

Inclusion Matters

Policy insights and lessons from the Green Economy Coalition's national dialogues

Written by: Najma Mohamed

Reviewed by: Steve Bass

With contributions by: Arthur Bainomugisha, Anshul Bhamra, Satabdi Datta, Mamadou Fall, Leslie Forsyth, Chris Hopkins, Odonchimeg Ikhbayar, Sasha Jattansingh, Racine Kane, Nicole Leotaud, Gaylor Montmasson-Clair, Barbara Ntambirweki, Luis Miguel Prado and Stuart Worsley



About this paper

This paper documents the stories of seven civil society-led national and regional dialogue processes in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Each story describes how people – small and informal enterprises, women, local communities, marginalised populations – have been able to get a stake and have their say in green economic policy processes, and offers new evidence of how social inclusion has driven more transformative policymaking.

It draws together this experience and presents overall policy insights, lessons and recommendations on how people's values, priorities, and capabilities can best shape green economy policies.

The paper is designed for:

- Practitioners and governments tasked with driving sustainable development policy;
- Civil society organisations seeking to inform policy and investment decisions;
- Business leaders looking for practical ways to engage with local communities and national governments;
- Researchers and academics focused on green and fair economic transition pathways;
- Funders supporting inclusive and participatory green economy policies.

Green Economy Coalition

GEC gives special acknowledgement to IIED. Their consistent championing and leadership of both inclusion and dialogue as a method to achieve it, has been fundamental both to the continued success of the GEC and the authenticity of its work. We particularly thank Steve Bass, IIED, who pioneered GEC's first dialogue approach as well as acting as a thoughtful guide to this document.



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Key message

"In the shift from brown to green economies, 'inclusion' is not a nice to have: it is core to the transition. Participatory dialogues have accelerated and enabled a fundamental change in policymaking."

Greening our economic systems is the most ambitious and urgent transformation the world has ever known.

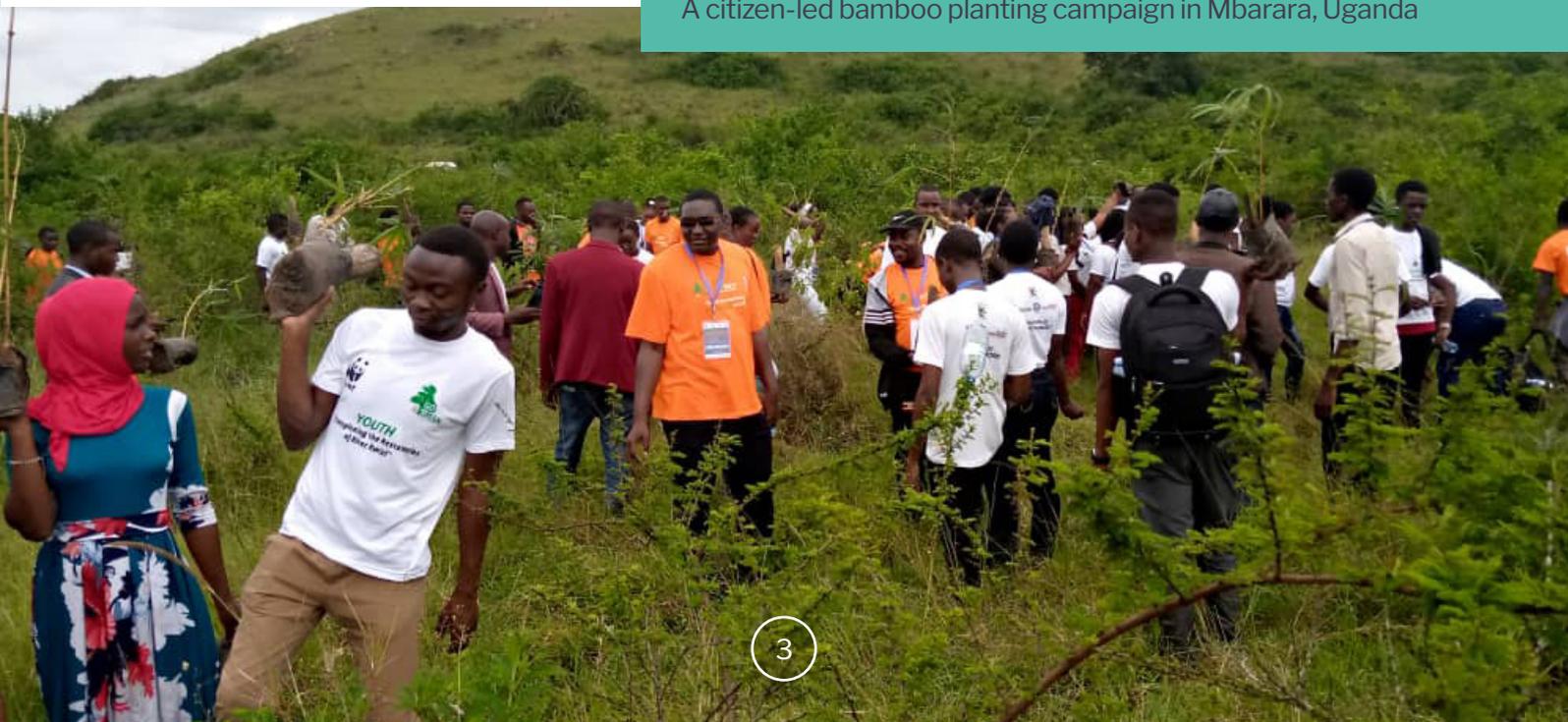
But a transformation on this scale requires broad and deep social support. The green economic transition cannot accelerate or endure unless ordinary citizens feel included, rewarded and listened to.

