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A Proposed Framework for a Green Economy Investment Roadmap for the Arab Region

Food and Environment Policies Section
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Introduction

At Rio+20 in June last year, governments agreed that green economy is an important tool for achieving sustainable development. While there are numerous definitions of green economy (and related concepts such as green growth) it can perhaps most easily be described as an economy that is resource-efficient, low-carbon, resilient, and socially inclusive.

The green economy is a relatively new concept and while some countries in the Arab region have begun implementing significant national green economy initiatives (including the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia) there is no regional framework or overall vision for green economy investment at this stage. Further, there is limited understanding of how green economy might be used as a tool to address key regional priorities relating to sustainable growth, job creation, and economic diversification. In a post-Rio+20 context, the region will need to consider how the green economy can best be used to assist governments to achieve sustainable development and what regional mechanisms and initiatives can help to overcome regional constraints and barriers and take advantage of any opportunities.

Following the Rio+20 Conference, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) under the League of Arab States (LAS) requested that ESCWA and UNEP develop a regional green economy investment vision and roadmap (see request at Box 1). In response to this request, ESCWA has worked with its partners UNEP and LAS to complete a number of scoping activities to better define the best way forward for developing the roadmap. An important step in this process was an expert workshop that was held in Amman, Jordan in August 2013 which brought together Arab government representatives and leading regional and international green economy experts. The workshop focused on articulating how a regional-scale roadmap such as that requested by CAMRE might encourage and enable national green economy efforts in the Arab region. Specifically, it helped to identify the best approach and process for developing the roadmap and the key components of an effective roadmap.

Box 1: CAMRE Request

The request from CAMRE in December 2012 (Resolution 395/regular session, 24-25 December 2012) comprised two main outputs:

- A detailed report on the regional investment vision and opportunities for the transition towards green economy. The report should begin with an analysis and assessment of policy options for the transition towards green economy in the region and identify the most appropriate according to national and regional priorities and the development challenges faced by the Arab region, as well as developing a roadmap for investment priorities and available opportunities.

- Elaborate proposals for activating mechanisms of green financing and technology transfer in the Arab region. In addition, identify needed investments to estimate the expected volume of investments and targeted sectors corresponding to priorities, and to review funding sources, including global green funds and regional development funds, specifically considering the role of the Arab Environment Facility, which is approved but not yet activated.

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1 This document was prepared by Cameron Allen, Reem Nejdawi and Jana El-Baba from the Food and Environment Policy Section at the Sustainable Development and Policy Division in ESCWA based on the results of consultations with experts and ESCWA partners in the implementation of Rio+20 outcomes.
This paper recommends a way forward for developing a Green Economy Investment Roadmap for the Arab Region that draws upon the advice of regional and international green economy experts, the outcomes of recent Arab regional and international consultations and agreements on green economy, and the wealth of regional and international green economy reports, studies and publications. To do so, it first places green economy in the Arab regional context; secondly, it proposes and outlines the key components of the roadmap; and finally, it includes a brief work plan of the proposed next steps.

**Green economy in the Arab regional context**

Before exploring the key components of the roadmap it is important to first briefly consider the priorities for green economy in the Arab region – a region that is currently facing a series of challenges on multiple environmental, social and economic fronts.

On the environmental front, the region faces a number of constraints and scarcities. For example, it has the lowest freshwater availability per capita of any region in the world. Thirteen Arab countries among the world’s 19 most water scarce countries. In addition, two-thirds of freshwater resources found in the Arab region are sourced from shared water basins. Water scarcity combined with the declining availability of arable land raise serious questions with regard to food security in the region. Perhaps no other region in the world today faces such daunting challenges to food production. The state of water resources is nearing a crisis in many Arab countries, driven mostly by policies that encourage over-consumption and tolerate overexploitation.

Demand for ecological resources and services in Arab nations has been estimated at more than twice what local ecosystems can produce, suggesting that the region has reached, and even crossed, critical thresholds that support growth and wellbeing. This deficit is largely bridged by imports and over-exploitation of finite resources.

