In the face of growing inequality and the existential threat of climate change, the current economic model, prizing growth and profit above all else, has proven itself unfit for purpose. Addressing the global challenges outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change requires coordinated, multidimensional action that goes far beyond business as usual. Making our economies fit to address the sustainability challenges and evolving social and technological realities of the 21st century demands a new paradigm, centred around cross-sectoral, interconnected engagement and commitment to policy reform at all levels.

During the first five years of operations, PAGE has emerged as a unique and innovative partnership of five UN agencies, eight funding partners and 18 countries committed to making our economies inclusive, green, circular and sustainable. By providing tailormade support for each partner country, PAGE is creating scalable models for transforming economies into drivers of sustainability and social inclusion and enabling countries to leverage investments in global sustainability as drivers of jobs, growth and economic diversification.

By drawing on the specialized expertise of the five partner agencies, centred around a joint workplan and budget, PAGE has contributed to the creation of enabling policies, national plans, employment strategies, fiscal reforms and investment mechanisms for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate target of 1.5 degrees Celsius, working to ensure a sustainable future where no one is left behind.

By 2018, PAGE was actively engaged in shaping the green economy transition in 18 partner countries and will expand to at least 20 countries by 2020. Since its launch, PAGE has supported the development of 38 national policies in 11 countries, partnered with 100 national institutions and ministries, trained over 2,700 people, developed 12 global training packages, and held 159 consultations and 37 global events, among other achievements. At its core, this work is driven by a recognition of the vital importance of collective action, national cross-sectoral development plans, national ownership of transformative policies, and the capacity and means to design, adopt and implement these policies. To date, PAGE has achieved impressive results in each of these areas, with meaningful impact for inclusive green economy in partner countries and beyond.

PAGE was launched in 2013 in direct response to the Rio+20 Declaration, and in the time since has proven itself to be an effective, impactful delivery mechanism for the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the global transition towards a green economy. Bringing together the expertise and broad convening power of five UN agencies—United Nations Environment Programme, International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and United Nations Institute for Training and Research—and working closely with national governments, the private sector and civil society, PAGE offers a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective package of analytical support, technical assistance and capacity building services to countries and regions to transform their economies into drivers of sustainability and social equity.

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“We hope that all countries will understand it’s not only the right thing to do, it’s also the smart thing to do because green economy is the economy of the future.”

Antonio Guterres
Secretary General, United Nations
At the global level, PAGE has organized major international events and fora, including Ministerial Conferences and official side events at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York and the UNFCCC COP. At the 2018 HLPF, for example, high-level representatives from leading international institutions, governments, the private sector and civil society gathered under the PAGE banner to discuss pathways for transforming our economies and lifestyles to underpin a greener, fairer world.

Only national plans and policies can create impact at the scale needed to address global sustainability challenges

While countries, communities and industries have created successful small-scale green and inclusive models, focus on reframing economic policies around sustainability has not received adequate attention in the past. This has compromised the ability of successful sectoral projects and models to scale up and become the default way of doing business. As such, PAGE is committed to promoting national, cross-sectoral development plans and policies focused on promoting an economy-wide green transformation. To this end, the focus and area of action for PAGE is upstream, where policies that shape the full economy are created and propelled downstream. Through this approach, PAGE has a broader catalytic effect, in diverse economic sectors and in the myriad initiatives undertaken in each of those sectors, creating a coherent national framework for green economy.

For example, in Uruguay, national policymakers are currently immersed in the development of several national policies, including the preparation of the Uruguay 2050 Agenda and the National Development Strategy, the National Agenda for Infrastructure, and the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development. The country’s partnership with PAGE not only informs these policymaking processes through evaluations and analysis, but also helps to strengthen planning capacities to seize opportunities and build resilience, while embracing the principles of inclusive green economy.

In Mongolia, PAGE’s work has been in support of the National Green Development Policy, which sets clear goals for the green development pathway in the country and focuses on cross-cutting priority areas like sustainable production and consumption, climate change adaptation and the development of green technologies. The National Green Development Policy provides an integrated framework for green economy action and has resulted in policy coherence across sectors, including in policies for green buildings, green finance and sustainable public procurement and through the integration of green economy courses into university curricula.

And in Mauritius, PAGE has engaged in the development of the national Marshall Plan Against Poverty and Exclusion, which seeks to address the root causes of poverty and exclusion by working with poor communities and other marginalized groups to better access basic services such as health and education, social protection measures and empowerment initiatives for women and youth. This plan is a response to the national commitment to improve inclusiveness, reduce poverty and promote job creation, in line with the 2030 Agenda’s call to “leave no one behind” and also contributes to the country’s aspirational Vision 2030 Development Model, which serves as a policy vehicle for translating the global Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union’s Agenda 2063 into action in Mauritius.

National policy ownership is essential to long-term success and sustainability

In many ways, PAGE is a unique experiment in time-bound support for national planning and policy development that is led and managed directly by the national government, with no project teams on the ground in partner countries. All activities, workplans and allocations of funds are guided directly by the government, making PAGE a truly a demand-driven initiative that responds to country needs in support of national objectives for growth, inclusion and sustainability. For example, in China PAGE is supporting the implementation of the government’s five-year plan for ecological civilization, including
greening industrial parks and promoting green trade. In Uruguay, support is focused on promoting circular economy, in line with national workplans. In Barbados, PAGE is supporting blue economy efforts. And in India, work is expected to focus on resource efficiency and sustainable production and consumption.

Within this structure, national ownership of green economy policies is necessary to ensure that their transformative potential is realized and that progress is sustainable in the long-term. To promote national ownership, PAGE works to make certain that all policy proposals are validated by the widest possible segments of society through multi-stakeholder consultations at different stages of the policy process.

The convening power and established networks of PAGE’s five partner agencies help to ensure the involvement of key stakeholders in these processes. Notably, ILO’s expertise in mobilizing tripartite cooperation plays a particularly important role in engaging social partners in policy discussions focused on a just transition. In Ghana, for example, PAGE recently provided technical and financial support for a national dialogue on decent work and the roles of tripartite constituents in sustainable development, bringing together stakeholders from all sectors of the national economy.

The convening power of PAGE partner agencies is also key to engaging parliamentarians in the green economy transition. In the Kyrgyz Republic, for example, the PAGE-supported “Green Week” was used to formally validate and adopt resolutions on the National Development Programme and Action Plan. In Senegal, PAGE has brought together a committee comprising members of Parliament, members of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council and local mayors to produce a National Strategic Guidance Document on Green Economy. Informed by findings in UN Environment’s 2014 Green Economy Scoping Study and other research, the Guidance Document provides an evidence-based outlook on the opportunities and challenges facing Senegal’s transition to an inclusive green economy.

The inclusive green economy transition requires national capacity to implement policies and sustain results

Capacity building, both at the individual and institutional level, is an integral component of PAGE support in all partner countries. To this end, PAGE has produced national-level trainings on green economy modelling, green trade, green entrepreneurship, waste management, green industry, resource efficiency and sustainable production and consumption, among other areas, and has delivered global trainings on green economy, green trade, green learning and green fiscal policy through both e-learning and global/regional Green Economy Academies.

By extending these trainings to all levels of government administration—from high-level policymakers to mid-level management to young professions—PAGE seeks to ensure that green economy momentum continues, even during periods of political transition. With an eye to institutionalizing long-term green economy capacity building, PAGE is also working with universities and other national training institutions to integrate green economy concepts and courses into curricula in Mongolia, Peru, Burkina Faso and Mauritius.

In addition to developing the knowledge and skills base necessary for the green economy transition, these training activities make an important contribution to national policy ownership and policy uptake. For example, in Senegal, PAGE has supported green economy capacity development by inviting national institutional representatives to the PAGE Global Academies on Green Economy in 2014 and 2016. The Academies inspired national actors to later organize a National Academy on Green Economy in 2016, which in turn resulted in the establishment of a National Platform on Green Economy, bringing together institutional partners from the government, social partners, academia and civil society organizations. The National Platform has since formulated its own work programme on green economy, looking beyond PAGE, and is poised to be the institutional vehicle to ensure sustainability when PAGE phases out of Senegal.
Unlocking public and private finance opens new pathways to achieve sustainability goals

In order to transition to inclusive green economy, financial resources and economic instruments need to move from financing business as usual and to driving inclusive, low-carbon economic growth. In this regard, PAGE is supporting countries to mobilize funds to support the inclusive green economy transition, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement by bringing together public and private finance actors. By the end of 2018, 21 initiatives were providing co-financing for PAGE activities in 7 partner countries.

The establishment of the Mongolia Green Credit Fund, which aims to leverage long-term private investment to stimulate green growth, is one example of PAGE’s work in this area. For this initiative, PAGE has supported the Mongolian banking sector in the development of green and inclusive financial products and services, in partnership with the UN Environment Finance Initiative, International Finance Corporation and Global Green Growth Institute, alongside other partners from the government—via the by the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism—and the private sector. Notably, the engagement of the Mongolian Bankers Association in this work has provided a key entry point for promoting innovative green finance in the private sector and facilitating public-private dialogue on sustainability.

In parallel to its country-level engagement, PAGE is making a significant contribution to the global discussion on innovative financing for inclusive green economy. For example, at the heart of the discussion on the SDGs among global decision makers at the 2017 HLPF, a PAGE side event shined the spotlight on green finance and greener economies as engines for SDG delivery. This event and others like it have brought high-level speakers from PAGE partner agencies and partner countries together with diverse multisectoral representatives to push towards making sustainable practices the new status quo in our financial systems.

DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE POLICYMAKING

knowledge products for inclusive green economy—including manuals, reports, lessons learnt and best practices—to inform and support national policy analysis and formulation. PAGE has:

• made improvements to methodologies and tools for assessments and modelling via the Integrated Green Economy Modelling tool and the Green Economy Progress (GEP) Measurement Framework;
• produced policy analysis and guidance on green industry, green trade and green investment;
• created training courses and a guidance manual on project planning and implementation for partner countries.