In the shift from brown to green economies, 'inclusion' is not a nice to have: it is core to the transition. Participatory dialogues have accelerated and enabled a fundamental change in policymaking.

Governments, institutions and businesses broadly recognise the need for social inclusion in green policy. But civil society has too often been marginalised in policymaking.

Citizen-led dialogues, as convened by the Green Economy Coalition, are a proven and effective way to mainstream inclusion through all stages of the policy cycle. They have succeeded in creating a new dynamic between local citizens, small businesses and communities, and policymakers further 'upstream'. This dialogue approach is flexible, context-adaptive and replicable, making it a powerful tool for harnessing social demand for green and fair economic policy.

A citizen-led bamboo planting campaign in Mbarara, Uganda



Abbreviations

ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
AfriCGE	African Centre for a Green Economy
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CSOs	Civil society organisations
DA	Development Alternatives
EPCRC	Economic Policy and Competitiveness Research Centre
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
GEC	Green Economy Coalition
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
FNI	Foro Nacional Internacional
IED-Afrique	Innovation, Environnement et Développement en Afrique
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
MSMEs	Micro-, Small and Medium Enterprises
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TIPS	Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies
UN PAGE	UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy

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Executive summary

The last few decades have seen remarkable economic growth for many around the world. Yet the gap between the richest and the poorest is getting bigger, not smaller: today the world’s richest 1% own 44% of the world’s wealth.¹

The full extent of the suffering caused by the COVID-19 virus is still emerging, but poor and vulnerable communities, who lack basic services, social protection or livelihood choices, are already bearing the brunt of the crisis. The pandemic is laying bare the scale of global socio-economic inequalities, and it is likely to exacerbate them.

The social, economic and environmental consequences of inequality are profound and far-reaching: eroded trust in institutions, increased social fragmentation, weakened political processes. The ‘Gilets Jaunes’ protests movement in France, or street protests in Ecuador over fuel-price reform, provide a sharp warning of the dangers of a widening inequality gap. As long as people are being left behind by economic and social ‘progress’, the transition to green economies will struggle to take hold.