Arab countries import at least 50 percent of the food calories they consume. The escalating food import bill (estimated at $30 billion in 2008 for main food commodities) has caused large trade deficits and strained the public budgets of Arab countries. This is unsustainable in the long-term and makes the region especially vulnerable to climate change, drought, food price spikes, disruptions in global supply chains and trade restrictions.

While the region has always experienced constraints with regard to water scarcity and availability of arable land, there are a range of demographic trends that are exacerbating these problems. The Arab population has nearly tripled since 1970 and over half the region’s population now lives in cities. The region is projected to see its urban population more than double between 2010 and 2050. This places a major stress on governments to provide basic services such as energy, water and sanitation as well as decent work.

Unemployment rates have been increasing and job creation remains one of the most critical social development challenges, particularly for youth and women. More than half the region’s population is below the age of 25 and is increasingly more educated and mobile. Millions of jobs need to be created each year to service this growing demand. Unemployment, poverty and inequality are ongoing problems that have become more serious in recent years.

While some countries enjoy stable growth and development, others face complex emergency situations. Peace and security is a major challenge in some parts of the region. Social unrest, foreign occupation, ethnic conflict and war, as well as political tensions in neighbouring regions, are seriously hampering development efforts. The region is now facing an historic moment where a resurgent Arab population is seeking new development pathways that give greater prominence to the interlocking issues of democratic governance, social justice, decent employment and political, economic and social inclusion.
The economic situation and outlook for the region is mixed and remains uncertain and a big challenge will be getting economic policies right. Despite economic reforms over the last three decades, real GDP in the region has been consistently lower than emerging and developing economies worldwide. The overall average annual growth rate in Arab countries has been declining and was lower than the global level over the past few decades.

While energy resources such as oil and gas reserves have become embedded as the backbone of regional trade and production, not all countries in the Arab region are energy rich. Energy security is becoming a serious concern for oil-importing countries in the region due to volatile and increasing oil prices. Reducing the size of the energy import bill is a priority for these countries as it places a significant burden on public finances and vulnerability to global oil price volatility.

For oil exporting economies, booming oil prices and growing social demands have led to increased government expenditure on wages and salaries and increasing vulnerability to a negative oil price shock. These countries face the medium-term challenge of increasing resilience to external shocks and generating enough jobs for a young and rapidly growing population, in particular private sector jobs. Oil-led growth in the region has been a double-edged sword that has generated significant wealth but also led to a premature de-industrialisation in some countries and unbalanced growth between Arab countries. The Arab region remains the least industrialised middle-income region in the world and it has been unsuccessful at developing a strong private sector that generates productive employment for youth. Ongoing political transitions and conflict in some countries continue to weigh on growth.

In response to social demands and rising food and fuel prices, governments have expanded spending on subsidies and salaries creating fiscal vulnerabilities. Stronger growth is urgently needed to spur job creation and provide the population with tangible benefits. To do so, governments need to restore macroeconomic stability and implement growth-oriented structural reforms aimed at improving competitiveness and laying the foundation for a more inclusive and sustainable economic model.

Green Economy: can it offer solutions to multiple crises?

The introduction above paints a complex picture for a region which faces inter-linking economic, social and environmental challenges. In this context, the key question is ‘how might green economy assist Arab countries to address these challenges in an integrated way?’ – or in other words ‘how can green economy be used as a tool for sustainable development as was agreed at Rio+20?’

A central tenet of the green economy is that investing in the environment not only safeguards our natural resources for future generations but that it also makes sound economic sense. It holds the promise of achieving integrated or synergistic outcomes that simultaneously link socio-economic benefits with environmental sustainability. By arguing the case for environmental protection in terms of macroeconomic benefits, the green economy aims to mobilize central planning and finance ministries as well as the private sector to make green investments and policy decisions. However, not all green economy investments will be appropriate in all situations.