This work has already generated clear impact. In South Africa, for example, the GEP Measurement Framework is being applied to the national context, developing a dashboard of green economy and environmental sustainability indicators to monitor the country’s green economy transition.
The combination of the universal and integrated Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform our economies and financial systems into drivers of sustainability and social inclusion. In recent years, we have seen remarkable unity among nations, going beyond the silos of developed and developing countries, to realize these global objectives. Yet much still remains to be done to make sustainability the new status quo. A paradigm shift is needed to move towards generating inclusive, shared prosperity that can safeguard the environment while ensuring that no one is left behind. Advancing the global transition to inclusive green economy will be at the heart of this shift. PAGE is increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support for this transition, helping countries to achieve the SDGs as well as their Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement.

PAGE was first envisioned for the period of 2013-2020, with the goal supporting the inclusive green economy transition in 20 countries. As we approach the end of this first phase, PAGE is inspired by the commitment and enthusiasm of countries, citizens, business leaders and policy champions to create a greener and more equitable world. There is also unprecedented economic and scientific evidence to support a shift to sustainability, as well as higher levels of awareness—among governments, civil society and the private sector—of the economic, social and environmental benefits that a transition inclusive green economy offers.

Looking ahead, PAGE will continue its ambitious work to inform, inspire and enable policy reform, capacity development and international cooperation for inclusive, sustainable development. At the same time, PAGE partners are envisioning the road ahead, making plans for the second phase of PAGE beyond 2020. This includes developing new modalities for PAGE support to complement the existing core offer and expanding PAGE’s engagement to help countries bridge the gap between policy development and project implementation, particularly through capacity building for resource mobilization.

In addition, in 2018/2019 the first cohorts of partner countries entered the end phase of their initial engagement with PAGE. In these countries, the development and implementation of national sustainability plans is already underway, which will catalyze continued inclusive green economy action following the end of direct PAGE support. Going forward, PAGE is seeking to develop innovative ways to engage with this family of graduating countries, who can serve as important champions for inclusive green economy and South-South cooperation.

PAGE is committed to generating and sharing THE WAY FORWARD
Mongolia became PAGE’s first partner country in 2013, and over the years has demonstrated a strong dedication to transforming its economy into a driver of sustainability and social inclusion. PAGE’s engagement in Mongolia has largely been in support of the National Green Development Policy (NGDP), which was first approved by Parliament in 2014, and has since been accompanied by an Action Plan and a Sustainable Development Vision 2030. In particular, PAGE has provided support in the areas of evidence-based policy appraisal, analysis for different options for implementation of the NGDP, and support for policy reform in specific sectors and thematic areas, such as green construction, sustainable public procurement, green economy learning, sustainable finance, waste management and sustainable trade.

In doing so, PAGE has contributed towards progress in achieving Mongolia’s Nationally Determined Contribution of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 14% by 2030, and Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 17.

Supporting national policy and planning for green development
With the National Green Development Policy (NGDP), Mongolia has established a national framework that sets clear goals for the green development pathway of the country, centred on promotion of sustainable consumption and production, growth within ecosystem carrying capacity, smart, green cities adaptive to climate change, increased investment in natural capital, human development, green technology, and green lifestyles and education. In order to support Mongolia in realizing these objectives, PAGE has undertaken policy assessments, including Threshold 21 modelling work that informs long-term macro-economic planning and forecasting through system dynamics modelling. Complemented by a comprehensive training programme, this work has resulted in significantly improved institutional and individual capacities in utilizing modelling, now available to support future policy and planning processes.

PAGE also took an active role in developing tools to monitor Mongolia’s green economy transition and helped the government—in collaboration with the National Statistics Office and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)—to define indicators for measuring progress towards the objectives of the NGDP. This led to a government decision in 2017 to allocate national budgetary resources to operationalize 33 indicators for tracking green economy progress.

At sub-national level, PAGE partners, in collaboration with Global Green Growth Institute and SDC-financed project Education for Sustainable Development, have supported the integration of NGDP principles and SDG/NDC objectives into sub-national planning, providing green economy training and technical support for local development plans. Eight aimags (provinces) and the capital Ulaanbaatar have taken up this work to date.

PAGE has also worked to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout Mongolia’s green development policy. In particular, PAGE produced a report analysing how existing green development policies contribute to gender equality objectives and offered recommendations for mainstreaming gender into the implementation of the NGDP. This work was presented to Mongolian policymakers in 2017 and has contributed to national discussions around the linkages between the SDGs, the NGDP and gender equality.

Sectoral and thematic policy reform
In 2014, public procurement of products and services accounted for about 12% of GDP in Mongolia. As part of the forward-looking strategy of the NGDP, Mongolia...
set a target for at least 20% of this public procurement to be “green” by 2020. To support this goal, PAGEx has worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance to incorporate sustainability principles into the national public procurement framework. This support included a market analysis and the identification of priority products for sustainable procurement, as well as a series of green economy trainings for representatives of ministries and agencies. As a result, the Amendments to the National Law on Public Procurement has been drafted and submitted to Parliament, with the potential to have a long-term impact on the sustainability of public procurement in Mongolia.

Introducing appropriate energy efficiency standards and a rating system for green buildings is another priority area outlined by the NGDP. To support this objective, PAGE has worked with the government on the national Green Schools Initiative, which utilizes school buildings as a vehicle to showcase these efficiency standards. In particular, PAGE has assisted in the development of a handbook and the design of a showcase school, which has been approved and certified and is ready to be applied to new schools buildings in the coming years, with further support from the Asian Development Bank.

PAGE has also facilitated engagement with the private sector to promote the green economy transition in Mongolia. For example, PAGE has supported the Mongolian banking sector in the development of green and inclusive financial products and services, in partnership with the UN Environment Finance Initiative, International Finance Corporation, Global Green Growth Institute and other development organizations. This work has contributed to the establishment of a working group to create a green credit fund, which aims to bring long-term financing to projects that stimulate green growth.

Additionally, building on a study on industrial waste management supported by PAGE, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Road and Transportation Development have started to improve the management and recycling of waste from end of life vehicles, with a focus on public-private partnerships and engagement of local small and medium enterprises. Policy recommendations from the study will be incorporated into national strategies and an action plan to transform the management of waste from these vehicles.

Strengthened national green economy capacity

Finally, PAGEx has been working with national stakeholders to build capacity to facilitate green economy progress. PAGE has taken an institutional approach to capacity development, working with universities, government institutions, public policy institutes and private companies. Between 2013 and 2016, PAGEx trained over 480 professionals at the national and sub-national level to build understanding of green development concepts and approaches.

PAGE has also been working with Mongolian universities on integrating green economy concepts and approaches into tertiary programmes and curricula. Two new university courses on green economy and modelling as well as sustainable finance are completed for a pilot run in the 2018-2019 academic year, involving the Mongolian State University of Life Science, the National University of Mongolia, the University of Finance and Economics and the National University of Commerce and Business.

LOOKING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As PAGE’s support to Mongolia scales back in 2018, there are important challenges that may affect Mongolia’s ability to maintain and advance the progress made so far and continue to pursue transformative change to its economy. In particular, the country faces frequent political change, an economic slow-down and significant public debt, which may constrict available space for green and inclusive policymaking.

At the same time, PAGEx’s work in Mongolia has helped to develop the tools to maintain its momentum towards an inclusive green economy. PAGEx has agreed with the government on a comprehensive sustainability plan to help sustain the implementation of the National Green Development Policy, including 28 specific follow up actions each with an identified government lead and supporting UN entity. Going forward, efforts will continue around sustainable trade and industrial waste management—two areas in which PAGEx has conducted analyses that are expected to inform upcoming policies, strategies and action plans.
Peru has witnessed consistent economic growth in recent years. Likewise, there has been remarkable progress in reducing poverty rates, which fell from nearly 50% in 2006 to just over 20% by 2017. At the same time, inequality and environmental degradation remain significant concerns. Peru’s national strategic plan for development, the Peru 2021: Bicentennial Plan, was adopted in 2011 and has sought to tackle these challenges over the following decade. This has provided key entry points for PAGE’s work in the country. Since 2013, PAGE’s engagement has centred around the development of a national strategy for green growth, which began in 2014 with the launch of a road map during the UNFCCC COP20 in Lima. PAGE has subsequently supported sectoral policy reform and stakeholder engagement on green industry and green jobs, and capacity building and awareness raising in support of the inclusive green economy transition.

PAGE support is helping the Government to formulate policies that contribute to Peru’s national priorities, its Nationally Determined Contributions, as well as SDGs 1, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 17.

As a result of this work, Guidelines for Green Growth were approved by the government in 2016, which lay the foundation for the adoption of green growth as the means of achieving a holistic and integrated approach to development. The document also provides management strategies and instruments and promotes coordination among sectors and compliance with international commitments, such as Peru’s NDCs and the SDGs. To support the implementation of these Guidelines in the short term, in 2016 PAGE identified 12 policy tools for the newly-elected government to employ in its first 100 days, including, for example, the modification of the tax structure on fuel in order to stimulate behavioural changes towards sustainable consumption and eco-efficiency. These different elements supporting an enabling environment have been feeding into the development of Peru’s overall strategy for green growth.

Supporting inclusive green economy through sectoral reform
Making green jobs central to sustainable development in Peru, PAGE has supported the Ministry of Labour and Employment Promotion (MTPE) in the development of a National Plan for Green Jobs. An important component of this work focused on encouraging
teleworking, aiming to reduce the environmental footprint of workers’ daily commuting and to promote the inclusion of women and people with disabilities in the labour market. The National Plan for Green Jobs, once finalized, will be incorporated into the National Employment Policy, thus institutionalizing green economy principles into the national employment policy framework.

At the provincial level, PAGE assisted the MTPE and Regional Directorates of Labour and Employment Promotion in incorporating green growth objectives into regional youth employment plans. These plans seek to provide young people with productive, formal work opportunities that respond to future economic trends, with a focus on the conservation and reuse of natural resources. New regional youth employment plans were prepared for the regions of Arequipa, Piura, La Libertad and Cajamarca, each with a planning horizon of five years (2016-2021).

To advance green industry, PAGE has collaborated with the Ministry of Production, first on a Green Industry Assessment and subsequently on a series of Green Industry Fora at the national and provincial level, both feeding into the development of a Green Industry Policy Paper. The events raised awareness among entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises about energy efficiency, reduction of emissions, sound industrial waste management, circular economy and industrial resilience, and also shared good practices from Colombia, El Salvador and Argentina. Going forward, PAGE will support the Ministry to institutionalize annual Green Industry Fora and to integrate recommendations of the Green Industry Policy Paper into the National Industrial Policy.