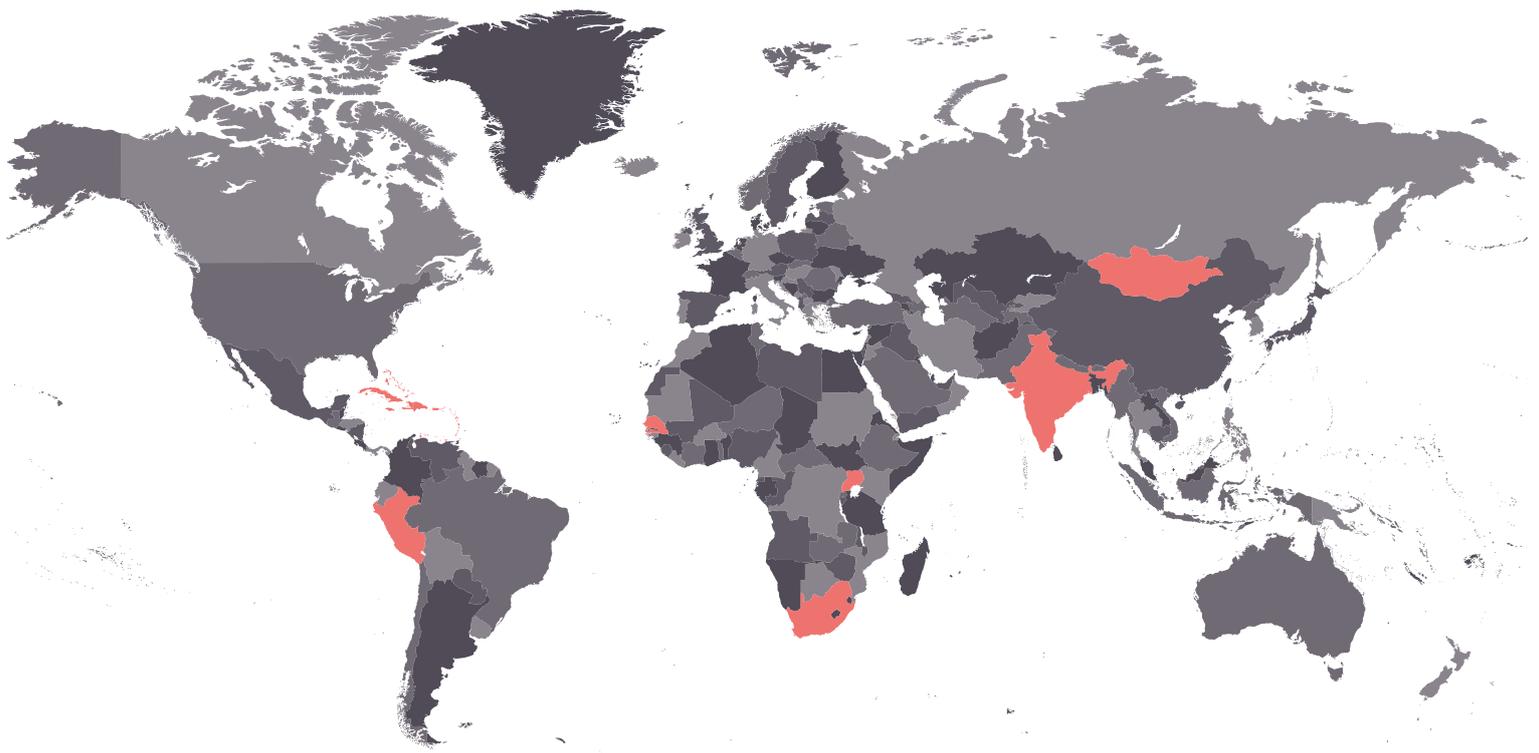
An Inclusive Green Economy approach sets out to ensure that people – particularly the poorest, women, marginalised communities and small and informal enterprises – benefit from green policymaking. For the Green Economy Coalition (GEC), a global network of over 50 civil society networks, inclusive green economic development means more than a one-off policy consultation. Rather, it is a process that allows citizens and key constituencies to shape the outcomes of a policy choice – because only then will it gain traction. As such, inclusive green economic policymaking is not a nice to have, it is the vehicle of the transition.

