

Research Reports

MSMUNQ VI: The SDGs

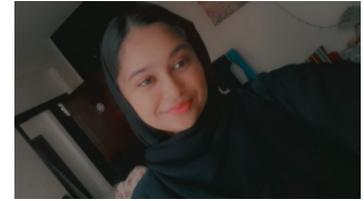


Forum: Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)

Issue: Achieving a Green Economy in Africa

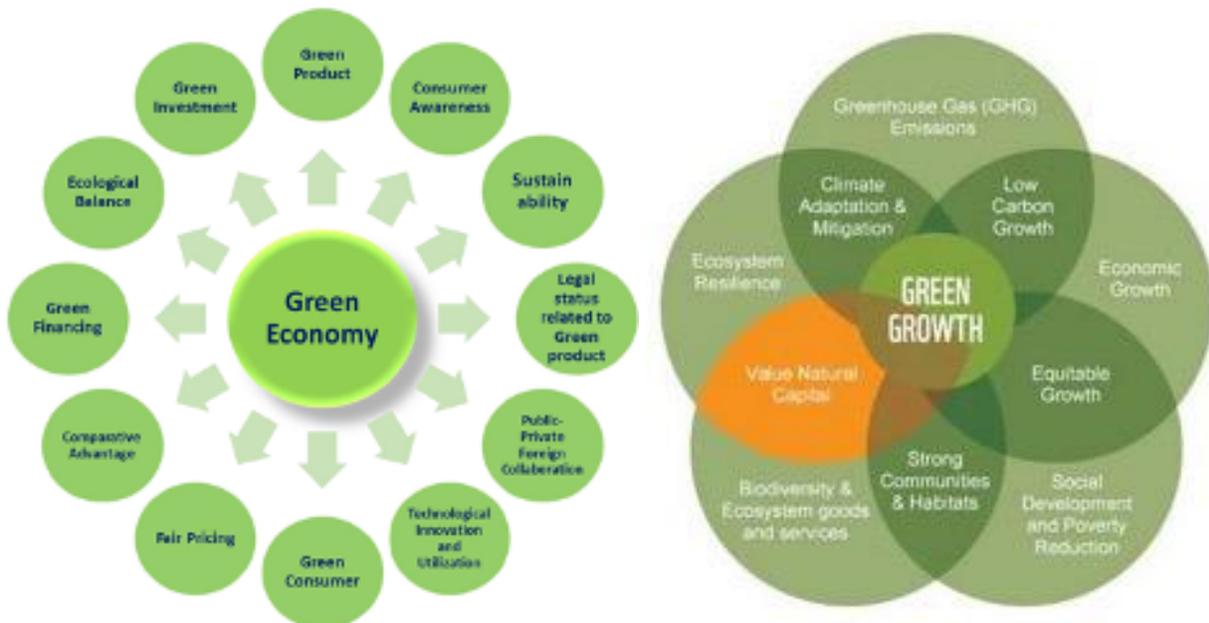
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PART 1 of the Research Report: Root Causes of the Issue

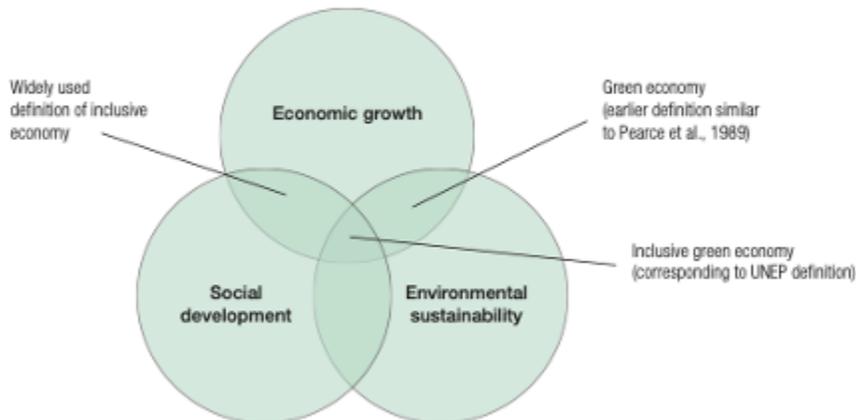
What are the root causes of the issue?