Decision-makers and policy-makers in central government ministries are interested in several potential aspects of green economy: firstly, the prospects for enhancing economic growth, productivity and prosperity; secondly, the potential for creating green jobs and generating employment; thirdly, the possibility of gaining new areas of comparative advantage in the international market place; and fourthly, the opportunity for diversifying economies away from resource-intensive growth. However, not all green economy investments will fit all countries all the time. Decision-makers need to be able to identify and select the best investment opportunities based on their regional and national circumstances.

While the evidence base is slowly growing, the empirical basis to substantiate these opportunities remains weak and has not been well-documented for the Arab region. As such, it can be difficult to
build a simple and convincing case around the macroeconomic benefits of green economy without further quantitative analysis of the implications and potential benefits in terms of investment, growth, employment generation, trade and other socio-economic factors.

Given the challenges faced by the Arab region, it will be critical to build the evidence-base for investing in the green economy to enable countries in the region to act. Arab regional consultations on green economy have reflected this requirement. For example, in the lead up to Rio+20, discussions on green economy between Arab governments affirmed that the transition towards a green economy should generate new job opportunities in green sectors, support the integration between policies targeting water, energy and food security, and mobilize adequate financial resources and facilitate technology transfer. Arab governments also affirmed that green economy needed to be voluntary and defined and developed at the national level in line with national sustainable development objectives and priorities.

The request for a green economy investment roadmap for the Arab region by CAMRE signalled that Arab governments broadly agreed that green economy is important and that it needs to be implemented. However, while some countries in the region have been able to attract international experts to assist their national planning processes, many countries in the region have been unable to attract the technical support and resources needed for analysis and implementation.

Several reports and publications on green economy in the Arab region and internationally have been published in recent years and have contributed significantly to the growing green economy literature. However, while these reports and publications have helped to build consensus in the region and globally on the need for green economy and to articulate the types of policy measures needed, they have not led to widespread implementation or a clear understanding of what the benefits of green economy might be for the Arab region in terms of addressing key economic, social and environmental challenges and priorities.

This underscores some important gaps in terms of regional understanding of the potential macroeconomic and social benefits of green economy as well as the lack of a regional enabling environment that can encourage and enable national policy-making and implementation. These gaps could be filled by an effective Green Economy Investment Roadmap for the Arab Region.

A Proposal for a Green Economy Investment Roadmap for the Arab Region

This section proposes an annotated framework for a Green Economy Investment Roadmap for the Arab Region for consideration by JCEDAR and CAMRE. The framework comprises a proposed vision and objectives as well as the key conceptual and analytical components and enabling measures. This proposed framework has been developed based on advice and inputs from regional and international green economy experts during an expert workshop in August 2013 as well as a review of green economy roadmaps and initiatives in other regions and at the global level. The key components of the framework are visually summarized in the figure at Annex 1. These would be underpinned by a robust planning process that achieves buy-in by countries and institutional arrangements to facilitate coordination, stakeholder engagement and expert technical input.

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Aim and Objectives

The proposed overall aim for the roadmap is to enable countries in the Arab region to make green economy investment and policy decisions that enhance economic, social and environmental outcomes in an integrated way and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities. Within this overall vision, the proposed objectives for the roadmap are to:

- **Facilitate greater understanding in the Arab region of the potential benefits of green economy in terms of investment, job creation, growth, diversification, trade and other regional priorities.** To succeed, the roadmap would need to be able to put forward a simple, convincing, macroeconomic argument for why investing in the environment makes sense from both an economic and social development perspective.
- **Set the overall vision and direction for the region and inspire countries to develop national green economy plans while allowing flexibility for national adaptation and acknowledging that governments have prime responsibility for implementing green economy in accordance with their priorities.** The vision and direction will need to be quantified through goals and targets to facilitate quantitative analysis and to measure progress over time.
- **Provide an effective regional enabling environment to support national implementation that is coherent with the regional institutional framework and that builds on existing strategies and initiatives.** To do so, it would explore opportunities for pooling expertise and resources, sharing knowledge, capacity building, and regional and global cooperation on finance, technology and technical support.
- **Mobilize investment in the green economy in the region in a way that addresses the socio-economic and environmental priorities of the region.** In this regard, it will be important to engage central planning and finance ministries as well as the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders early in the process.

