

Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Best Practices
On sustainable Rural Livelihoods in the ESCWA Region
Beirut, 24-25 November 2010

**GREEN ECONOMY IMPLICATIONS OF THE SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOOD APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARAB REGION**

by

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Green Economy Implications of the Sustainable Livelihood Approach

for Sustainable Development in the Arab
Region





Outline

1. The Green Economy
2. Challenges in the ESCWA Region
3. Roles of Stakeholders
4. SLA promoting Region-Specific Green Economy
5. ESCWA Initiative on Green Economy

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Defining Green Economy



"A crisis is a terrible thing to waste" (Paul Romer)

- Emergence of the green economy concept provides a fresh look at the relationship between economy and the environment

Definition (UN Green Economy Initiative)

"Greening the economy refers to the process of reconfiguring businesses and infrastructure to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extracting and using less natural resources, creating less waste and reducing social disparities"

UNEP's working definition:

"A green economy is a system of economic activities related to the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services that result in improved human well-being over the long term, while not exposing future generations to significant environmental risks or ecological scarcities".

Scope & Purpose of Green Economy Initiative - established in 2008 to:

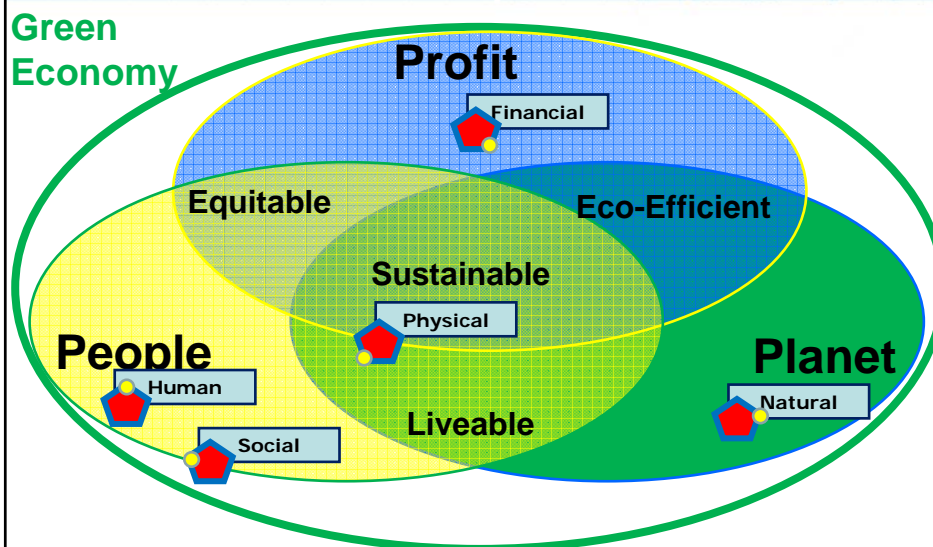
"assists governments in "greening" their economies by reshaping and refocusing policies, investments and spending towards a range of sectors, such as clean technologies, renewable energies, water services, green transportation, waste management, green buildings and sustainable agriculture, and forests."

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Green Economy and Sustainable Development



Source:

UNEP, 2007: *Life Cycle Management: A Business Guide to Sustainability*, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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Green Economy: Expected Outcomes



- Green Economy is expected to deliver three types of outcomes:

1. New sources of income and jobs; SLA
2. Low carbon emissions, reduced use of resources, and reduced generation of waste and pollution;
3. Contributions to broader societal goals of sustainable development, social equity, and poverty reduction. SLA

- Contributions from a green economy to social goals are not automatic; **specific policies and institutions must be attached to green economy activities.**

Green Economy Priority Areas



- Suggested Priorities for green investments:

- For developed countries:
 - Energy-efficient buildings,
 - Sustainable Transport,
 - Renewable energy.
- For developing countries:
 - Sustainable agriculture,
 - Freshwater management,
 - Sanitation.