Building capacities and consensus for green economy
To build technical and institutional capacities and a broad support base for inclusive green economy, PAGE has engaged with public officials, opinion leaders, journalists and the broader media through tailored green economy trainings and outreach, multimedia communications, forums and debates.

For example, in 2015, PAGE held a contest rewarding journalists who raised public awareness about the benefits of green growth in Peru. Prior to the second round of the Peruvian presidential election in 2016, PAGE also partnered with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and the University of the Pacific to host a discussion on green grown between the technical teams of the two presidential candidates, which catalysed affirmations and pledges of support for the sustainability agenda from the incoming government.

To build institutional capacity in assessment and policy design, PAGE has supported trainings, expert consultations and on-the-job learning for the formulation and use of short-, medium- and long-term economic models aligned with green growth. Key beneficiaries of this work include the Ministry of Industry, the University of the Pacific and the National Strategic Planning Centre—the government’s focal point for the SDGs. For example, an ongoing on-the-job-training uses the Integrated Green Economy Modelling tool to analyse the impact of the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action in the cement industry. PAGE is also working to design two courses on green growth and development and green economy modelling, which the University of the Pacific will offer as a regular course within its curriculum from 2019.

LOOKING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A green economy transition in Peru will require ongoing political support, the institutionalization of green economy principles across ministries, and a strong commitment to build alliances between the government, the private sector and social partners. At the same time, the country seeks to manage the risk from climate change and to create new, sustainable opportunities for its workforce. To ensure the sustainability of the transition, PAGE is supporting the Ministry of Environment to develop financing mechanisms for green economy measures. Over the last years, PAGE has also built synergies with a variety of other organizations active in the field, including, for example, with the European Union-funded mechanism SOCIEUX+ to support the implementation of the National Green Jobs Policy, with the Green Economy Coalition National Hub, and with GIZ’s work linking green economy and climate action. Going forward, an important challenge will be to incorporate and adopt Peru’s path for green growth in national policy frameworks, including in the forthcoming National Competitiveness and Productivity Plan. This will provide the enabling environment for sustainability of PAGE results and future support from other partners such as GIZ.

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Senegal has shown an active interest in transitioning to an inclusive green economy. This commitment is outlined in the country’s national development plan, Plan Senegal Emergent (PSE), adopted in 2014, which spans the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. PAGE’s work in Senegal is focused around supporting the implementation of the PSE, and, in particular, its five-year Priority Action Plan (PAP 2014-2018). To do so, PAGE has worked directly with multiple branches of government to mainstream green economy advocacy at the national and sub-national level and has leveraged its specialised expertise to help formulate and implement the National Strategy on Green Jobs. PAGE’s commitment to capacity building has also led to the establishment of national institutions and partnerships that can help ensure the long-term success of Senegal’s green economy transition.

PAGE’s work feeds into Senegal’s contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (including SDG 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17) and its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), including by helping to measure the likely social impacts of the implementation of the NDC.

Supporting green economy strategies and policies across national governance systems

Senegal’s national development plan, Plan Senegal Emergent (PSE), is clear in its commitment to an inclusive, holistic approach to sustainable development, noting that “meeting basic social needs is a key factor in promoting sustainable human development and the green economy.” Its corresponding Priority Action Plan (PAP 2014-2018) in turn identifies Structural Transformation of the Economy and Growth and Human Capital, Social Protection and Sustainable Development as two main pillars for action to achieve the objectives of the PSE. This commitment provides a clear opening for PAGE to contribute to cross-cutting impact at the national level, supporting Senegal to transform its economy into a driver of sustainability and social equity.

An inclusive green economy requires involvement beyond the executive branch of government. To this end, PAGE brought together a committee—comprising members of Parliament, members of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) and local mayors, supported by a team of researchers recruited through PAGE—to produce a National Strategic Guidance Document on Green Economy. Informed by findings in UN Environment’s 2014 Green Economy Scoping Study and other research, the Guidance Document provides an evidence-based outlook on the opportunities and challenges facing Senegal’s transition to an inclusive green economy. By bringing together green economy champions from all levels of government, the committee effectively acts as a mechanism for mainstreaming green economy advocacy and policy expertise throughout the governance structure. In 2016, the CESE, an advisory body which is called upon by the National Assembly or Prime Minister on behalf of the government to produce opinions or studies, formally issued a position paper based on the Strategic Guidance Document. The paper demonstrates the benefits of an inclusive green economy for Senegal and contains recommended actions to integrate green economy into future national development planning at all levels, including, for example, promoting green investment and strengthening strategic partnerships and synergies for green economy research and innovation. Together, these policy developments have strengthened policy architecture, institutional engagement, and local ownership in the transition towards a greener economy.
Operationalizing green economy through sector-focused actions
With a young active population, Senegal’s labour market is characterised by a constant stream of new workers. The country’s leadership sees that there are opportunities for new job creation in a green economy. To uncover these opportunities, PAGE helped to formulate a National Strategy on Green Jobs, which identifies promising avenues for green job creation and priorities for policy support that would enable women and men in search of decent work to realise real employment benefits. The National Strategy on Green Jobs has been integrated into the new National Employment Policy, ensuring policy coherence and synergy among actors in the fields of environment and the world of work, and is being implemented through the National Programme for the Promotion of Green Jobs (PACEV) — a programme funded by the Government of Senegal, UNDP and supported financially and technically by PAGE. PAGE contributes to PACEV in particular by providing business development support to young entrepreneurs in the areas of waste management and recycling, renewable energy services and resource management, with a focus on women and youth. To support in monitoring the implementation of this strategy, PAGE is also putting into place a mechanism for data collection and statistical analysis of green jobs creation, in collaboration with the National Agency for Statistics and Demography.

Building individual and institutional capacities for nationally-owned green economy processes
National institutional capacity is essential for effective local ownership, success and sustainability. PAGE has supported capacity development on green economy by inviting institutional representatives from Senegal to the Global Academies on Green Economy in 2014 and 2016. The Academies inspired national actors to later organise a National Academy on Green Economy in 2016. The National Academy resulted in the establishment of a National Platform on Green Economy, which brings together institutional partners from the government, social partners, academia, and civil society organizations. The National Platform has since formulated its own work programme on green economy, looking beyond PAGE, and is poised to be the institutional vehicle to ensure sustainability when PAGE phases out of Senegal.

Forging strategic partnerships
In addition to PAGE, a variety of organizations are active in the field of green economy in Senegal. They include, among others, the Green Economy Coalition (GEC) which implements a national project in Senegal, and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), of which Senegal is a member country. PAGE has built strategic partnerships with these organizations and others to achieve synergy, efficiency in delivery, and value for money. For example, PAGE is working with GGGI to support the establishment of the above-mentioned mechanism for statistical assessment of green jobs in Senegal.

THE OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES AHEAD
Senegal has discovered important oil and gas reserves, which are likely to make the country a significant oil and gas producer by the start of the next decade. The prospects of oil and gas revenues are redefining development opportunities and challenges for the country, with considerable bearing on sustainability and the future of a green economy. In this context, PAGE commissioned a study entitled “Funds and mechanisms for the management of oil and gas revenues to support sustainable development: Insights from country experiences and lessons for Senegal”. This study has become a reference document, which informed the Senegal National Sustainable Development Conference in 2018. PAGE is making use of the recommendations of the study to step up engagement and support on strategies and policies that define the country’s growth and development trajectory, with a view to maximise sustainable development gains for current and future generations.

In addition, innovative financing mechanisms, particularly green bonds, offer new financing opportunities for the environment sector. Senegal has been reflecting on the possibilities of issuing green bonds in certain priority sectors. PAGE, in collaboration with UNDP and other technical partners (the Climate Bonds Initiative and the Frankfurt School), will support this initiative to mobilize financial resources for the green economy.
Ghana has made a strong political commitment to advancing inclusive green economy. The *Ghana National Climate Change Policy* (2013), which envisions a climate-resilient and climate-compatible economy while achieving sustainable development through equitable low-carbon growth, has provided a key entry point for PAGE’s engagement in the country since 2014. The subsequent *Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda* and the National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (2018-2021), as well as the *Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All* and the country’s ambitious commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change further highlight Ghana’s policy commitment to green economy. It is within this context that PAGE is supporting the government to prioritize and reframe economic policy around sustainability. This work aims to put into place enabling policy conditions, reforms, incentives, business models and partnerships to catalyze action and investment in green technologies, and natural, human and social capital.

In 2016, the UN Secretary General appointed Ghana’s President as co-chair of the Group of 16 Eminent Advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating the country's strong political will to achieve sustainable development and green growth. PAGE is working to leverage this commitment in support of Ghana’s contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, PAGE’s work in Ghana is directly contributing to the achievement of SDGs 7, 8, 9 and 17.

**Integrating green economy into national policy and planning**

Ghana has integrated and reinforced inclusive green economy goals and targets into SDG-aligned national economic and development planning through multi-stakeholder collaboration. With support from PAGE’s targeted capacity building activities delivered to key staff at the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Ghana has developed a National Medium-Term Development Plan (2018-2021) that is reflective of the principles of green economy. For example, one of the country’s medium-term goals is to ensure a resilient built environment while also safeguarding the natural environment. This goal has been translated into concrete, implementable actions, including developing sustainable water resources, expanding the forest cover and ramping up conservation efforts, among others.

At the sub-national level, PAGE has provided targeted support through the development of a training manual and provision of capacity building for planning officers and other key officials from 24 Municipal, Metropolitan and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in Northern Ghana. This work involved regional staff of the NDPC and the Ghana Statistical Service, who in turn work with MMDAs across the county. This has enabled the trickle down of the technical expertise, resulting in in the formulation of medium-term development plans in the 216 MMDAs across the country that reflect the principles of green economy. Coordinated and targeted support to enable the MMDAs to implement, monitor and
report on the achievement of targets set out in these plans and in the SDGs remains a challenge. To address this, by exposing skills and training gaps, the results of the assessment will factor into the design, development and implementation of new training modules to better equip Ghanaians to take up the opportunities offered by the transition to a just and inclusive green economy. Looking ahead, this work will enable the government to ensure that job losses due to the implementation of the NDCs and the shift from unsustainable to sustainable economic development pathways are minimized as much as possible.