A green economy is an economic system where all the industries are low carbon, and are not wasteful of the resources used. In a green economy, all investments are geared towards better efficiency and reducing carbon emissions of existing industries. All things considered, the green economy offers a possible opportunity to address destitution, monetary stagnation, joblessness, and shortcoming to regular risks and natural deficiencies. The examinations that have been coordinated across different African countries in both little and greater economies with different resource enhancements, insidious existence characteristics, positive and basic impacts. In any case, the advancement to a green economy will not happen consequently. It ought to be worked with by various enabling circumstances, fusing those analyzed in the current report.

THE ROOT CAUSES OF NOT HAVING A GREEN ECONOMY:

Figure 1: Concept of a green economy in relation to sustainable development



Source: Poverty-Environment Partnership Joint Agency Paper, June 2012.

1. What [social factors](#) cause this issue? How does it do so?

The country will overall suffer a decrease in employment for the green transition in certain sectors such as coal mining however overall, employment will increase in the long term. There is



also a lack of understanding of the general concept of a green economy. African countries overall also lack technological advancement as poverty flourishes in this region. 48.5% of the sub-Saharan population live below the poverty line on less than \$1.25 a day. Energy use in North Africa relies heavily on cheap but labor heavy biomass such as wood and dried dung, and expensive fossil fuels for fuel and resources – this in turn would mean that a green economy would be having a great impact on the poor. By relying on green fuels, labor costs are saved, as well as actual money through a one time investment in a sustainable green energy source. Furthermore, there is a low capacity (skilled workers and lack of technology) to implement a green economy as many children go without an education and end up working on farms or doing part time jobs to support their families as they struggle financially- leading to them being of very limited use to the country's growth and enhancement, however investment in training will open up new opportunities for employment in green fuel industries.

2. What [economic factors](#) cause this issue? How does it do so?

The most reasonable factor would be that of African governments having inadequate funding as initially, a large investment cost is required.

Kenya: In recent years, Kenya has adopted several investments in green economy industries.

Whilst roughly 42% of their economy is from agriculture, mining, forestry, fishing and tourism, while 42 per cent of the total employment comes from small scale agriculture and pastoralism.

By investing in green economy, Kenya expects to double its income for each citizen by 2030.

This shows that despite costs associated with investment in a green economy, the GDP growth was not substantially different from the usual in the short term (between 2010-2020). This model



can be replicated by North African countries, to allow a successful green economy in these rapidly growing economies.

3. What political factors cause this issue? How does it do so?

In general, some governments are not quite open to foreign pressures for green industries, such as in Nigeria where Oil and Gas industries are tied to political parties, and where corruption rates are high. Governments are willing to go ahead with the weak institutional and legal frameworks-encouraging the lack of coordination and efforts at greening in various sectors. A green economy advancement pathway would have monetary, ecological and social advantages in the medium to long term. The advantages incorporate higher efficiency and intensity, higher monetary development, new income streams, higher per capita salaries, lower poverty rates, long term food security and occupation creation. The green economy could likewise help the climate through an expanded water supply and lower fossil fuel byproducts in the long haul.

4. What other factors cause this issue?

The greenhouse gas emissions produce a major challenge to the sustainability of the global environment. Furthermore, the consequence of global warming affects countries in Africa much more than they do anywhere else due to reasons such as: widespread crisis in environmental pollution, persistence in the energy crisis, and through complications of negligence of energy across the continent. A lack of resources, caused by climate change is a big risk factor that is triggering conflicts. As climate change makes the world hotter and drier, farmers are struggling more and more to grow food and water and feed their livestock. This creates resources scarcity



which triggers conflict in the area. Moreover, the energy sector of many African countries in SSA (Social Security Administration) is mishandled as they invest little on renewable energy and larger funds for fossil fuels.

5. How long has this issue been a problem?

Global Carbon emissions have been steadily increasing for the last century, with a crisis point predicted to be reached after which the disastrous effects of climate change cannot be reversed. If the increase in global warming due to climate change reaches above 2 degrees celsius, the effects on our planet will be irreversibly disastrous. Higher temperatures create global climate disasters such as wildfires, drought and flooding in low lying areas due to the melting of the ice caps.

6. Why is this issue a problem? Why does it need to be solved at all?

The issue needs to be addressed due to the many advantages it creates such as creating new job opportunities which would mean a big leap in the economy, improvement in wellbeing, a healthier population with better access to medical care, equality and access to education for children. Industries drive the development of infrastructure in a nation, and a greener economy will encourage more education in STEM, and more scientists entering the labor force, accelerating the rate of discoveries and improvements to our world. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that the move to a low- carbon, greener economy can potentially produce 60 million jobs by the year 2023. With around 17% of the populace in Africa younger than 30, and an expected 11 million youth expected to join the work market, green ventures may ease destitution pressure, and be the driving force in new enterprises and advancements.



