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.

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.

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.

THE OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES AHEAD

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