Policies and plans for inclusive green economy require equally inclusive green financing mechanisms. To this end, PAGE, in collaboration with the UN Environment Finance Initiative and the International Financial Corporation, has conducted a scoping study on green finance opportunities for micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) in Ghana. Working with diverse groups of stakeholders, including the Bank of Ghana and the Ghana Association of Bankers, the Ministry of Finance, and development partners, PAGE has used the sustainability principles already incorporated in the banking sector in Ghana as a starting point to examine the policy options for green finance support to MSMEs. In this regard, PAGE will continue to work with relevant stakeholders to support a robust green finance mechanism for MSMEs in Ghana in place.

Building individual and institutional capacities To develop capacity for the green economy transition, PAGE is working to develop trainings for key government officials, aiming to introduce them to the green economy principles and their application to their work. The University of Ghana Business School has been selected as the institution to provide this training. In 2019, PAGE partner agencies will work alongside other stakeholders to support the UGBS to develop the curricula and training materials and to implement the training on a pilot basis, before full roll out in 2020.

In collaboration with the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership, PAGE is also working to introduce green economy in the curricula of primary and secondary schools in Ghana. For this initiative, PAGE has provided funding and technical support to government partners, including within the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ghana Education Service and MESTI. Once completed in 2019, this material will be included in all primary and secondary school curricula, introducing a new generation of Ghanaians to inclusive green economy.

In complement to PAGE’s work to support green finance opportunities for MSMEs, resource efficiency in MSMEs has improved through tailor-made trainings for selected businesses in the steel and oil palm sectors in Ghana, working in collaboration with the Ghana National Cleaner Production and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Finally, PAGE’s profile at the country and international level has been raised through the capacity building actions for the media on green economy. This has resulted in informed media coverage of the efforts of the government and MMDAs to transition to a green economy.

In the past decade, Ghana has seen significant economic growth, boosted mainly through revenue from the oil and gas sector. This provides an opportunity for mobilizing and channelling resources into green investments to ensure equitable and just growth for all. To date, PAGE has supported Ghana to undertake analytical and empirical research, targeted training and policy reforms to enable the country to transition to an inclusive green economy. The challenge remains of how to transform this work into long-term commitments and support, especially from the private sector and local government. Going forward, PAGE will continue to work with relevant institutions to ensure that an appropriate incentive structure is in place and sustained for green, socially just and equitable growth.
MAURITIUS

OVERVIEW

Mauritius has transformed into an upper middle-income diversified economy, with high levels of human development, in the span of several decades. Yet, rapid economic development has come at a cost: coastal ecosystems are under threat and income inequality, unemployment and global competitiveness remain a concern. As a small island developing country, Mauritius is also on the front line of climate change.

The Mauritian government has been consistent in its commitment to developing a forward-looking agenda, with strategies and policies to transform Mauritius into an environmentally sustainable, inclusive, economically vibrant and innovative country.

To contribute to these objectives, PAGE has worked with the government and the private sector, providing support for a green economy assessment, policy development, and targeted technical assistance in the areas of budget tracking, industrial waste and green finance.

PAGE’s support is focusing on Mauritius’ contribution to SDGs 1, 8, 9, 13, and 17, as well as its efforts to transition towards a low-carbon development path, as expressed in the countries National Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement.

1. **Supporting policy analysis and national policy development**
   As part of its overarching Vision 2030, Mauritius aims to transition into a high-income country by 2030. To support this transition, the country has laid out its medium-term goals in the Three Year Strategic Plan of Mauritius (2017/18-2019/20), which highlights green economy as an approach for implementing low-carbon growth and renewable energy strategies in important sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing waste management and tourism. A key element in this transition is the country’s commitment to improve inclusiveness, reduce poverty and promote job creation. In this regard, PAGE has directly supported the development of the Marshall Plan Against Poverty and Exclusion, launched with the 2016-17 national budget, and the drafting of targeted policy measures to prevent extreme poverty. Its most important proposal—the Marshall Plan Social Contract, which came into operation in November 2016—provides financial assistance to households found eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius for families in poverty.

2. **Sectoral and thematic policy action and reform**
   PAGE’s work in Mauritius builds upon an earlier UN Environment-led green economy assessment, which identified seven economic sectors (agriculture, energy, transport, manufacturing, tourism, and waste and water management) and provided the underlying analysis for wide stakeholder engagement and follow-up action. For example, SWITCH Africa Green drew upon this analysis to design its technical support to enterprises in three of the analysed sectors. The government also committed funding to organic agriculture—one of the recommendations of the green economy assessment—in the 2018 Budget Speech. Additional policy documents, such as the 10-Year Master Plan for the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Sector, launched in 2017, recommended the greening of SMEs as one of its strategic objectives, building on the findings of the green economy assessment.

PAGE has also worked with national stakeholders to leverage private and public finance to support the green economy transition in Mauritius. The Public Environment Expenditure Review (PEER), supported by PAGE, sparked interest in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to introduce climate finance tracking tools within the budget process and the Treasury.
Accounting System. PAGE assisted the Ministry to develop a methodology and comprehensive training programme enabling policy officials to conduct an annual computation of total public-sector expenditure on the environment. Going forward, this will facilitate the integration of climate change measures into the national budget process. An annual publication of a separate appendix in the countries’ budget document is also envisaged.

Additionally, with support from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and PAGE, the Stock Exchange of Mauritius initiated the development of a Mauritius Green Bonds Market, inspired by the Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative, a UN partnership promoting responsible investment. Drawing on the expertise of the UNEP Finance Initiative, issuers, verifiers, investors and government official received technical training on green bonds development. These stakeholders subsequently requested technical assistance to further enhance understanding of climate-related financial risks and opportunities in Mauritius.

Greening industry is another priority for Mauritius, which PAGE has supported through an Industrial Waste Assessment serving as a strategic guide for national policymakers. Developed in partnership with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection and Business Mauritius (an umbrella organization for the country’s private sector), the assessment quantified the amount and main categories of industrial waste currently being generated in major selected industries. It also identified opportunities for reuse and recycling of industrial waste within and across industrial sectors, giving immediate guidance for the development of a sustainable manufacturing process in the country. This provided the ground work for subsequent resource efficiency opportunities in Mauritius and was followed through by the SWITCH Africa Green project on Industrial Symbioses, which established about ten industrial symbioses among industries, with more to come.

Building individual and institutional capacity
To guide capacity and skills development of civil servants and the broader work force in Mauritius’ transition to a green economy, PAGE supported a Green Economy Learning Needs Assessment, conducted by the Civil Service College Mauritius (CSCM). By highlighting the learning needs of civil servants as well as entrepreneurs and workers in strategic economic sectors (agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and climate change adaptation), it provides a basis for national training and education institutions to design courses that meet the needs of both public and private sectors. As part of this work, PAGE has trained civil servants to design and deliver effective e-learning programmes, aiming to leverage the full potential of e-learning platforms for high-quality education on green economy. Discussions between the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the CSCM are also underway to integrate a training on tracking climate expenditure as part of the green economy-related courses that the CSCM will deliver to public officials.

Raising awareness and providing platforms for stakeholder exchange and inter-ministerial discussion has been another key element of PAGE’s work in Mauritius. A recent Green Economy Forum in May 2018, supported by PAGE, brought different Ministries together with actors from the private sector, educational institutions and civil society to discuss how to accelerate inclusive and green economic growth in the country. Under the overarching theme of unlocking green economy, discussion centred around policy frameworks, SDG linkages, and the skills, business, industry, and financial markets needed to support the transition.

LOOKING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Recent green policies, strategies and initiatives implemented in Mauritius clearly show the determination and commitment of policymakers and stakeholders to make a successful transition towards a green economy. More investment has been shifted into sectors such as green agriculture, energy efficient enterprises, renewable energy, low-carbon transport and improved water management. To ensure an economic strategy with a focus on addressing unemployment, alleviating poverty and fostering sustainable development, green projects and actions must be supported by a well-defined set of skills and competencies. Applied knowledge and learning will drive the transition towards an inclusive green economy both in the private and public sectors.

Going forward, a coordination body to drive the sustainable agenda in the country through policy coherence would be crucial to the ensure the long-term sustainability of the results already achieved.
PAGE began its work in Burkina Faso in 2014 and has worked closely with the government to provide support for inclusive green economy in the country. At the national level, PAGE has supported the development of the National Green Economy Strategy (SNEV), which serves as the backbone for Burkina Faso’s inclusive green economy transition. Building on this momentum, PAGE has supported thematic policy reform in the areas of green industry and sustainable trade and is working to integrate green economy principles into the implementation of the National Rural Sector Programme through capacity-building of relevant governmental officials. PAGE is also convening national and international partners to build national capacities around green economy, green industry, green entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture.

In doing so, PAGE activities in Burkina Faso are contributing towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 6, 8, 9, 12 and 17.

OVERVIEW

Contributing to a national green economy framework
In 2015, following a period of political pressure and transition, a new, democratically-elected government took office in Burkina Faso. The adoption of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES 2016-2020) soon followed, demonstrating the new government’s commitment to inclusive green economy. In this context, PAGE has engaged with the newly-established Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change (MEEVCC) to develop a national green economy framework, the National Green Economy Strategy (SNEV). The SNEV contributes to PNDES’ vision, which states that Burkina Faso transform its economy to achieve strong and inclusive growth through sustainable consumption and production patterns. Building on macroeconomic and sectoral assessments supported by PAGE, the SNEV highlights several main axes of operation, including green jobs, sustainable trade, green finance, and national capacity development on green economy.

This work has included a Green Economy Assessment, in which PAGE applied systems dynamics modelling to investigate the economy-wide effects of different investment scenarios to explore opportunities for economic transformation. The assessment found that green investments would lead to strong economic growth and identified priority six economic sectors for focus green investments—agriculture, livestock, forestry, water, energy and mining—that were subsequently included in the SNEV.

The SNEV was developed and validated through a participatory approach involving all relevant national stakeholders in July 2018 and was subsequently submitted to the MEEVCC for adoption. Once adopted, it will guide Burkina Faso’s inclusive green economy transformation in the years to come.