The GEC dialogues programme, funded by the European Commission (EC), has been convened by civil society partners in 7 ‘Hub’ countries and regions, supported by a global secretariat. The GEC dialogue approach, trialled and tested since 2012, has its roots in bottom-up participatory policymaking dialogues of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and aims to build social demand for a green transition by putting stakeholders at the heart of the policy process.

While each dialogue process is context-specific, all have followed a three-step cycle:

- Inquiry: diagnosis and evidence gathering (micro)
- Resonance testing: synthesising and sense making (meso)
- Policy action: evidence and advocacy (macro including national and regional)

¹ Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report also shows that adults with less than \$10,000 in wealth make up 56.6 percent of the world’s population but hold less than 2 percent of global wealth. www.credit-suisse.com/about-us/en/reports-research/global-wealth-report.html



Each of the dialogues has developed a new dynamic between citizens, local businesses and communities ‘downstream’ and national government and decision makers further ‘upstream’, in order to deliver better informed green economic policy:

- The GEC-**Caribbean** Hub convened both local and high-level action learning groups to green the operations of small local enterprises, and then used those experiences to influence the strategies of national and regional economic institutions.
- In **India**, the dialogue process mobilised networks of local enterprises in sustainable construction to successfully shift state-wide policy and investment decisions.
- The GEC-**Uganda** Hub focused on an iconic issue, the management of the River Rwizi catchment system, to generate a highly visible movement for a green economy that has generated national news and galvanised national policy decisions.
- The **Mongolian** dialogue mobilised key urban constituencies, particularly poor groups and women’s groups, to connect issues of air pollution, water supply and sanitation to the opportunity for greener economies; and used these lessons to strengthen the implementation of Mongolia’s national green growth plan.
- The GEC-**Peru** Hub has mobilised a large and highly visible alliance of small green enterprises around an online platform, lobbying together for key regulatory and fiscal changes to support social entrepreneurship for the first time.
- **Senegal’s** dialogue has supported artisanal fisheries and smallholder farmers to mobilise as networks of small enterprises, capable of responding to sectoral green economic plans and initiatives.
- The GEC-**South Africa** Hub has become a key advocate for the experiences and realities of small enterprises in nation-wide policy efforts to green their industries.

The GEC dialogue model has proved effective. It recognises all stakeholders, especially those excluded by existing policy processes, and fosters meaningful participation in critical stages of the policy cycle. It seeks wide ownership and a socially acceptable distribution of the results. It establishes institutional structures and networks that catalyse the citizen engagement so critical for an inclusive transition.

As more countries engage and adopt green economy pathways, similar approaches are recommended to assure broad-based societal engagement. Investment in green economy transitions with inclusion builds the essential foundations for sustainable, enduring and systemic green economic reform. In contrast, investment in green economy transitions without inclusion may be both unjust and risky.

What does it take to structure an inclusive transition? 10 policy insights:

1. An inclusive transition to a green economy will not come about through one-off policy consultations. Inclusion needs to be embedded in governance systems.
2. Robust and well-resourced institutional mechanisms, such as dialogue platforms, action learning groups and consultation forums, are needed to provide for greater stakeholder empowerment in policy processes.
3. Involving stakeholders from the outset of a policy initiative so that they can be part of the diagnosis of the problem is key to achieving inclusion.
4. By focusing on ‘nexus issues’ that link social, economic and environmental issues – such as health or entrepreneurship – decision makers can achieve multiple policy impacts.
5. Transformative green economy policy agendas are often incubated at local and state level rather than always starting in central government.
6. Dialogue facilitators, or Hubs, need to be both well rooted within civil society as well as confident to convene higher level decision makers.
7. Highlighting society’s visions, values and priorities creates a ‘demand-pull’ on policy that makes otherwise ‘top-down’ decision-making more robust and sustainable.
8. Stakeholders are most likely to engage in green economy dialogues when they centre on key local sectors, such as agriculture or fisheries, and support more devolved decision-making.
9. Local green enterprises can be attracted to actively engage in dialogue processes, and are often quick to take ownership and pioneer new efforts.
10. For maximum effectiveness, country and regional technical assistance programmes must prioritise inclusion, and the participatory policymaking approaches to achieve it.