9. Which countries influence this issue the most? How so?

From advancing energy effectiveness in Egypt and creating environmentally friendly power trade limits in Ghana, to the financing of green drives in South Africa, the drive to make more manageable development through a blend of strategy changes and monetary instruments is currently being implanted at the national level. Since Africa has relatively low emissions, it can be argued that a green economy focus should shift to more developed countries. However, since Africa suffers the most from the effects of global warming, through its reliance on agriculture, and because African countries are at the highest risk for both drought and flooding, it is essential that More Economically Developed Countries contribute technology and finances to develop greener economies in Africa.

10. Which countries/groups are the most impacted by this issue?

The countries that hold the most significance and are key experimenting places are Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa.

11. Which countries/groups should take the lead in solving this issue?

National Green economy policies are essential. With support from experts from around the world, Kenya is projected to surpass the existing model by around 12% by 2030 using policies that are formulated by Kenyan law makers. While in the energy area, growing interests in solar and wind energy industries in Senegal, for example, are projected to make up to 30,000 extra jobs by 2035. More Economically Developed Nations must work hand in hand with African lawmakers in order to support, invest in, and develop a green economy in African nations.



PART 2 of the Research Report: UN Treaties/Policies/Resolutions

This section covers what UN action has been taken to address this issue on the agenda

1. Which resolutions are linked to this issue [ratified](#)?

(Use this link to find out what resolutions have been made. At the [United Nations Treaty Collection](#) web-page you can find out which treaties also relate to this issue

A list of [UN declarations and conventions can be found here](#). The database can be searched by year or by subject.)

2. How far did this resolution solve the issue?
3. Why wasn't this resolution completely effective? Was it blocked by a specific organization/country? Were there any objections from a major organization

[UNEP- Policy Assessment for Green Economy 2014](#)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had produced a guidance manual for Green Economy and made a policy assessment on what was presently being done at the time in 2014. The Report talks through how it is crucial to go through making a target, policies to introduce, identify the impact they would have and how to include stakeholders and investors.

African pioneers have effectively embraced the green economy idea as exemplified in a few statements and goals, to be specific: the third African Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development (May, 2009); the thirteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) of June 2010; the first Pan African Biodiversity Conference (September 2010); the seventh African Development Forum (October 2010), and most as of late, the eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union (January 2011).



This issues paper by and large blueprints a few components of the green economy banter, and specifically, those that are applicable for Africa. It distinguishes difficulties and potential open doors, as well as the job of administration and the utilization of strategy instruments that could guarantee a smooth and successful change. It features open doors in key areas of the African economy, specifically: energy; agribusiness and land use; water; natural labor and products, ranger service and fisheries, and mineral assets and assembling. It closes by featuring a few key inquiries that could direct the board conversation on the green economy with regards to Africa's economical turn of events.

[UNEP- Policies and Measures for an inclusive Green Economy in Africa](#)

This report, written in 2016 contains policies and measures that can be and are being taken in African countries. The document starts with introducing the concept of green economy and the implications needed to make the transition for Africa to have an inclusive green economy.

Furthermore, the document highlights the need for institutions and policies needed to make the change and what policies could be instrumented. Moreover, the document depicts the need to promote green technology and how it will aid with development and transfer and how that ties in with the Capacity development a country holds, further including the need of finance a country needs, factors of how investments and stakeholders are required.

[Building Inclusive Green Economies in Africa Experience and Lessons Learned 2010-2015](#)



This rundown features the vital discoveries of this work in Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa, as well as headway made by other African nations. The report means to help policymakers better comprehend the different advantages of green economy ventures (from work, to neediness decrease to reasonable use and the executives of regular assets) by sharing great practices and strategies of nations which have been effectively stepping up in the worldwide progress to fabricate greener and more comprehensive economies. It gives an outline of where Africa, as a locale, remains as far as progressing to a comprehensive green economy. It attracts ongoing examinations to sum up the planned gains and difficulties related with putting resources into a green economy and diagrams a way forward to focus on strategy changes, with a particular segment on the best way to transform systems and practices difficulties into open doors. All things considered, this report features how progress to a green economy might be accomplished inside a scope of nation conditions.