Sectoral and thematic policy reform
Taking up key elements of the SNEV, PAGE has supported sectoral and thematic policy reforms through diagnoses and policy analysis assistance. Agriculture, which accounts for over 30% of GDP in Burkina Faso and employs over 90% of the labour force, provides a clear entry point for green economy action. To this end, PAGE is working to integrate green economy principles into the implementation of the second National Rural Sector Programme through capacity building and policy analysis. This Programme, which is meant to implement the rural sector component of PNDES, promotes productive and resilient agriculture, fisheries, wildlife and natural resource management, making it an important pillar of sustainable growth.

To advance sustainable trade—another priority area outlined in the SNEV—PAGE is currently supporting the MEEVCC in formulating a strategy for developing market access for non-timber forest products (NTFPs). The Strategy for the Sustainable Management and Export of Non-Timber Forest Products is currently under validation and aims to make trade of NTFPs sustainable, efficient, competitive and profitable to the national economy.

STORY OF RESULTS

2014-2019
Similarly, PAGE has supported the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts in conducting a green industry diagnosis and developing a green industry strategy. As a result, green economy was integrated into the National Industrial Strategy, which was validated by all relevant national stakeholders in September 2018 and is expected to be adopted by the government in 2019. The government has already signaled a high level of ownership over the strategy, showcasing it at an important Ministry event in December 2018.

Other priority sectors—mining, transport, energy, forestry and waste industries—have been the focus of PAGE’s work on green fiscal policy, which has included research and proposals for environmental taxation instruments to boost sustainable consumption and production patterns in line with PNDES.

Strengthened inclusive green economy national capacity
Building capacity and consensus around green economy is a national priority for Burkina Faso and is essential to continue the country’s green economic transition beyond PAGE.

In 2016, PAGE convened a Green Economy Academy that mobilized more than 200 public and private sector actors around topics like green jobs, green finance and green fiscal policy. This event provided a unique platform for the new government, helping to re-create cohesion and a shared vision on green economy and empowering the MEEVCC to take a leading role in the process. The event also catalyzed collaboration between PAGE agencies and funding partners, for example, opening a dialogue between the ILO and the Swedish Embassy for the continued development of green enterprises beyond PAGE.

To identify key entry points for capacity building support, PAGE, together with the University of Ouagadougou, completed a Green Economy Learning Capacities and Needs Assessment, validated by representatives of ministries, universities, research centres and UN agencies in June 2018. A national action plan for green economy learning was developed on the basis of this assessment and the SNEV and will be submitted by the MEEVCC to a donor roundtable in 2019. PAGE is now partnering with the University of Ouagadougou to expand its existing green economy courses, with the goal of reaching a wider audience. PAGE is also supporting the development of a green economy course, including a training of trainers on sustainable agriculture, to be delivered by the Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forêts, an official learning institution under the Ministry of Environment. The final course will target government officials from different ministries to advance the integration of green economy principles into their portfolio, and specifically aims to support the cross-sectoral implementation of the National Rural Sector Programme.

Ensuring coordinated and coherent joint service delivery
In Burkina Faso, PAGE has joined forces with other UN initiatives that are also supporting a green transition. For example, PAGE collaborated with the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) and SWITCH Africa Green to create a model for joint delivery of advisory services. As a result of this collaboration, the SNEV was validated under the umbrella of the SWITCH Africa Green Policy Dialogue in July 2018, highlighting the synergies between the two initiatives.

LOOKING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Burkina Faso’s economy is heavily focused on agriculture and extractive industries, which together account for over 40% of GDP and over 90% of the country’s exports. Going forward, economic diversification will be a priority for policymakers, who have already set the goal of almost doubling the manufacturing industry’s share of GDP by 2022. A challenge will be to ensure that these changes create and reinforce opportunities for green transformational change in the country.

The forthcoming formal adoption of the SNEV will be a key milestone in this transformation. The MEEVCC is leading the effort for the creation of a National Steering Committee on inclusive green economy, which will act as an inter-ministerial body guiding its implementation. The on-going capacity building work will equip key actors to further advance reforms in priority sectors (agriculture, trade, forestry, industry, modeling, taxation, entrepreneurship). Coordination with initiatives such as Switch Africa Green will continue to create working synergies and provide support and resources on the ground.
As the second largest economy in the world, China has positioned itself as a forerunner of sustainable development, guided by the new national development vision known as “Ecological Civilization”. In 2015, the Chinese Government expressed its interest to join PAGE, starting at the provincial level in Jiangsu, the second richest province in the country.

Jiangsu has demonstrated a strong commitment to green economy in recent years by fostering green and high-tech industries, shifting towards energy saving and resource efficient production and consumption models, redefining the eco-redlines of conservation zones, and enhancing the policy monitoring, coordination and evaluation of green development progress. The latest master development plan, the 13th Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2020) of Jiangsu Province, has formally established these areas as policy priorities.

Since 2015, PAGE has been supporting the province with macro-level green economy policy monitoring and sectoral policy advisory in the areas of green industrial development, green trade, as well as capacity building and learning activities. In doing so, PAGE’s work is advancing Jiangsu’s contribution towards SDGs 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17.

Measurement Framework is now broadened to measure the performance of 13 prefecture-level cities in Jiangsu.

Thematic and sectoral policy reform
As one of China’s major industrial powerhouses, Jiangsu was the first province to release a provincial Plan on Ecological Civilization Construction (2013-2022), which points out the mid- and long-term development goals for Jiangsu. The plan foresees the greening of industrial parks as a key means for achieving clean and circular production. It sets the target for all provincial-level industrial parks to meet the national Eco-park standard by 2022.

In support of this goal, and in line with the recommendation of the green economy stocktaking report, PAGE’s key implementing partner—the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy (PRCEE) under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment in China—has started promoting the green transition of industrial parks. Specifically, PRCEE, with support from PAGE, has developed a Jiangsu Green Industrial Park Assessment Study and Policy Guideline to take stock of the key policy instruments catalyzing green transformation at the park level and to inform industrial park administrators and responsible ministries on best practices and lessons learned. Related multi-stakeholder dialogues, workshops...
achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets of the Paris Agreement.

Increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support to countries for countries that work together to transform economies into drivers of sustainability.

Since its inception in 2013, The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) has grown into a prominent alliance of five UN agencies, eight funding partners, and eighteen countries that work together to transform economies into drivers of sustainability.

Thanks to this integrated approach and support of a wide range of partners, PAGE is increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support to countries for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets of the Paris Agreement.

PAGE has contributed to a suite of analytical tools, including the GEP Measurement Framework, the Green Industrial Progress Index (GAPI), and the International Framework of Eco-Industrial Parks. PAGE's work has also led to the development of the GEP Assessment Report and the GEP Measurement Database.

China’s unprecedented efforts to reclaim blue sky and clean water have put local governments and businesses under pressure to comply with stringent environmental standards. This gives strong incentives for local governments and businesses to develop alternative, green sectors and adopt green technologies fast enough to mitigate the loss of jobs and government revenue. As a result, PAGE is preparing to engage with Jiangsu policymakers and industrial parks in tripartite dialogues to explore policy support and strategies for a just and low-carbon transition.

While greening industrial parks is an established policy agenda in China, PAGE analysis suggests that the green economy performance varies across the industrial parks in China. The Environment and Trade Hub of UN Environment is working with RIGVC and other partners to follow up on these requests and explore opportunities to take the green trade work forward.

Building institutional and individual capacity for inclusive green economy

The lack of knowledge and understanding of inclusive green economy was one of the main challenges identified during PAGE’s stakeholder consultations.

To address this, PAGE organized a provincial green economy academy in 2017 that brought Jiangsu policymakers and front-line environmental bureau officers from seven Jiangsu municipalities together to discuss social inclusiveness, the green development potential and strategies, modelling and indicator tools, and the application of natural capital accounting in green development planning.

PAGE’s work also strengthened the institutional capacity of Nanjing University, a key research university at the provincial level, to provide evidence-based policy analysis and advisory to the provincial policymakers. Nanjing University is committed to host a dedicated database on Jiangsu’s green economy progress, to conduct regular assessment in the coming years, and to foster a GEP learning network among interested university partners in other provinces.

Scaling up Green Economy Actions in other areas

Inspired by the PAGE Jiangsu experience, the city of Dongying in Shandong province has embarked on its own green economy transition. Policymakers from Dongying enhanced their green knowledge and capacity through participation at PAGE events and conferences. Applying PAGE’s green economy policy approach and analysis, PRCEE is now providing policy assistance to the local policymakers in Dongying to identify green opportunities, priorities and gaps during its transition.

The opportunities & challenges ahead

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THE OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES AHEAD

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While greening industrial parks is an established policy agenda in China, PAGE analysis suggests that the green economy performance varies across the industrial parks. Building on the exchange that PAGE facilitated in Jiangsu, a policy window is open for scaling up this work at domestic level, but also at the global stage, in view China’s growing influence through overseas investment in developing countries. The challenge remains to ensure that new industrial parks are attracting green sectors and enterprises, creating green jobs and contributing to poverty eradication. Under the South-South Cooperation Framework, this presents an unique opportunity to join force with other PAGE partner countries to promote green industrial parks.
South Africa has embraced a green development trajectory to realize inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth, as demonstrated by its national development vision. South Africa’s New Growth Path, announced in 2010, identifies the green economy as a government priority and the Green Economy Accord, signed in 2011, was the outcome of social dialogue between government, business and labour. Through the subsequent South African National Development Plan (2012), the government has significantly strengthened its capacity to manage environmental costs and to respond to the increasingly severe impacts of climate change. This enabling policy environment has resulted in innovative, practical, implementable green economy initiatives across the country.

Since launching in South Africa in 2015, PAGE has sought to strengthen the cooperation, coordination and capabilities required to realize the country's vision for its transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and pro-employment development path, with a focus on critical issues such as inefficiencies in the water and energy sectors.

PAGE’s work in South Africa contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 17, as well as to South Africa’s Nationally Determined Contributions focused on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation.

To further support this process, PAGE is engaging with national stakeholders to develop a framework for monitoring the transition to an environmentally sustainable and low-carbon economy. Drawing on the PAGE Green Economy Progress Measurement Framework, this work will take the form of a dashboard of green economy and environmental sustainability indicators for South Africa. Once established and adopted, these indicators will support the elaboration and review of green economy policies by identifying areas of success as well as underperforming areas where more attention is needed.