Objectives and approach of this paper

This paper argues that multi-stakeholder processes are key conduits to deepening inclusion in the institutional landscape of green economies.

Section 1 of this paper explores how the two policy agendas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion, once seen as separate and even conflicting priorities, are increasingly recognised as complimentary and mutually reinforcing.

Section 2 situates the GEC and its institutional relationships in the landscape of new approaches to socially inclusive policymaking.

Section 3 sets out the GEC's model of inclusive dialogue, including the history and methodology of the approach, rooted in the IIED dialogue methodology.

Section 4 documents national and regional transitions from the seven GEC Hubs, and presents emerging policy insights, lessons and recommendations. The seven stories illustrate diverse ways to address the root causes of unjust, inequitable and unsustainable outcomes.

The provisions for inclusion in the dialogues relate mostly to the recognition and participation of civil society in green economy interventions. In spite of the early stage of implementation, there are already signs of positive distributive impacts. The stories in Section 4 investigate how the values, knowledge, priorities, and interests of citizens are beginning to shape green economy policies, how people are getting a stake in them, and the extent to which expectations for benefit- and cost-sharing are being met by green economy interventions.

The section offers new evidence that inclusive governance processes (and specifically the GEC participatory dialogue processes) can drive transformative policymaking throughout the policy cycle – from debate, to decisions, to implementation, to review. This proposition, while uncontroversial, has only been partially documented and communicated to date.

Section 5 of this paper distils the essential factors that would enable inclusive policymaking to take root.

Section 6 provides recommendations for donors, governments, business and civil society aiming to strengthen inclusive green transition policy.

The following questions guided this analysis:

- How can inclusive approaches create an iterative dynamic between green economy policies, and social demand for those policies from citizens, so they are coherent and impactful?
- What lessons can be drawn from the three-year GEC dialogue to offer policy insights on transformative governance approaches?
- What are the key recommendations to accelerate inclusive policymaking where local voices have a stake in the policy process and begin to shape outcomes?

The primary evidence base for this analysis has been the extensive documentation by the GEC Hubs on the dialogue process, through their annual reports, blogs, and country barometers,² complemented by interviews with the Hub leads around these three questions. A baseline exercise conducted at the start of the programme also provided key insights into the initial state of the transition. Secondary supporting evidence was drawn from broader green economy literature on the Hub countries and region, as well as the wider academic literature on inclusive green economy policymaking.

² The Hubs all completed a Green Economy Barometer taking stock the policies, initiatives and programmes that had been put in place at the start of the dialogues. These provide a useful state of play, and a starting point for the dialogues. The Barometers are available on the GEC web site.

1. Introduction: Why green must be fair

The ‘green’ and ‘fair’ policy agendas – once seen as separate, even conflicting priorities – are increasingly recognised as two sides of the same coin, mutually reinforcing components of the transition to inclusive green economies. New policies and investments are emerging, both to restore the environment and to tackle social issues like poverty, inequality and unemployment. Even if this is not yet a holistic process of economic reform, one thing is clear: people are at the heart of successful approaches.

1.1. Green and fair economies

Nature is disappearing at an unprecedented rate, and global warming continues to accelerate. Scientists agree that we have a window of only 10 years to prevent irreversible and catastrophic damage from climate change, biodiversity collapse and mass extinctions. Meanwhile, economic progress is failing to deliver for the majority. The gap between the richest and the poorest is growing; hunger is on the rise for the first time in a decade. As ordinary people feel increasingly left behind, they vote for more extreme political parties: the world’s largest democracies, accounting for 28% of the global population, are run by populist leaders.

