliverables⁷ shall be prepared in English using single line spacing, times new roman 12 font size, contain page numbering, list of acronyms, a table of contents, foot notes, references, relevant annexes and appendices. The deliverables shall make use of graphs, charts, as appropriate, to ensure that the information is presented in a systematic, easy to grasp, appealing and informative manner.

All work submitted must be the original work of the consultant, and contain proper citation and recognition of reference documents and data sources.

4. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT AND TIMELINES

The assignment is expected to last three (3) work months commencing from 01 June 2014, comprising two (2) months of report drafting, feedback and production of a final draft, and one (1) month of report presentation and finalization.

| Time frame | Consultant's deliverables |
|--|---|
| One (1) week after signature of the contract | Submits to ECA an inception note, including the conceptualization, work plan for the assignment and report outline |
| Within three (3) weeks after signature of the contract | Consultations and data collection |
| Six (6) weeks after signature of the contract | Consultant submits the first draft report |
| Within one (1) week after receiving the first draft | ECA and partners provide comments on the first draft report |
| Within eight (8) weeks after signature of the contract | Consultant submits the final draft report |
| November 2014 (tbc) | Consultant participates in the Experts Meeting and presents the draft study report on Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa |
| Two (2) weeks following the EGM | Consultant submits the revised draft report on Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa |
| Four (4) weeks after the EGM | Consultant submits the finalized draft report on Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa |

⁷ With the exception of the presentation, that shall be prepared in English using Power Point.

5. REPORTING

The consultant shall report to, and perform the assigned tasks under the overall guidance of the Chief, Green Economy and Natural Resources Section (GENRS), Special Initiatives Division (SID), ECA. He/she will work under the direct supervision of the designated Officer in the performance of his/her day-to-day activities. In undertaking these tasks, the consultant shall work in close collaboration with the assigned Statistics Expert.

6. QUALIFICATIONS

Education: Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in development economics/social studies or environmental science/management. Post graduate training in sustainable development would be an advantage.

Experience: A minimum of ten years of progressively responsible experience at the national or international level in policy related analytical work in the context of Africa is required. Experience in undertaking integrated assessment work relevant to inclusive green economy, in particular in developing countries is required. Experience in integrating sustainability principles into development policies, programmes and plans would be an advantage.

Language: the consultant shall be fluent in written and spoken English. Good working knowledge of French language would be an advantage.

Technical skills: Advanced computer skills for compilation, integrated assessment and analysis and presentation of statistical data are required. Proficiency in the use of advanced techniques for data aggregation and display, is an advantage.

Communication: The consultant must possess excellent drafting abilities and have proven abilities to prepare reports in a clear, concise and compelling manner. He/she should be able to interact with senior people including heads of government ministries, the private sector and other stakeholders and individuals.

Teamwork: The consultant shall possess excellent interpersonal skills, demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with people of different nationalities and cultural background and must work collaboratively with the assigned colleagues to achieve the objective of the consultancy.

7. REMUNERATION

The consultant shall be paid US\$ XX, 000 (XX Thousand United States Dollars) for the contract period. Specific terms of employment will be contained in the special service agreement (SSA) between the selected candidate and the ECA.

The following payment schedule shall be as follows:

- (i). Ten (10) percent per cent upon submission, and acceptance by ECA of the assignment inception note;
- (ii). Thirty (30) percent upon submission and acceptance by ECA of the draft report;
- (iii). Twenty five (25) percent upon presentation of the Report at the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting;

- (iv). Thirty five (35) percent upon submission, and acceptance by ECA, of the finalized report on Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa.

The payment shall cover all the consultant's fee and costs related to the execution of this assignment. Travel and per diem to attend workshops/meetings will be provided separately.

ANNEX. The Terms of Reference for the Consultancy on the statistical component of the report on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa