

# GHANA 2014-2019

## RESULTS FACTSHEET

### OVERVIEW

Ghana has made a strong political commitment to advancing inclusive green economy. The *Ghana National Climate Change Policy* (2013), which envisages 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.



### STORY OF RESULTS

#### 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 country. This has enabled the trickle down of the technical expertise, resulting 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, 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.

## LOOKING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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.



*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.*

**MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE GHANA:**

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