These are not separate or distinct challenges. In fact they are all symptoms of a deeper, structural problem: a global economic system which in its incentives, institutions, priorities and practices is fundamentally unfit for purpose.

"Climate change, biodiversity collapse, inequality and poverty are all symptoms of a deeper, structural problem: a global economic system with incentives, institutions, priorities and practices which are fundamentally unfit for purpose."

This message is no longer radical. It is now widely accepted by businesses, governing bodies, economists and investors. In the words of Frank Elderson, Executive Director of the Bank of the Netherlands, "A transition to a green and low-carbon economy is not a 'nice to have' for the happy few. It is crucial for our own survival. There is no alternative."³

As economic vulnerabilities have become more apparent – never more so than during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic – the concept of a “green economy” has re-emerged into the mainstream of social and economic policy.

³ Network for Greening the Finance System, 2019. *First Comprehensive Report: A Call for Action*. www.ngfs.net/en/first-comprehensive-report-call-action

"Increasingly, policymakers recognise that the transition to a green economy must address the needs of ordinary people, especially the most vulnerable – urban and rural poor, women and youth – to ensure that the benefits of green innovations reach everyone."

By and large, green economy models ensure that both natural systems and people thrive together. A green economy ensures that natural, physical and financial wealth is fairly distributed, closing the inequality gap, and brings diverse voices into policymaking to deliver fairer outcomes. As one of the four central themes at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), it was agreed that green economies should reflect varied national contexts and embrace diverse approaches, visions, models and tools to achieve sustainable development. Green economic pathways are aligned with both the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both of which seek to transform economies and societies for sustainability.

A wide range of concepts have evolved alongside green economy, including green growth, low carbon development, resilience, sustainable finance, green skills and jobs, just transitions, circular economy, climate-compatible development, and increasingly, green recovery. But they are united in their commitment to advance policies that address the multiple dimensions of sustainability.

However, critical voices have pointed to the comparative neglect of one central aspect in many green economic pathways: the social dimension.⁴ Increasingly, policymakers recognise that the transition to a green economy must address the needs of ordinary people, especially the most vulnerable – urban and rural poor, women and youth – to ensure that the benefits of green innovations reach everyone.

The concept of a just transition is emerging, one that goes beyond incrementalist approaches to embrace a transformation that address the environmental and social dimensions of sustainability transitions. Diverse transition pathways, united in their commitment towards 'going green with equity', are now visible.⁵

⁴ See: Centre for Inclusive Growth, 2011. *Going Green with Equity*. International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, Brasilia; Fatheuer, T., Fuhr, L. and Unmüßig, B., 2016. *Inside the Green Economy: Promises and Pitfalls*. Greenbooks, München; and UNRISD, 2012. *Social dimensions of green economy*. UNRISD Research and Policy Brief 12. UNRISD, Geneva.

⁵ Bass, S., Steele, P., Toulmin, C., Greenfield, O., Hopkins, C., Chung, I. and Nielsen, T., 2016. *Pro-poor, inclusive green growth: Experience and a new agenda*. IIED and GEC, London.

1.2. Principles and policies for inclusive green economies

Inclusive approaches to green economy are increasingly being explored around the world. A wide range of inclusive policies, actions and programmes differ in their emphasis on equity, justice and/or social inclusion, but all aim to embed inclusion in transition processes.

- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) programme made the close links between poverty and ecosystems more visible.
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has initiated a workstream on just transitions.
- Civil society groups have prepared “people’s scorecards” or shadow reports to the government SDG reporting process.
- Banks have established green credit lines for small businesses. Inclusive approaches to sustainable finance are emerging to ‘invest money where it matters’.
- The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is advising over 30 governments on how to achieve their commitments under the Paris Agreement through inclusive green growth strategies.
- The inter-agency UN Partnership for Action on a Green Economy (UN PAGE) is supporting 18 countries on 3 continents on inclusive green economy.
- And the Green Economy Coalition (GEC) is convening green economy dialogues in 6 countries and 1 region, bringing to light civil society perspectives on green transitions and building social demand for inclusive green economies.

