

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy on the statistical component of the report 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 focus on 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, 2012). The two concepts are intimately linked and similar.⁵

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:

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 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, 2012). 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.

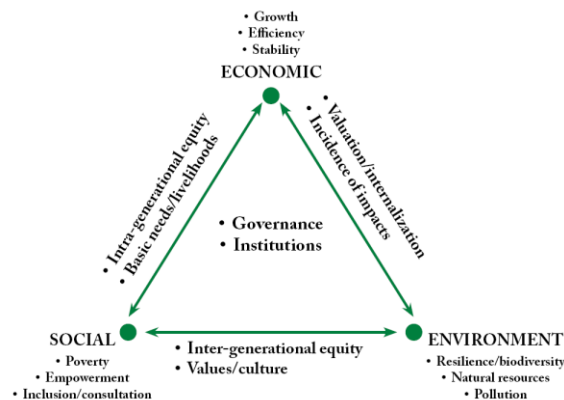
An inclusive green economy strategy presents an additional window of opportunity for Africa to leverage the current growth momentum, and accelerate its sustainable development path. Stimulating green growth through green investments and technology can provide the financing, innovation platform and political 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 major 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.

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'.

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” issue 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) wishing to engage the services of a statistical expert to undertake an analysis of statistical capacity in Africa as it pertains to data availability, suitability and quality to support the study on integrated assessment tools and methodologies for inclusive green economy policies in Africa. The terms of reference for the integrated assessment study are provided as an annex.

2.1 Objectives

The main objective of the consultancy is to:

Produce a robust, analytical and well-informed report on statistical capacity in Africa as it pertains to data availability, suitability and quality to support the study on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa.

2.2 Consultancy tasks

In order to achieve the above stated objective, the consultant will carry out the following tasks:

- (i) Consult with the consultant working on the integrated assessment tools and methodologies to ascertain the statistical analysis requirements of the study;

- (ii) Prepare an inception report detailing among other things, the work to be undertaken, the methodology, workplan and report outline;
- (iii) Carry out consultations with relevant institutions to collect relevant data and information on statistical capacity in Africa as it pertains to data availability, suitability and quality for integrated assessment tools relevant to inclusive green economy;
- (iv) Present and analyse data and information collected in (iii) above;
- (v) Analyse trends, gaps, challenges and opportunities related to integrated assessment tools and methodologies for inclusive green economy related data in Africa;
- (vi) Present conclusions and action oriented recommendations on the basis of the analysis;
- (vii) Revise and refine the analysis in the course of drafting the report on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy, as per the requirements of the Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies expert and ECA.
- (viii) Participate in the Expert Meeting on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy and present the draft report
- (ix) Finalize the report on the basis of comments and inputs provided at the expert meeting, as well as internal and external review processes

3. DELIVERABLES AND OTHER PROVISIONS

The consultant shall deliver the following:

- (i) A finalized robust, analytical, and well-informed report on statistical capacity in Africa as it pertains to data availability, suitability and quality for Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa.
- (ii) A Power Point presentation on statistical capacity for Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa delivered at the Expert Meeting on Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa

All the deliverables shall be prepared in English/French 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, tables and figures 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 two (2) work months, commencing on 01 June 2014 to 30 November 2014.

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 two (2) weeks after signature of the contract	Consults with selected institutions and experts at African and international levels to collect documents and information for the purpose of preparing the report
Four (4) weeks after signature of the contract	Consultant submits the draft report
Within one (1) week after receiving the first draft	The integrated assessment expert, ECA and partners provide comments on the draft report
Within one (1) week after receiving the comments	Consultant submits the revised draft report
November 2014 (tbc)	Consultant participates in the Experts Meeting (EGM) and presents the draft report on Statistical Capacity for Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa
One (1) week following the EGM	Consultant submits the final report on Statistical Capacity for Integrated Assessment Tools and Methodologies for Inclusive Green Economy in Africa

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 Integrated Assessment Expert.

6. QUALIFICATIONS

Education: Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in Statistics or related fields. Post graduate training in statistical analysis using quantitative and qualitative data is an advantage.

Experience: A minimum of seven years of progressively responsible experience in statistics is required, preferably within national statistical systems. Experience in the collection, compilation, analysis and presentation of statistical data is required. Experience in developing statistics and databases, in the context of Africa, is required.

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

Technical skills: Advanced computer skills for compilation, analysis and presentation of statistical data are required. Proficiency in the use of advanced techniques for data aggregation and display is an advantage. Skills in relevant statistical software and standard Query languages such as Oracle, MS Access is desirable.

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 a total of US\$ XX, 000 (XX thousand), for the entire duration, upon satisfactory completion of the assignment. Specific terms of employment will be contained in the special service agreement (SSA) between the selected candidate and the ECA.

The payment schedule shall be as follows:

- (i). Ten (10) percent 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 Statistical Capacity for Integrated Assessment 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 of the consultancy on the integrated assessment tools and methodologies