

MONGOLIA 2013-2018

RESULTS FACTSHEET

OVERVIEW

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.



STORY OF RESULTS

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, PAGE 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, PAGE 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, PAGE 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, PAGE's work in Mongolia has helped to develop the tools to maintain its momentum towards an inclusive green economy. PAGE 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 PAGE has conducted analyses that are expected to inform upcoming policies, strategies and action plans.



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 MONGOLIA:

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