As of Sept. 2009:
At least 15 % of global stimulus packages

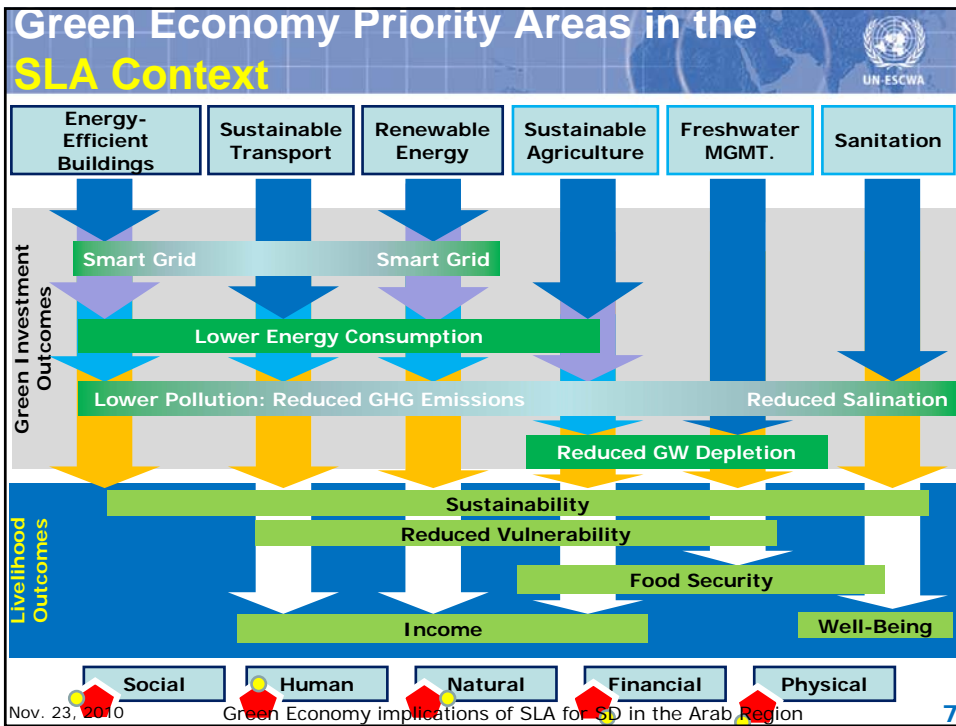
China: 38%
Germany :12%
United States: 25%
South Korea: 80%

Source:

UNEP; 2010: *Emerging policy issues: environment in the multilateral system*, Discussion paper presented by the Executive Director on Green economy, 11th special session of the Governing Council, Bali, Indonesia, 24–26 February 2010, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

UNEP, 2009: *Global Green New Deal: Policy Brief*, Policy Brief, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Robins, N.; Clover, R.; Singh, C.; 2009: *A Global Green Recovery ? Yes, but in 2010*, HSBC Global Research, August 2009, London, UK.



Examples of Green Economy Applications in Relation to SLA: Energy-Efficient Buildings

Saudi Arabia: Lessons from traditional Arabic houses






Ventilation stack



King Abdullah University of Science and Technology Building (KAUST):
 100% wastewater reuse,
 27.1% annual energy cost savings,

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Examples of Green Economy Applications in Relation to **SLA: Sustainable Transport**



United Arab Emirates / Dubai: Public Transportation via Light Rail Transit

Natural Less of a need for private vehicles
City-wide: 30% Less cars



Financial No added fuel costs

Human Urban Context
Enhanced mobility

Social Easy access to market and Work



Source:

ESCWA/ 2009: *Transport For Sustainable Development In The Arab Region: Measures, Progress Achieved, Challenges And Policy Framework*, E/ESCWA/SDPD/2009/WP.1.

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Examples of Green Economy Applications in Relation to **SLA: Renewable Energy**



Yemen: Photovoltaic Electrification in Remote Rural Area

Natural Clean/Renewable solar power

Physical Readily accessible source of electrical power

Financial Low running costs vs High upfront costs

Human Electric lamps replace Kerosene lights
Enhanced Health Center

Social Access to information: TV & Radio
Enhanced local knowledge & Skills.



Source:

Deghaili, W.; 2009: *Improving Rural Livelihoods through Photovoltaic Electrification: the ESCWA pilot in Kaawa, Yemen*, Expert Group Meeting on Adopting the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach for Promoting Rural Development in the ESCWA region, 21 – 22 December 2009.

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Examples of Green Economy Applications in Relation to **SLA: Sustainable Agriculture**



Lebanon: Development of micro & small agro-industries

- Natural** Low risk for plant diseases
No need for mechanization
- Physical** Product's Long Shelf-Life,
multiple uses
- Financial** Funding tailored to local
needs
- Human** Mitigate rural exodus,
Possible synergies with the production of honey
and sumac
- Social** Enhanced Self-worth: Possible branding that
leverages local "Terroir"



Source:

Chouchani-Cherfane, C.; 2009: *Lessons Learned from Pilot Projects for Implementing Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches in South Lebanon*, Expert Group Meeting on Adopting the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach for Promoting Rural Development in the ESCWA region, 21 – 22 December 2009.