Key Components of the Roadmap

In order to explore the key components of the roadmap, a simple conceptual framework can be used which comprises three basic components: 1) where we are now; 2) where we want to be; and 3) how we get there (Figure 1). This framework is used to describe the key components of the proposed Green Economy Investment Roadmap for the Arab region below. However, it is also worth noting that these components would need to be underpinned by a robust planning process that achieves active buy-in by Arab countries in shaping the assessments and deliverables that will fall under each of these three key areas as well as in adopting the results.

![Figure 1. Conceptual Framework for the Roadmap](image-url)
1. Where we are now…

Defining where the Arab region is now primarily entails setting the regional context, identifying the key regional priorities or challenges that green economy would need to address, and reviewing regional and national responses, institutions, initiatives and data availability. In this context, it is proposed that the first component of the green economy roadmap comprise a stock-taking exercise or situation analysis which would then be used to inform subsequent stages of the roadmap. The stock-taking exercise could be conducted, for example, through expert background papers and consultative meetings, with a final stocktaking/mapping report as the final deliverable for this component. This would comprise a review and mapping of the following:

- Priorities, challenges, barriers and opportunities for green economy in the Arab region;
- Regional data availability and gaps;
- Current national and regional (and relevant international) policy responses and key actors, including programmes, initiatives, best practices, policies, goals/targets, institutions, and stakeholders; and
- Establishing a regional baseline and Business As Usual (BAU) scenario which articulates where the region is headed in terms of economic growth, social development metrics, climate vulnerability and GHG emissions and other environmental variables.

Firstly, with regard to regional priorities, as outlined in the introduction these are likely to include macroeconomic priorities such as economic growth, trade and economic diversification, unemployment (particularly for youth and women), vulnerability to shocks, and governance and skill deficiencies. At the sectoral level, the water, energy, food and waste sectors are likely to be green economy priorities. The roadmap will need to integrate cross-sectoral and sectoral issues to ensure that the scale of the problem and potential benefits of green economy can be quantified and communicated to different audiences (e.g. to both environment and finance ministries), and so that policy reform packages can be coherently developed. From a programmatic and analytical perspective, it is likely to be easier to focus on sectoral priorities and link these within the roadmap to socio-economic outcomes. This could be achieved through the selection of a limited set of priority sectors (e.g. energy, water and food) and the articulation of guiding principles with regard to socio-economic objectives.

Secondly, adequate data will be required in order to undertake the quantitative analysis that is recommended for the regional roadmap. As such, the stock-take will need to include an assessment of data availability and data gaps.

Thirdly, with regard to regional and national responses, all countries in the region have in place policies and initiatives that could be classified under the banner of ‘green economy’, and several countries in the Arab region are in various stages of developing detailed national strategies, such as the UAE, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Organisations such as the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), UNEP, ESCWA, The World Bank (CMI) and AFED are facilitating green economy in the region, and new institutions have also been established which would be of relevance for the roadmap (e.g. Masdar, the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), the ESCWA Technology Centre, and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)). There have also been a number of regional studies and reports prepared on green economy policies and priorities. The stock-taking exercise will help to connect the dots, bring together key actors, map out relevant stakeholders and ensure that the roadmap will build upon, link to and scale up initiatives to date.
There has also been a substantial amount of work done at the international level on defining green economy, identifying operational principles, outlining policy options and best practices, and building mechanisms to provide technical support and financing. These include the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE – UNEP, ILO, UNIDO, UNITAR), the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (OECD, UNEP, World Bank, GGGI), the global Green Growth Best Practices (GGBP) initiative, the Low-Emission Development Strategy Global Partnership, and a variety of multi-lateral and bilateral donor initiatives and funds that can support green economy planning in developing countries. The roadmap could better link to these global initiatives so that the Arab region can benefit through technical support, capacity building and financing.

