



Building Inclusive Green Economies in Africa

Experience and Lessons Learned 2010-2015





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At the request of governments and with the funding support from the European Union and the Government of the Netherlands, UNEP has been carrying out Green Economy Scoping Studies, Assessments and Sectoral Studies to examine the opportunities and challenges associated with a green economy transition. This summary highlights the key findings of this work carried out in Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa, as well as progress made by other African countries. The document aims to assist policymakers better understand the diverse benefits of green economy investments (from employment, to poverty reduction to sustainable use and management of natural resources) by sharing good practices and policies of countries which have been actively taking initiative in the global transition to build greener and more inclusive economies.

This synthesis report provides an overview of where Africa, as a region, stands in terms of transitioning to an inclusive green economy. It draws on recent studies to summarise the prospective gains and challenges associated with investing in a green economy and outlines a way forward to prioritise policy reforms, with a specific section on how to turn strategies and practices challenges into opportunities. Collectively, this report highlights how a transition to a green economy may be achieved within a range of country conditions.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFRICEGE	Africa Centre for a Green Economy
AGEP	African Green Economy Partnership
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on Environment
BAU	Business-as-usual
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China
CO ₂ e	CO ₂ equivalent
CRGE	Climate-Resilient Green Economy
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
ENCA	Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounts
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GE	Green Economy
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GSGDF	Ghana's Shared Growth and Development Agenda
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPP	Independent Power Producer
MID	Maurice Île Durable
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
Mt	Million tonnes
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PAYT	Pay-as-you-throw
PEI	Poverty and Environment Initiative
PES	Payments for Environmental Services
PROSOL	Tunisia's programme for solar thermal market development
R&D	Research and Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounts
SNA	System of National Accounts
UN	United Nations
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
YESDP	Youth Employment for Sustainable Development Project



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FOREWORD

There is growing evidence that Africa is seizing the opportunity to make a green economy transition, which is expected to generate sustainable economic growth, jobs and social benefits, as well as protect its vital natural resources.

Africa, early on, realized that continuing with business-as-usual models of development was not a practical option in a world of increasing environmental scarcities, economic uncertainty and widespread poverty. The African Green Economy Partnership (AGEP), adopted at the 14th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), demonstrates a strong commitment on behalf of African leaders towards the Green Economy in Africa.

As a result, countries across the continent have been undertaking policy reforms and green investments aimed at addressing poverty and hunger, climate change and natural resource degradation, while simultaneously providing new and sustainable pathways to economic development and prosperity for all.

From promoting energy efficiency in Egypt and developing renewable energy export capacity in Ghana, to the financing of green initiatives in South Africa, the drive to create more sustainable growth through a mix of policy reforms and economic instruments is now being embedded at the national level.

This report summarizes the key findings of a series of assessment reports recently carried out by the Green Economy in Africa project supported by the European Union and led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in close collaboration with national partners.

While each country is forging its own pathway, the report presents an array of examples that show how countries at the forefront of this transition recognize the potential of shifting to a green, low carbon and inclusive economy. Building on a

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