Policy transformation has been a driver of green economic reform processes. Systemic reform of the economy cannot be achieved by any one single policy intervention, but is dependent on a coherent, mutually reinforcing framework that delivers the right reforms in the right places, in the right sectors and in the right order.

Whether in governance, finance, industry, social policy, or conservation, national policymakers need clear signals as to what kind of policies they should prioritise. The Partners for Inclusive Green Economy⁶ have defined an Inclusive Green Economy as “a thriving economy that delivers the linked economic, social, and environmental outcomes sought by the SDGs and the Paris Agreement”.⁷ They have developed a framework that puts forward a people-centred approach to making green and fair economic transitions, following five principles.

⁶ The Partners for Inclusive Green Economies is a consortium of major institutions working in the green economy that has met several times to share learning and combine efforts. They have reached consensus that nothing short of a fast and fair transformation of our economies is needed and collaborated in the construction of a framework to understand the complexity of transformation towards greener, more equitable and resilient economies.

⁷ Partners for Inclusive Green Economies, 2019. *Principles, priorities and pathways for inclusive green economies: Economic transformation to deliver the SDGs*. GEC, London.

Five Principles of Inclusive Green Economy

- The Wellbeing Principle envisions an economy that enables all people to create and enjoy genuine, shared prosperity.
- The Justice Principle promotes equity within and between generations, equitable distribution of opportunity and outcome and is inclusive and non-discriminatory.
- The Planetary Boundaries Principle safeguards, restores and invests in nature and recognises the diverse values of nature in sustaining society.
- The Efficiency and Sufficiency Principle highlights that meeting basic needs and services for all is essential to human dignity.
- The Good Governance Principles outlines the need for strong collaborative institutions and public participation to complement enlightened leadership with societal demand.

1.3. What is inclusion and why does it matter?

There is widespread agreement amongst institutions, governments and businesses that transitioning to a more sustainable future requires both political leadership and social support.⁸

While there is broad recognition of the need for social inclusion in green economy actions, civil society has too often been marginal to the policymaking process. This has led to transition pathways which are largely state- and market-led, under which government, industry and financial institutions craft and implement technocratic, top-down and marketized approaches. All too often, notions of equity, justice and inclusion have been peripheral, creating a serious risk that a 'green economy' is owned and run by a small elite.

In contrast, inclusive development "*includes marginalised people, sectors and countries in social, political and economic processes for increased human wellbeing, social and environmental sustainability, and empowerment*".⁹

Meaningful spaces that include the voices of citizens in policies, legal frameworks, finance systems, practices and projects are therefore central to Inclusive Green Economies.

A framework on equity and inclusion,¹⁰ developed through a 9-year global interdisciplinary research programme, Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation (ESPA), is used here to delineate the dimensions of social inclusion in green economy interventions. The ESPA framework presents three interlinked dimensions: recognition; procedural; and distributional.

- Recognition is about who gets to have a say. Respecting the visions, values, interests, priorities and rights of different stakeholders to be heard and included is fundamental to social inclusion. This includes recognition of all relevant actors, including marginalised groups, such as indigenous peoples, young people and informal workers.

⁸ Spotlight on Sustainable Development, 2019. *Reshaping governance for sustainability. Reforming institutions – shifting power – strengthening rights*. Global Civil Society Report on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Bonn.

⁹ Gupta, J., Pouw, N.R.M. and Ros-Tonen, M.A.F., 2015. *Towards an Elaborated Theory of Inclusive Development*. European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes, 27(4): 541-559.

¹⁰ Schreckenber, K., Franks, P., Martin, A. and Lang, B., 2016. *Unpacking equity for protected area management*. Parks, 22(2): 11-26.