PART 3 of the Research Report: Possible Solutions

One way to tackle the issue and further introduce and make the idea of a green economy more inviting to investors and businesses. If the country forms refined and well defined policies that would include reforming the economic incentives framework, promoting a more sustainable infrastructure investment, and facilitating in the human capital as well as the natural resources management and preservation. Furthermore, these public policies will help promote private investments that give their support to sustainable development.



A challenge would be to shape shift it to mainstream and align the activities for a green economy into the socio-economic and environmental sectors of society.

On the other hand, the institutions and policies create an environment which allows green economy investments to fully flourish. Studies show that many African countries have already started to implement various types of green economy initiatives that follow the core policies.

Investment is playing a big part in molding the future of the country's economy.

Moreover, to build on an inclusive green economy in Africa, to promote meaningful participation of investors and stakeholders, a good economy and political governance is critical. The increase in economic development directly affects the green economy. The government input is a great asset. Nations ought to evaluate their availability as far as individual and institutional ability to execute the green economy. Limits are expected to guarantee compelling interpretation of systems and policies during execution, including through innovation sending, specialized and monetary help, and bringing issues to light and support, all things considered.

However, this may take a while and the need for a green economy may continue to increase as the country struggles. Though the country is in the hands of an effective, dynamic institution that leads the country- the necessary support can be used as a leverage to formulate bonds, financial aid and implement the green economy policies in a country.

The government should include instituting priority sustainable development aims based on the average development plans of the country, and estimate the number of investments that would be required to achieve the goal of a green economy. Additionally, identifying policies that are



essential and mandatory to enable the required investments and assess the impact of the set goal of investments as well as enabling the policies using a wide range of economic, social, and environmental marks to compare the progress. Furthermore, the government should also monitor and have an assessment that presents the results of the decisions made. A green economy improvement pathway would have financial, natural, and social advantages in the medium to long haul. The advantages incorporate higher usefulness and intensity, higher monetary development, new income streams, higher per capita earnings, lower poverty rates, long haul food security and occupation creation. The green economy could likewise help the climate through more prominent woodland cover, expanded water supply and lower fossil fuel byproducts in the long haul.

Area	Opportunities	Challenges
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic growth (GDP) in the medium to long term New revenue streams from environmental fiscal reforms Increased export opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant change in GDP in the short run High initial costs of investments Weak fiscal policies Lack of policies to mitigate negative impacts of the transition
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower poverty rates Higher per capita incomes Increase in employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential employment loss e.g. coal mining sector Cost on the poor especially from fiscal reforms Higher prices of green products (e.g. organic agriculture) Higher cost of reskilling
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in forest cover Decrease in water stress Lower carbon emissions compared to BAU investments Improved natural resource management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in investments could lead to general increase in CO₂ emissions due to increased productivity and increased consumption in Africa.
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher productivity Increase in arable land Positive impact on rural incomes – decrease in rural urban income gap Increased export opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could result in lower productivity in the short run for crops that highly depend on chemical fertilizers. Increase in acreage under cultivation could have negative environmental impacts if not managed properly.
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased energy supply Lower energy costs Greater connectivity (hence better costs of doing business, better health and education services) Improved energy efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High capital costs especially of infrastructure and technology
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved well-being and lifestyles High potential for replication Increased confidence among the population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inertia among population and political class Capacity (skills and technology) for implementation



PART 4 of the Research Report: Bibliography

[Africa green economy project | UNEP](#)

[Green Economy | UNEP](#)

[Pushing for a green economy & clean energy | Africa Renewal](#)

[Five Facts You Should Know About Green Jobs in Africa](#)

[Barriers to greening the South African economy](#)

[Economic development thresholds for a green economy in sub-Saharan Africa -](#)



[Simplice A Asongu, Nicholas M Odhiambo, 2020](#)

[Policy Making for Green Economy](#)

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[Green Economy in Sub-Saharan Africa](https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org)<https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org> ›
[resource](#)

[Building Inclusive Green Economies in Africa Experience and Lessons Learned
2010-2015](#)

[https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/blog/2021/the-case-for-a-green-
economy.html](https://www.africa.undp.org/content/rba/en/home/blog/2021/the-case-for-a-green-economy.html)

RECOMMENDED TO GO THROUGH:

[Enabling measures for an inclusive green economy in Africa](#)