In addition, a review of opportunities for strengthening green economy policies and measures across Arab countries (including financing measures) could be undertaken by benchmarking the range of policies of countries in the Arab region across the targeted sectors relative to international standards, best practices or regional norms. This could review existing policy enablers that are being used in the region and analyse their impacts.

Finally, the stocktaking exercise would need to establish a regional baseline and BAU scenario, which would set where the region is headed in terms of economic growth, climate vulnerability, GHG emissions and other environmental variables, and social development metrics. This step will be critical for setting targets and goals for alternative pathways and making a case to justify green economy.

2. Where we want to be...

Defining where the region wants to be involves the articulation of a vision and objectives for the roadmap as well as specific goals and targets that set the general direction for the region and enable quantitative assessment and the measurement of progress. The process for setting goals would be informed by the stock-taking exercise (which would include a review of national, regional and global goals and targets) as well as consultative meetings or dialogues. They could also be informed by initial modelling of technology potential and costs of alternative pathways.

The setting of quantitative goals and targets is considered important to ensure that a robust, scientific and quantitative methodology can be applied to assessing policy options, investment requirements and socio-economic impacts. While this may be challenging at the regional level due to the great diversity between countries in the region, it is proposed that ambitious or visionary targets could be set for voluntary adoption by countries. Such ambitious goals and targets could be initially adopted by leaders or champions in the region who have a greater interest and capacity to begin testing policies and options for reaching goals. Goals and targets could be set for key regional priorities identified for the regional roadmap, for example relating to sectoral priorities such food, energy and water security, as well as socio-economic priorities such as growth, job creation and poverty reduction.

The articulation of goals and targets for the Arab region can draw on existing national targets in Arab countries as well as global goals and targets. For example, all Arab countries have already adopted some form of national target for renewable energy which could be used to determine a regional estimate. At the global level, a range of relevant goals and targets have also emerged and these are being further developed within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and post-2015 agenda and the new global framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The process

4 The GGBP is drawing on the expertise of 75 global experts to develop a series of new publications and interactive tools to inform green growth decision making, planning and implementation.
5 Note that these are proposed above.
for developing the SDGs will conclude in September 2014 and the new framework is expected to be in place post-2015. As such, there will need to be a degree of flexibility in the approach taken to selecting goals for the roadmap. However, this should not preclude taking action now to implement green economy provided this can be easily reviewed and adapted further down the track.

The key deliverable from this step would be a report that summarises and recommends goals and targets to be used for the roadmap across the target sectors (e.g. water, energy, food).

3. How we get there...

Defining how the region reaches its goals and targets will involve putting in place the appropriate national and regional enabling conditions to close the gap between the current situation or baseline and the region’s goals and targets. An important consideration here is that national governments have primary responsibility for implementing green economy policies in accordance with national priorities and circumstances. The regional roadmap therefore will need to focus on what can be done at the regional level to encourage and promote national implementation.

In line with the regional scale of the roadmap, the proposed vision and objectives outlined above relate to inspiring and enabling countries in the Arab region to develop their own national strategies and implementation plans for green economy, and to put in place the appropriate national enabling conditions for green investment. There are a range of green economy investment and policy options available to governments, including: pricing policies, green financing, regulatory measures, green procurement, and public investment. However, in order to stimulate growth and jobs and address other national priorities, governments need to be able to identify and select those policies that have a clear influence on the flow of investment and finance (both new and existing, public and private).

There are likely to be many institutional and policy barriers to green investment, such as: a weak investment climate and lack of incentives for private sector investment in green economy; a lack of understanding in Arab countries of the potential costs and benefits of green economy; a corresponding lack of political will to put in place a national enabling environment for green investment (particularly in central planning and financing ministries); a lack of technical capacity and understanding of the potential options, analytical methodologies and necessary steps; and a lack of financing for initial assessment work and investments.