Supporting the implementation of national green economy policies and processes
South Africa has a longstanding commitment to incorporating green economy principles into national policies, both at the macro-economic and sectoral levels. By the time South Africa joined PAGE in 2015, the country had already put in place a comprehensive policy framework to transition to a greener economy, including the Green Economy Accord and National Development Plan 2030, adopted respectively in 2011 and 2012, and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (2014-19), which provides an action plan for implementing the country’s development vision. PAGE’s work with South Africa has therefore been structured around supporting improved collaboration, coordination and implementation of these existing policy frameworks.

One of the first outputs for PAGE was the Green Economy Inventory for South Africa (GEISA), which serves as a platform for enhancing coordination and acts as a tool to guide decision making among policymakers. Insights drawn from the GEISA have been instrumental in understanding how existing green economy actions can be expanded and scaled-up to help realize the SDGs and meet South African’s NDCs.

To support the development of green industry, PAGE has collaborated with national partners to produce the Green Economy Industry and Trade Analysis. The study identified small-scale embedded generation systems, water technology, the biogas-to-transport value chain and bio-composites as areas that offer particular trade opportunities from the perspective of green industrial development. PAGE’s work has subsequently informed a sector-specific assessment of opportunities at the nexus of green industry and trade and provided recommendations for policymakers on how to further harness these opportunities. PAGE has supported several priority interventions.
with the aim of strengthening South Africa’s transition towards sustainable energy and energy efficiency. In particular, PAGE has supported the development of two discussion papers and a subsequent high-level, multi-stakeholder debate convened under the auspices of the OR Tambo Debate Series, organized by the Wits University School of Governance in partnership with PAGE and the South African government. The debate focused on the theme of renewable energy and industrialization in South Africa and the National Development Plan, which commits the country to diversifying its energy mix and expanding renewables. This work has served to reinforce institutional collaboration and dialogue at the national level for improved green economy analysis and accelerated policy reform in the energy sector.

South Africa is experiencing an ongoing water crisis. This presents an opportunity to re-examine policies that can address water supply, treatment, reuse and leakages. PAGE is collaborating with the Department of Environmental Affairs to update the previously-developed South Africa Green Economy Modelling (SAGEM) report, which used system dynamics modelling to assess the impacts of green investments in select economic sectors. In particular, this update includes modelling of the water-biodiversity nexus, with a sub-national focus on the provinces worst affected by the water crisis. This work began with a preliminary stakeholder workshop that identified several priority policy processes, such as the Master Water Plan from Department of Water and Sanitation. At the subnational level, the model will inform the Western Cape Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Ecological the Infrastructure Investment Framework, currently under development and planned to conclude toward the end of 2019.

**LOOKING AHEAD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

South Africa is facing a number of challenges that threaten its green economy transition, including potential job losses in the mining sector and the growing water crisis. To address these challenges, PAGE offers South Africa not only the tools and expertise to demonstrate the viability of a just transition to a greener economy, but also a means of implementing collaborative partnerships, which are central in delivering on our sustainable development visions.

Going forward, initiatives like the ongoing high-level social partner dialogues, which convene key partners from the government, the private sector, civil society and workers organizations alongside broader stakeholder engagement, will be important tools for ensuring a just transition in South Africa. Likewise, leveraging synergies across the activities of PAGE partner agencies, like the ILO’s Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network, and external partners, like the University of Pretoria’s Skills for Green Jobs Regional Training Hub, will also be crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability of this work.

**Building national green economy capacity**

To build national green economy capacity, PAGE has focused on identifying green economy learning needs and addressing them through innovative, tailored learning solutions. Following the completion of the Green Economy Learning Assessment for South Africa, PAGE is working with the Centre for Environmental Management at North-West University (CEM NWU) to develop a green economy e-learning course, aimed at stakeholders at all levels of the civil administration, to be launched in 2019. To support its development, in 2018 PAGE convened a three-day training of trainers on the design, delivery and evaluation of e-learning, which was attended by 24 participants from government, civil society and the South African academic sector. Going forward, PAGE and CEM NWU will continue to provide joint methodological and technical support for the scale-up of e-learning in South Africa.

Furthering its engagement with multi-sectoral green economy actors, PAGE held a National Green Economy Academy in 2018. This event sought to build the capacity of key green economy stakeholders and to promote knowledge sharing among South Africa’s nine provinces, eight of which have embarked on drafting provincial green economy or related strategies, notably in renewable energy. Beyond its specific learning objectives, the academy contributed to enhancing institutional capacities for transformative change towards greener economies at the provincial level and created a community of champions that can lead action and spread the message across their networks. Among the follow-up proposed actions, concrete initiatives around developing guidelines for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in the renewable energy sector, capacity building on provincial-level public procurement, and the consolidation of an action network to facilitate knowledge exchange were direct outcomes from the Academy.

**MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE SOUTH AFRICA:**

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Since its inception in 2013, The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) has grown into a prominent alliance of five UN agencies, eight funding partners, and eighteen countries that work together to transform economies into drivers of sustainability. Thanks to this integrated approach and support of a wide range of partners, PAGE is increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support to countries for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.
The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is committed to advancing inclusive, sustainable growth and has adopted a long-term National Development Strategy 2040 that recognizes the importance of integrated policies that balance the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. To realize this strategy, the government has prepared a five-year development programme Unity, Trust and Creation, covering the period of 2018-2022, that provides a medium-term framework for all national, sector and sub-national strategies, including those linked to the environment and climate change.

It is within this broader national policy context that PAGE and other bilateral and multilateral partners, including GIZ, the EU and the OECD, are collaborating to catalyze the transition to a more inclusive, greener economy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Since its start in late 2016, PAGE has prioritized support to advance the integration of inclusive green economy goals and targets into the government’s national planning processes. In line with these national frameworks, PAGE is also facilitating evidence-based sectoral reforms in green industry and green jobs and strengthening institutional capacities for inclusive green economy diagnostics, coordination, financing and procurement.

This work supports the Kyrgyz Republic's progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 8, 11, 12, 13 and 17, as well as the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which the country is in the process of considering for ratification.

Supporting national policy and planning for green economy
In early 2018, the Kyrgyz Parliament adopted the “Concept of Kyrgyzstan as a Green Economy Country”, a first step in the formal policy process assigning the government to develop a green economy programme. This in turn laid the groundwork for the government to develop a National Programme and Action Plan (2019-2023) for the country's inclusive green economy transition, which integrates gender concerns and is directly aligned with the SDGs. The Plan, which was developed jointly with the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative, includes climate change needs, commitments and actions on green agriculture, transport, energy, education, sustainable procurement, finance and fiscal policy.

These two key policy milestones have been directly supported by PAGE through the establishment of a national inter-agency and cross-disciplinary expert group, as well as inter-ministerial coordination led by the Ministry of Economy. With PAGE’s support, national expertise is also being drawn on to mainstream inclusive green economy principles into the Strategy 2040 and the five-year development programme. In this way, green economy reforms and innovations are not developed by different departments independently, but rather, they are directly influencing the country’s strategic plans and related policy processes.

Supporting sectoral and thematic green economy action
With PAGE support, the government is advancing several sectoral and thematic initiatives designed to further strengthen and implement these guiding policy frameworks. These include the design of national green economy and green jobs modelling systems, policy planning and a green jobs assessment; a demonstration pilot on resource efficiency in the metal industry building on a green industry assessment; the design of a green urban planning system; and review of legislation for sustainable public procurement. When fully implemented, these initiatives will contribute to the national objectives of pursuing inclusive economic growth while safeguarding the environment and natural resources.
Building capacity and raising awareness on green economy

To build national capacity for inclusive green economy, PAGE has worked with the American University in Central Asia to carry out a Green Economy Learning Assessment in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Assessment aimed to identify the needs, priorities and entry points for integrating the principles of the green economy into various training and learning activities, as well as the curricula of national learning institutions in the Kyrgyz Republic. It provided a set of recommendations for long-, mid- and short-term action to improve the capacities of national learning institutions to develop the competences of current and future policy makers.

Building on the findings and recommendations of the Assessment, PAGE is teaming up with the one-UN partnership for Climate Change Education (UN CC:Learn), and with the support of the Ministry of Economy, State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry and Ministry of Education, will promote the development and implementation of a National Strategy for Green Economy and Climate Change Learning. The objectives of the national learning strategy include:

- Foster a systematic and country-driven process to strengthen human resources, learning and skills development on various levels (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary, and executive/professional education)
- Determine specific actions to enhance learning and strengthen learning institutions
- Ensure that green economy and climate change learning is linked to and helps achieve national objectives
- Augment mobilization of resources for training and skills development from national budgets and external partners (UN organizations/country teams, bilateral donors, foundations)
- Ultimately, create a strengthened human resource base in the country to support the green transition.

In addition, PAGE is partnering with GIZ to support the Ministry of Economy’s Green Week and Green Forum. The annual high-level dialogue is designed to raise awareness and understanding of a common country-wide green economy approach, and to convene national and international stakeholders for in-depth strategic and technical debates and discussion. For example, the 2018 Forum was used to validate and adopt Resolutions on the National Programme and Action Plan, sustainable finance, and the establishment of a Clean Production Center. The Forum also included interventions from the heads of the National Bank and National Sustainable Development Council under the President, as well as leaders from the private sector. As part of this collaboration with GIZ, journalists are also being trained to cover inclusive green economy issues.

As part of broader efforts to support peer-to-peer learning across countries, PAGE has also facilitated an ongoing dialogue and direct exchange of experts between the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia. This collaboration has helped to accelerate the Kyrgyz Republic’s green economy transition.

LOOKING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

With the support of PAGE and partners, the government has quickly set in place strong foundations for transformational green economy change in line with its Strategy 2040 and medium-term five-year development programme. This progress has included a focus on ensuring the sustainability of green economy reforms and innovations through strengthened inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, legislative reviews, and institutional capacity building within and across Ministries, Parliament and with other national stakeholders including academia and the media.

The next five years, as outlined in the medium-term development plan, will present a range of challenges and opportunities for the country to address. To maintain and accelerate green economy progress, the government, under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy, will need to ensure that the enabling policy environment it has established is matched by equally strong results reflected in inclusive green economy policy and programme implementation. This will require sustained efforts to ensure sufficient financial and political support. An inter-ministerial working group, formally established by the Ministry of Economy, will play a key role in this. The green economy transition has already demonstrated key aspects of its durability through a change in government and the shifting of senior public green economy champions across offices.

In addition, major public-private investment initiatives, including the growing influence of the Belt and Road Initiative, will also need to be fully aligned with the country’s sustainable development vision.
Over the last decade, Uruguay has demonstrated strong economic growth as well as continuous improvements in social development, yet its economy remains vulnerable to oscillations in the global market. Exports rely on primary sectors such as agriculture and livestock, which are intense in the use of natural resources.

The National Constitution recognizes the general importance of environmental protection and the government is committed to sustainable development and green economy in pursuit of higher income, job creation, poverty reduction, equality and bioeconomy. Notably, in 2017, 98% of the electricity consumed in Uruguay came from a combination of renewable energy sources and sustainability governance has been strengthened by creation of the National Secretariat of Environment, Water and Climate Change, an Office of the Presidency.

Currently, Uruguay is immersed in several development planning processes, including the preparation of the Uruguay 2050 Agenda and the National Development Strategy, the National Agenda for Infrastructure, and the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development. The partnership with PAGE not only informs these policymaking processes, but also helps to strengthen planning capacities to seize opportunities and build resilience, while embracing the principles of inclusive green economy.

PAGE’s work in Uruguay is contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 8, 12, 13 and 17, as well as Uruguay’s Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement.

Mobilizing stakeholders around the National Development Strategy
PAGE was launched in Uruguay in April 2017 at the third Regional Exchange and Practitioner Dialogue Forum on Inclusive Green Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean. This event gathered representatives from over 140 relevant public institutions, academia, the private sector and civil society, as well as from nine countries in the region, and provided a space for dialogue and knowledge-exchange regarding economic transformation and its potential to engender sustainable development. A planning workshop was subsequently held in July 2017 to discuss PAGE’s role in catalysing the green economy transition in the country, focusing on clean technologies, healthy ecosystems, qualified green labour and ensuring policy coherence and efficacy. PAGE’s work in Uruguay developed from the results of this workshop.

Overall, PAGE has been working with national partners to ensure that green economy and circular economy

Overview

Story of Results

at the forefront of development planning. To support this process, PAGE is working closely with the Office of Planning and Budget, an Office of the Presidency, collaborating on the long-term policy Uruguay 2050 Agenda and the National Development Strategy. This collaboration is focused on scenario analyses for greening value chains prioritized by the Office of Planning and Budget, starting with forest-wood cellulose. For this value chain, PAGE will focus on quantitative analyses, including environmental and climate change dimensions.

Previous to PAGE’s engagement in Uruguay, the analytical study, Towards a Green Economy in Uruguay: Enabling Conditions and Opportunities, was conducted by the University of the Republic, the government of Uruguay, UN Environment and GIZ. The study identified several priority areas within green economy, including agriculture, livestock and transport and provided substantial entry points for PAGE’s work in the country.
Evidence-based sectoral and thematic reforms in line with green economy priorities

Uruguay has embraced the concept of circular economy, given its potential to generate new businesses and jobs in an environmentally-conscious way. To contribute to its development, PAGE is engaged at different levels.

First, PAGE has facilitated the mainstreaming of circular economy into the overarching programme Transforma Uruguay, which is focused on promoting a productive transformation of the country's economy with the main goal of increasing competitiveness.

PAGE is actively engaged with the project BioValor, which aims to transform the waste generated from small towns and agricultural and agro-industrial activities into energy and/or raw materials and supplies. The objective of this transformation is to develop a sustainable model of low emissions through the development and transfer of appropriate technologies.

PAGE is also involved with the promotion of sustainable production and services and is collaborating with national partners on the greening of the activities of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)—which represent the largest productive activity in terms of employment—and on the promotion of sustainable production and services.

Building individual and institutional capacity for inclusive green economy

Knowledge and skills development can play a major role in creating socially inclusive solutions to green economy challenges. With this in mind, PAGE has conducted a Green Economy Learning Needs Assessment to identify learning gaps that must be addressed in order to build a critical mass of individuals with green economy knowledge and skills. Building on this, PAGE, in close collaboration with national counterparts, will elaborate the Capacity Strengthening and Formation Plan in Inclusive and Green by the first half of 2019. Going forward, PAGE also plans to institutionalize green economy training into the curricula of the National Institute for Employment and Professional Training, which has a reach of over 100,000 individuals, including labour unions and civil servants.

To build sector-specific green economy capacity that supports the development of Uruguay's circular economy, PAGE is working in three principal areas. First, PAGE Uruguay delivered training to technicians from the public and private sectors on the analysis and identification of waste recovery opportunities in the context of global value chains, followed by the elaboration of four sectoral studies of international markets for repurposed materials and value-added waste. Second, PAGE is working to build the capacity of trainers in Uruguay on cleaner production practices and labour formalization. This work is complemented by an online course on cleaner production and labour formalization for MSMEs, which is contributing to creating a skill base for the inclusive green economy transition. Finally, PAGE has designed and is leading the implementation of software solutions that can have a transformative role in improving the management and energy efficiency of MSMEs in the country.

LOOKING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

To leverage its potential for sustainable, green grown, Uruguay must develop innovative solutions that can keep pace with fast-moving social and technological challenges and provide new, sustainable business opportunities. In particular, Uruguay faces the ongoing challenge of how to incorporate sustainability principles into the development of its industrial and services sectors, while generating decent jobs and producing a skilled workforce. By strengthening multisectoral capacity across different dimensions of inclusive green economy, PAGE can contribute to achieving this goal. There are also many opportunities for PAGE to support knowledge generation and technical exchange, including around resource efficiency in informal activities, which support the achievement of international commitments the SDGs and Uruguay's NDC.

Uruguay has proven itself to be a country with a collaborative and cooperative spirit. Going forward, inter-ministerial coordination and the high level of interest and engagement from the Office of Planning and Budget will provide key opportunities to ensure a sustainable future, for example, by facilitating the adoption and implementation of the Uruguay 2050 Agenda and the National Development Strategy. Its engagement with PAGE also puts Uruguay in contact with a wide range of global green economy initiatives, which can serve both as an inspiration to improve national processes and as a means to showcase Uruguay’s green economy transition and exchange experiences.
GUYANA
2017-2022

CONTEXT

PAGE’s partnership with Guyana began in 2017 within the context of the government’s commitment to developing and implementing its Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040. Through this strategy, the government is intent on pursuing green economic and social development, with core objectives focused on promoting economic diversification and transformation, ensuring social equity and strengthening the economy’s ecological foundations.

Guyana has taken a highly collaborative approach to its national development planning, drawing on the varied expertise of PAGE partner agencies, the UN country team, Inter-Ministerial and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committees and other expert groups and partners, as well as seeking insights from key local stakeholders and civil society groups. PAGE has established itself as an important partner within this process, having initiated a Green Economy Modelling Study and providing evidence in support of investment in Guyana’s natural resources, based on its potential to contribute to long-term green growth. This modelling and other PAGE workstreams are contributing towards sectoral and thematic policy reform and are building stakeholder and institutional capacity to delivering on the objectives of the Green State Development Strategy.

In doing so, PAGE is contributing towards the achievement of SDGs 8, 9, 13 and SDG 17 as well as Guyana’s Nationally Determined Contributions, especially as it relates to developing the country’s renewable energy potential.

STORY OF RESULTS

Supporting national policies for the Green State

PAGE’s engagement in Guyana has centred around supporting the elaboration of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, which itself builds upon previous commitments to sustainable development, such as the country’s Low Carbon Development Strategy, and Climate Resilience Strategy Action Plan, among other national strategies.

To support Guyana’s green economy vision, PAGE has worked closely with the Ministry of Finance to apply systems dynamic modelling to forecast investment and performance scenarios in four key economic sectors: agriculture, forest, energy and road-transport. This work has helped to identify key priority areas, which were incorporated into the long-term vision set out by the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040.

PAGE’s involvement in Guyana has sparked an increased national interest in inclusive green economy issues, leading to the establishment of regular Green Conversations—high-profile events organized in partnership with the Department of Environment, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Conservation International, the University of Guyana and UN Environment. Each Green Conversation explores a particular aspect of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, as well as green economy principles such as green economic growth and green fiscal policy, sustainable agriculture, and investments in renewable energy. The events attract a wide audience of stakeholders, include representatives from the government, the private sector, civil society and the general public, and are an important tool for catalyzing support for the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 and green economy transition.

The Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 was presented to the Cabinet in 2018 and will be subsequently presented to Parliament, with anticipated approval in 2019 for implementation beginning in 2020. The government’s commitment to the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 was also reiterated in the Ministry of Finance 2019 Budget Speech—delivered in November 2018—which contains strong references to green economy principles, acknowledging that “economic development must not be at the expense of our environment, and vibrant and healthy communities” and pledging to invest in opportunities that drive sustainable development and economic prosperity.

Going forward, PAGE will seek to support government to realize the ambitious objectives of this strategy.
Informing sectoral and thematic policy action and reform

To support the development of green industry in Guyana, PAGE has conducted a Green Industry Assessment, which will inform the elaboration and support the implementation of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040. The assessment was validated at a stakeholder workshop in December 2018, bringing together representatives from PAGE partners, government ministries, the Private Sector Commission, and the national Green State Development Strategy Coordination Office. A Green Conversation on green industry complemented the validation workshop to give more visibility to Green Industry Assessment and to PAGE's work and linkages to the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040.

PAGE has also begun work on a Green Jobs Assessment in Guyana, which, when complete, will provide an economy-wide analysis that uncovers the sectors and gaps with greatest potential for employment and fair work, while protecting the environment. The Guyanese government has fully embraced the importance of understanding the intersecting priorities of labour and the environment, concluding that the future Green Jobs Assessment model would become an integrated part of the implementation of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040.

Building capacity for the green economy transition

Through a series of workshops and training events, PAGE has been working to build the capacity of the Ministry of Finance for systems dynamics modelling. While this agenda is still ongoing, the Ministry has already increased its capacity to use and interpret the modelling tool in order to gain a holistic understanding of the social, environmental and economic impacts of policy and investment decisions. This work will significantly improve institutional and individual capacities in utilizing modelling to support future policy and planning processes.