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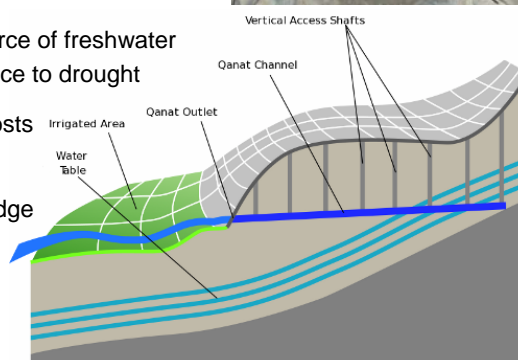
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Examples of Green Economy Applications in Relation to **SLA: Water Management**



Syrian Arab Republic: Restoration of Ancient Qanats

- Natural** Renewable Water Source
- Physical** Readily accessible source of freshwater
Enhanced local resilience to drought
- Financial** Using Existing "Sunk" costs
Low running costs
- Human** Enhanced local knowledge
Mitigate rural exodus
- Social** Local Empowerment



Source:

Wessels, J.; Hoogeveen, R.J.A: 2002: *Renovation of Qanats in Syria*, in Zafar, A. (ed.), *proSustainable Management of Marginal Drylands, Application of indigenous knowledge for coastal drylands*, proceedings of a joint UNU-UNESCO-ICARDA international workshop, 21-25 Sept. 2002.

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Examples of Green Economy Applications in Relation to **SLA: Sanitation**



Sudan: Improved Water and Sanitation associated with improved child growth



Sanitation spending decreases health spending,

Enhanced health outcome

Enhanced Social standing at adult age.

1988: In rural Sudan, More than 25,000 children aged 6-72 months were monitored over 18 months:

- Children risk of stunting was lowest in the group that came from homes that had both water and sanitation

- Among stunted children, those coming from homes with water and sanitation had a greater chance of reversing stunting and resuming normal growth

- Water and sanitation are **independently associated** with improved growth of children

Source:

Merchant A T.; Jones. C.; Kiure, A.; Kupka, R.; Fitzmaurice, G.; Herrera, M.G; Fawzi, W.W.; 2003: *Water and sanitation associated with improved child growth*, European Journal of Clinical Nutrition (2003) 57, 1562–1568.

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Challenges in the ESCWA Region



- Natural / Systemic,
- Economic / Financial,
- Structural / Institutional,
- Knowledge / Technology



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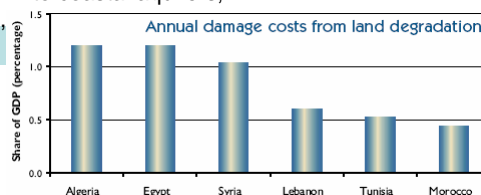
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Challenges in the ESCWA Region: Natural / Systemic



- Water Scarcity:
 - 70% of Region is Arid with Lowest per capita renewable fresh water supply (1,336 m3/capita/year)
 - 11 countries out of 14 ESCWA countries face water scarcity,
 - Transboundary water: 80% of water
- Environmental Security: Climate Variability & Climate Change
 - Exacerbates other threats to regional security & increasing uncertainty, for which the region is completely unprepared
 - Impacts :
 - Water quantity / quality,
 - Sea level rise, salt water intrusion into coastal aquifers,
 - Drought / Reduction in crop yield,
 - Land degradation, Soil erosion,
 - Increased Flooding Risks,
 - Ecosystem Deterioration,
 - "Climigration".

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Source:

Sarraf, M.; 2004: *Assessing the Costs of Environmental Degradation in the Middle East and North Africa Region*. Environmental Strategy Notes No.9. World Bank, Washington,

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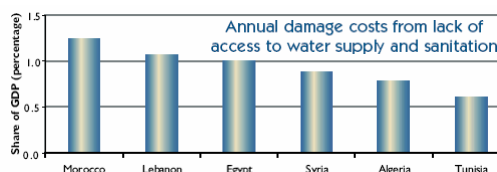
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Challenges in the ESCWA Region: Economic / Financial



- Challenges, risks and benefits of green economy still need to be assessed
- Complex Costs:
 - Economic, Technological and social
- Implementation Gap:
 - Need for stable, predictable and adequate financial basis for international cooperation



Source:

SSDF; 2010, *Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Response the Secretary General's Questionnaire on the Green Economy*, Conference on Challenges for the green economy: From local experience to the Earth Summit, September, 21st, 2010, Scottish Sustainable Development Forum (SSDF), Edinburgh
Sarraf, M.; 2004: *Assessing the Costs of Environmental Degradation in the Middle East and North Africa Region*. Environmental Strategy Notes No.9. World Bank, Washington,

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Challenges in the ESCWA Region: Structural / Institutional



- Artificial Barriers to Trade:
 - “Green protectionism”,
 - Conditionality of support.
- Need for flexible policy space:
 - Incorporate Green Economy in accordance with **specific national interests**.
 - Synergies:
 - Strengthened inter-agency coordination,
 - Action-Oriented implementation programmes, not normative/Enforcement-Oriented programmes



Source:

SSDF; 2010, *Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Response the Secretary General's Questionnaire on the Green Economy*, Conference on Challenges for the green economy: From local experience to the Earth Summit, September, 21st, 2010, Scottish Sustainable Development Forum (SSDF), Edinburgh