A comprehensive national planning process involving the development of a national green economy strategy or implementation plan could greatly assist countries to identify and address constraints and barriers and take advantage of opportunities. There are a range of technical partners that can support Arab countries in this regard (e.g. GGGI, UNEP, ESCWA, OECD, ILO, UNIDO, The World Bank (CMI), LEDS GP, GGBP). However, a high-level political commitment is generally required to engage such partners, and countries are likely to also require financial support from donors to engage partners and undertake initial analysis and preliminary steps. As such, facilitating greater understanding of the macroeconomic benefits of green economy and inspiring countries to act are likely to be initial priorities for the roadmap.

Ultimately, the regional roadmap needs to be effectively pitched at the regional scale and should therefore focus on regional mechanisms or enabling conditions that will encourage and support national policy analysis, implementation and investment. These regional-scale initiatives would need to link with the roadmap’s objectives and target key constraints and barriers to green economy, for example by assessing and effectively communicating the socio-economic benefits of green economy; through training and capacity building in policy options, analytical tools and steps in the process; and by assisting countries to find the technical support or start-up financing that they need. It could also aim to take advantage of regional opportunities such as regional cooperation and integration to
achieve economies of scale in terms of financing and investment, technology R&D and deployment, and trade and infrastructure.

In this context, potential deliverables and regional mechanisms for this major component of the roadmap are outlined below, comprising eight potential deliverables across three categories.

**A. Green Economy Benefits and Investment Opportunities:**

1. A **regional green economy investment report** which models the macroeconomic impacts (e.g., on growth and employment) of different levels of green economy investment (0 - 3% of GDP from different sources) across the food, energy and water sectors. The report would also model the level of investment required to reach the roadmap’s goals and targets across the three priority sectors and outline the economic, environmental and social benefits of these investments. The report will include relevant information from the situation analysis and stock-taking exercise (step 1) and proposed regional goals and targets (step 2) mentioned above. Ideally, the model used for scenario analysis would be further developed into a modelling and analytical tool for national governments to undertake national-level assessments.

2. A **green economy financing strategy or investment plan** linked to the investment report which would analyse the financing gaps and barriers to public and private green investment and outline regional opportunities and mechanisms to overcome barriers and unlock the desired level (e.g. 0 - 3% GDP) of green economy investment in the region necessary to meet goals/targets in priority sectors. The strategy will also elaborate how government funds, policies and donor support could catalyze private investment so governments can understand what they need to do to attract this investment.

3. A **regional communication strategy and awareness campaign** linked to the green economy investment report that highlights key socio-economic benefits of green economy for the Arab region and that places green economy in a positive macroeconomic frame and in a language that planning and finance ministries can easily understand and relate to. This could also engage champions or leaders from the region to help to build consensus and test policy and investment options and pilot initiatives.

**B. Green Economy Policies and Measures**

4. A **green economy toolbox** of policies, methodologies and analytical tools (and, if necessary, data) based on a review of opportunities for strengthening green economy policies and measures across the Arab countries, including financing measures (conducted as part of the stocktaking exercise). The review would benchmark existing policy measures of countries in the region for priority sectors relative to international standards, best practices or regional norms. It would also explore optimised or suitable policy tools and technologies for Arab countries. The review would feed into the development of a green economy toolbox adapted for the Arab region (and drawing on the resources of the Green Growth Best Practices initiative and LEDS GP amongst others). In addition to outlining policies and planning steps, the toolbox could include a software-based integrated modelling tool that can be used by Arab countries to undertake the quantitative analysis needed for their national strategies.

5. A **capacity building and training program** for national planners and decision-makers that is based on the green economy toolbox mentioned above. This would ensure that the tool box is not just a ‘static resource’ but that expert assistance is also available.