Recognizing the importance of the media for developing a broad support base for the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, PAGE is also developing a tailored training for journalists and other media professionals. This aims to increase understanding, clarify concepts and de-mystify perceptions around green economy, as well as to cover the key messages and priorities from the Green State Development Strategy.

Consultations and collaboration for inclusive, integrated policy and programmes

By working in close collaboration with the UN Country Team and other green economy actors, PAGE has been able to ensure that the expertise of PAGE partners is where it is most useful to align with national sustainable development needs and priorities.

Another important outcome has been the improved inclusivity and stakeholder representation within the decision-making processes of the development of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040. Thematic groups involving representatives of government ministries, civil society and the private sector have been established and have provided recommendations for, and a review of, the strategy. In addition, 33 consultations across Guyana's 10 regions have been held to gain local perspectives on the strategy's provisions, involving 1700 participants from 200 communities. These measures have significantly increased the national ownership of the strategy, ensuring it caters to the Guyanese society as a whole.

It is expected that the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 will be reviewed and adopted by the government in early 2019. Following this, PAGE will act as an important mechanism to facilitate its implementation, in particular by supporting work on sustainable agro-processing, fiscal policies, green jobs and institutional and individual capacity development. PAGE also plans to undertake a tourism sectoral study in order to assess opportunities for greening this sector in Guyana and provide appropriate policy guidance.

In response to priorities articulated in the Strategy, PAGE is also prepared to conduct a fiscal policy study to assist the government in analysing appropriate fiscal policies that would support the country's ambitions in accordance with the Strategy and facilitate its transition to green economy. Support to the Ministry of Finance will be provided to develop its capabilities in the area of green fiscal policy. PAGE also plans to build the capacity of key stakeholders to mainstream IGE concepts into national trade policy.

LOOKING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Since its inception in 2013, The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) has grown into a prominent alliance of five UN agencies, eight funding partners, and eighteen countries that work together to transform economies into drivers of sustainability.

Thanks to this integrated approach and support of a wide range of partners, PAGE is increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support to countries for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets of the Paris Agreement.
Barbados’ National Strategic Plan (2006-2025) provides a framework for becoming a fully developed society that is prosperous, socially just and globally competitive. The National Strategic Plan advances six strategic goals in pursuit of the national vision for 2025. Notably, goal four of the Plan speaks specifically of “Building a Green Economy: Strengthening the Physical Infrastructure and Preserving the Environment”, providing a clear entry point for engagement with PAGE.

A diversified, service-based economy make Barbados one the most prosperous Caribbean islands. At the same time, it remains particularly vulnerable to climate change and related natural disasters. To combat these risks, the government of Barbados is committed to the continuous development of a green and blue economy.

Based on a Green Economy Scoping Study conducted in 2012, Barbados continued on its path towards an inclusive green economy in partnership with PAGE and in collaboration with other small island states and regional efforts.

PAGE objectives in Barbados include:

• integrating inclusive green economy goals and targets into SDG-aligned national economic and development planning,
• implementing evidence-based sectoral and thematic reforms in line with inclusive green economy priorities,
• strengthening capacities at the national level and
• improving the inclusive green economy knowledge base.

In a recent mission, PAGE met with leading decision-makers and stakeholders of the green economy transition in Barbados to discuss further goals and priorities for PAGE work in the country.

Reviewing the existing national green economy policies, strategies and plans

Surveying opportunities, identifying skills gaps and developing tools to build skills for green jobs in the green and blue economy

Developing a pilot to encourage green transformation of the agricultural and fish sub-sector processing to support production and export development

Conducting trainings for the public sector, developing green and blue economy-centred academic curricula and establishing a green economy knowledge hub
In recent years, the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso has benefitted economically from the growth of its large agricultural sector. It is now working towards reducing the environmental challenges associated with this growth, including deforestation, as well as significant social challenges, such as precarious working conditions and highly uneven income distribution.

The adoption of new environmental legislation and environmental management tools increased the capacity to plan and direct development. This, in turn, makes it possible for the state to commit to and invest in the transformation of the current development model to one that causes less environmental impacts and that is socially inclusive. In 2015, the State government launched the strategy, Produce, Conserve and Include, with the objective to increase production, conserve the forest and include families of rural settlements, traditional and vulnerable communities.

Against this backdrop, Mato Grosso joined PAGE in 2016. The Government of the State of Mato Grosso has determined the key priority for PAGE support is the development of a green economy model with an emphasis on the generation of green employment opportunities and poverty eradication.

Following a launch event in November 2016, PAGE continued its inception phase with a stocktaking report, providing an overview of the environmental, ecological and socioeconomic policies, as well as opportunities for policy reform towards a green and inclusive economy.

Moreover, PAGE has initiated an assessment of the generation capacity of solar energy and energy from biomass, and the existing levels of energy generation from renewables. Currently PAGE is:

- providing capacity building and technical support for the preparation of land use plans and the greening of existing plans
- facilitating the development of sustainable tourism products and services
- offering policy recommendations to stimulate investments in the renewable energy sector
- developing a social accountability matrix to evaluate opportunities for employment generation

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Thanks to this integrated approach and support of a wide range of partners, PAGE is increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support to countries.
ARGENTINA
2018-2023

OVERVIEW

Argentina has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability in the context of international processes and has a clear interest in pursuing economic, social and environmental objectives in an integrated manner.

Argentina joined PAGE in 2018, which coincided with its Presidency of the Group of Twenty. In this context, PAGE's work in Argentina kicked off with:

• The development of a workplan for the inception phase of PAGE's engagement in the country
• A stocktaking exercise of existing activities undertaken by PAGE partners

Building on this momentum, PAGE has initiated work to:

• Assess the economic impact and tools required for the promotion of inclusive green economy
• Analyze the effects of inclusive green economy on the labour market

PATHWAYS TO IMPACT

• Support for national efforts around climate action and the promotion of renewable energies
• Technical guidance on climate and social issues, in support of Argentina's accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
• Green economy communication and awareness-raising
• Support for the creation of green jobs

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PAGE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION ON GREEN ECONOMY

GUATEMALA
2018-2023

OVERVIEW

In recent years, PAGE partner agencies have provided diverse forms of support for green economy action, including assisting in the development of the Environmental Economy Strategy, a policy toolbox to help achieve national climate change and natural resources objectives.

Against this backdrop, an initial mission to Guatemala took place in September 2018, where PAGE met with national counterparts to set the objectives and parameters for its work in the country. Capitalizing on this opportunity, PAGE was also presented to Members of Parliament, regional authorities, the private sector and academia.

To begin its engagement, PAGE has:

• Began consultations with the Ministry of Public Finance
• Engaged with the UN Resident Coordinator as well as SIDA and GIZ

PATHWAYS TO IMPACT

• Help operationalize the National Development Plan K'ATUN, Nuestra Guatemala 2032
• Support Guatemala in realizing its international commitments to the SDGs and NDCs
• Develop a public investment strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation
• Support policy reform around greenhouse gas emissions, solid waste, water, renewable energy, energy efficiency and tourism

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In recent years, India has been shifting from select initiatives in areas such as green jobs to embracing a larger scale and more integrated economy-wide approaches, including areas like circular economy and waste-to-wealth.

In this context, PAGE kicked off in India with an Inception Workshop, held in November 2018, convening national counterparts and other green economy stakeholders.

To begin its programme of work in India, PAGE has initiated work on:

• A stocktaking study to define priorities for PAGE’s engagement
• A national-level workshop and consultation on inclusive green economy priorities
• Planning of state-level stakeholder consultations in several regions to capture different perspectives on inclusive green economy opportunities and challenges

PAGE’s work in India will build upon:

• An existing UN Discussion Paper on circular economy in India, prepared by the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office
• Enhance national initiatives on resource efficiency, with particular focus on SDG 12
• Provide support for the implementation of the national resource efficiency roadmap
• Support national priorities pertaining to sustainable public procurement
• Support the modernization of the micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise sector

The Government of Indonesia is committed to addressing major sustainability challenges. Recognizing the importance of linkages between the environment, human wellbeing and economic growth, the Government is working to incorporate sustainability policies and emission reduction activities into its national plans and targets.

PAGE officially launched in Indonesia in October 2018 with an Inception Workshop, co-hosted by the Director of Environmental Affairs from the Ministry of National Development Planning. PAGE’s work will support the Government in integrating green economy principles and low-carbon development within its National Medium-Term Development Plan 2020-2024.

To begin its work in Indonesia, PAGE has initiated:

• A peer review of selected policy scenarios for Indonesia’s mid-term national development plan
• A stocktaking study to identify opportunities and challenges for IGE
• Assessments of green industry, land-use and energy policies, and green economy learning
• Support for green economy modelling and investment strategies
• Reform of sectoral policies in energy, land-use and industry
• Promotion of green jobs and just transition
• Building national green economy capacity

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The Republic of Kazakhstan joined PAGE in 2018 with the overall objective of achieving the ambitious targets set out in its National Development Strategy Kazakhstan 2050 and its Green Economy Concept, which serves as an IGE roadmap for the country and includes several ambitious targets, such as sourcing 50% of energy from renewables by 2050 and as much as 30% by 2030.

At the sectoral level, Kazakhstan aspires to become a regional hub for green finance, which would provide further support for the investments in Kazakhstan’s green economy. More generally, Kazakhstan seeks to promote economic diversification through the green economy, also taking account of the benefits of achieving inclusive growth.

PAGE activities will kick-off with a scoping mission in early 2019 in a process that will be led nationally by the Ministry of Energy, with close engagement from the Ministries of Healthcare, Agriculture, Industry and Development and National Economy.

- Mainstreaming IGE principles and Sustainable Development Goals and indicators into strategic policy planning.
- Building capacity for macroeconomic modelling of green economy policies.
- Promoting innovative financial instruments for IGE through training and South-South collaboration.
- Supporting the formulation of a low-carbon development strategy.
- Advancing green industry with a focus on waste management and energy efficiency.
- Supporting agriculture sector reform with a focus on gender and decent work.

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Since its inception in 2013, The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) has grown into a prominent alliance of five UN agencies, eight funding partners, and eighteen countries that work together to transform economies into drivers of sustainability. Thanks to this integrated approach and support of a wide range of partners, PAGE is increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support to countries.