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Challenges in the ESCWA Region: Knowledge / Technology



- Risks:
 - New dependency on ever-evolving modes of production that are generated only in developed countries that keep experimenting new technologies and concepts
- Multi-Sectoral Approach:
 - Multiple crises impacting food, water, energy, job and national security,
 - Green Economy should integrate with SLA:
 - More than just promote low-carbon...
- Untapped Local Knowledge:
 - “Locally defined” skills and knowledge often go untapped

SLA

SLA

Source:

SSDF; 2010, *Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Response the Secretary General's Questionnaire on the Green Economy*, Conference on Challenges for the green economy: From local experience to the Earth Summit, September, 21st, 2010, Scottish Sustainable Development Forum (SSDF), Edinburgh

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Role of **Governments** in Addressing Challenges



- Legal framework:
 - Laws, regulations, Tax regimes to:
 - promote green practices,
 - Encourage private “green” investment,
 - Penalize violators: “polluter pays”.
 - Promoting and implementing green practices in the public sector
- Integrating green economy concepts in:
 - Public Investment,
 - Long-Term preferential loans,
 - Sectoral development strategies.
- National committees to reconfigure adapting businesses and infrastructure to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments
 - Experts level;
 - Local Stakeholders **SLA**

Role of **Civil Society** in Addressing Challenges



- Increase awareness of the public regarding:
 - Dangers that threaten the sustainability and the viability of the society on the long run as a result of bad practices,
 - Benefits that the green economy could bring to their society
- Promote:
 - Green attitude and behavior in school curricula;
 - Advocate for Technology transfers through the United Nations' Green Economy Initiative (GEI)
- Engaging the media in disseminating the green message and emphasizing lessons learned from countries that transit towards a green economy
- Assist local populations to ensure enhanced Sustainable Livelihood outcome from Green Investments **SLA**

Role of **Private Sector** in Addressing Challenges



- Leverage The United Nations Green Economy Initiative (GEI),
- Benefit from “green corporations” around the world:
 - Expertise,
 - Investment.
- Learn from local knowledge and how it can be “exported”.
 - Green Research & Development
 - Local Green Investment
- Focus on creating:
 - Sustainable Green jobs,
 - Increase energy efficiency,
 - Improve Returns:
 - Optimize the use of Environment Goods and Services by improving the management and sustainable use of ecosystem resources;

SLA

SLA

SLA and Green Economy: Towards Sustainable Development



Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA), is a local-based approach that recognizes stakeholders as key actors in the development process, supports vulnerable communities by :

- Providing local social services (“pro-poor”)
- Creating an enabling environment for sustainable development;
- Smart housing and buildings (using less energy for cooling/heating)
- Agriculture and fisheries: combat soil erosion and degradation, reduce greenhouse gases, halt encroachment on forest land, reducing water consumption and pollution
- Provision of wastes and sanitation and combating climate change
- Managing waste: recycling biofuels , etc
- Micro finance for clean production
- Green Jobs



ESCWA Activities Related to Green Economy



6-7 Oct 2010: ESCWA-Beirut

Workshop on “**Green Economy Principles and Applications for Sustainable Development in the ESCWA Region**”, organized by ESCWA.

15-16 Dec, 2010: ESCWA-Beirut

Regional Workshop on Trade and Environment: “**Developing the Environmental Goods and Services Sector in the ESCWA Region**”: For transformation into a Green Economy, led by ESCWA.

19-20 Dec 2010; LAS HQ-Cairo

22nd Regular Session of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) with Thematic Focus on Green Economy. ESCWA will present a **paper on the Green Economy to the ministerial session**.

26-27 Jan 2011 (Target Date) LAS HQ-Cairo

3rd Roundtable on “**Sustainable Consumption and Production**”, with a component on Green Economy, coordinated by ESCWA.

Jan 2011: ESCWA-Beirut

Initiation of a 3 year project on “**Strengthening National Capacities in the ESCWA Region on Developing Green Production Sectors**”.

ESCWA Activities Related to Green Economy



Preparations for RIO + 20:

- **Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio + 20** to foster a common position. Led by ESCWA in collaboration with Joint Secretariat of JCEDAR (3rd quarter 2011),
- Regional **Report on Green Economy in the Arab region** to help set the stage for the **Arab Ministerial Green Economy Initiative**. To be presented at Rio+20,
- **RIO+20 / UNCSD:** (May 2012, Rio de Janeiro-Brazil) main themes:
 - I. Renewed political commitment for sustainable development;
 - II. Assessing progress and remaining gaps in implementation;
 - III. Addressing new and emerging challenges;
 - IV. Institutional framework for sustainable development;
 - V. A **Green Economy** in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

UNCSD will focus on the later two themes, but will provide a forum for the first three items raised in the resolution