**C. Regional Collaboration and Cooperation**

6. A **regional platform for knowledge and experience sharing** and information exchange. Again, this could be linked to global initiatives such as the GGBP, Green Growth Knowledge Platform, and LEDS GP. This could be an online platform and forum as well as on-going regional meetings or dialogues.

7. A **mechanism for regional cooperation on technology research** and development and integration in areas such as trade and infrastructure (potentially building on existing initiatives such as Masdar).
8. **A brokering mechanism** to assist countries to find the technical support and donor financing that they need to kick-start their processes. For example, this could be a registry or database which links Arab countries with potential technical partners and donors.

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**Work Plan**

The development of the roadmap and its various components is a substantial piece of work that will require various technical activities, modelling work, tool development, consultative meetings and workshops. However, initial direction is required from CAMRE regarding this proposed general approach to developing the roadmap. If endorsed, the proposed framework will be developed into a project concept note which will be reviewed by relevant experts and then circulated to potential donors for funding. Subsequent steps in developing the roadmap will be articulated in the project concept note along with resource requirements, timeframes and technical partners. The project concept note will also include a framework of performance indicators to monitor progress.

ESCWA will lead further project development and coordination in partnership with LAS and UNEP, as a key component of its post-Rio+20 regional agenda. It is proposed that a technical advisory group of regional and international experts be established to advise on project design and implementation. At the institutional level, the roadmap will need to link with, and be embedded within, the regional institutional framework which is provided through LAS, including its various Councils and regional strategies and initiatives. A new Arab Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development is currently being finalised which is proposed to replace the existing Sustainable Development Initiative for the Arab Region (SDIAR) and would provide the appropriate umbrella framework for the roadmap. It will also help to frame the roadmap as an implementation plan (or a tool) for sustainable development and link it with other key Rio+20 deliverables, including the global SDGs and renewed institutional framework for sustainable development. The roadmap will be developed as an initiative of CAMRE, however engagement with the Economic and Social Council of LAS will also be required to ensure the roadmap is pitched to economic planning and finance ministries.
Annex 1: Proposed Framework for a Green Economy Investment Roadmap for the Arab Region

**Aim:** to enable countries in the Arab region to make green economy investment and policy decisions that enhance economic, social and environmental outcomes in an integrated way and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities.

**Objectives:**
- To formulate a regional vision to guide Arab countries in developing national plans to shift to a green economy
- To take advantage of the anticipated benefits of a shift towards a green economy
- To provide an enabling regional environment that supports implementation at the national level
- To take advantage of opportunities for enhancing regional cooperation, integration and knowledge exchange, especially in the areas of technology development, trade, infrastructure, finance and investment.

**1. Situation Analysis – Stock-taking and Mapping Stage:**
- Challenges, obstacles and opportunities for a green economy in the region
- Existing programs, initiatives, policies and objectives
- Available regional studies and data, and information gaps
- National, regional and international stakeholders and actors
- Establish a regional baseline and Business As Usual scenario
- Identify investment priorities within the sectors of water, energy and food

**2. Goal-setting stage:**
- Long-term regional vision for a shift towards a green economy to guide countries in the region
- Quantitative goals and objectives for the medium and short terms (for certain sectors and issues, determine the investment required and other needs)
- Secure political commitment

*It is important to set a timeframe for each goal*

**3. Analysis and selection of mechanisms, tools and resources needed**
- Modeling investment requirements and preparation of analytical studies on the desired social, economic and environmental impacts of a shift towards a green economy.
- Identify the baseline and develop multiple scenarios (including the Business as Usual scenario)

**Provide an enabling regional and national environment**
- Regional communication strategy and awareness campaigns highlighting the expected benefits
- Financial strategy and funding mechanism to help countries requiring technical support
- A green economy toolbox to guide the Arab countries and a capacity building program for decision-makers
- Pilot projects
- Regional platform for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and information
- Framework for regional cooperation and integration (especially in the areas of research & development, trade, and infrastructure)