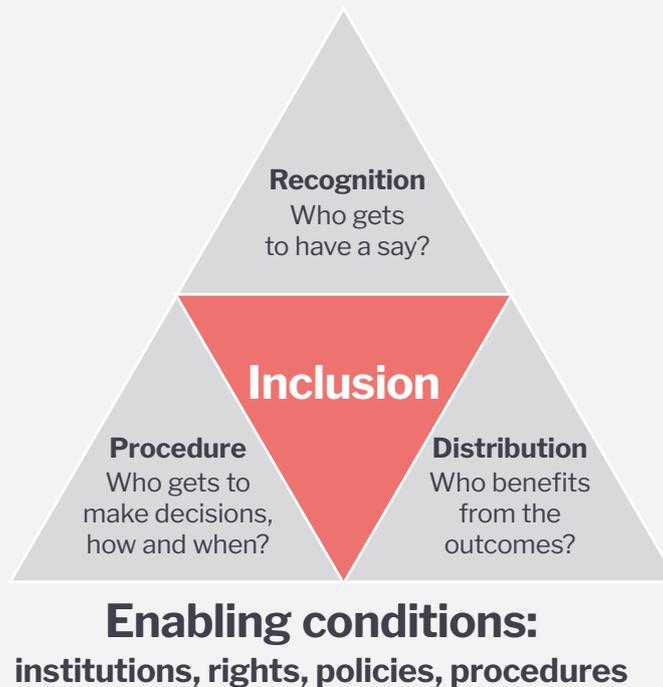


Figure 1: Dimensions of Inclusion (Adapted from Schreckenberget al, 2016)

- The procedural dimension entails full, meaningful and effective participation of all relevant actors in decision-making processes that are transparent and accountable.
- Distribution relates to inclusive, just and equitable distribution of the costs, benefits and outcomes, and mitigation of any costs related to interventions.

A truly Inclusive Green Economy should have people at the core. It should recognise and respect the values, perspectives and rights of stakeholders. Participatory procedures should drive policies, projects and investments. And the outcomes, trade-offs, costs and benefits of green economy interventions should be distributed equitably and with transparency.

There are clear risks in excluding communities from green economy policies, projects and investments. There is the risk of not recognising and respecting all key stakeholders, of excluding local communities, workers and businesses from participating in transition planning processes, and in the maldistribution of green economy costs and benefits.

The trade-offs, risks and impacts (positive and negative) of delivering a just, inclusive transition will need to be laid out and negotiated to ensure equity, not only in terms of policy goals and processes, but also in just and fair outcomes. This requires ‘a managed transition with meaningful dialogue at all levels to make sure that burden sharing is just, and nobody is left behind’.¹¹

This paper will focus primarily on the recognition of civil society and the inclusion of people’s priorities in green economy policy processes. Drawing on the insights and lessons from civil society-led green economy dialogues, funded by the European Commission (EC) and convened by the GEC, it documents how the values, knowledge, priorities, and interests of civil society voices are beginning to shape green economy policies and plans. It considers how policy processes have integrated civil society perspectives and how green economy policy outcomes meet local needs and priorities.

¹¹ ILO, 2018. *Just transition towards environmentally sustainable societies and economies for all*. ILO ACTRAV Policy Brief. ILO, Geneva.

2. Green Economy Coalition: A catalyst for greener and fairer economies

There are many policies that support transitions to green and fair economies. However, for the most part, social engagement in designing inclusive green economies has been limited. More inclusive policymaking approaches are starting to emerge around the world. Building on these, the Green Economy Coalition has co-developed new dialogue processes with partners in 7 Hubs, designed to accelerate the green economy transition by strengthening public support for green and fair programmes, and mainstreaming social inclusion into policymaking.

2.1. Glimpses of more inclusive green policymaking

Many governments are aware of the need to recognise and engage marginalised groups in shaping policy, but are reluctant – or find it difficult – to open up policymaking processes. Civil society groups have a growing role to play as mediators who can connect excluded groups – such as women and girls, indigenous groups, youth, smallholder farmers, informal workers and entrepreneurs – and as a source of essential knowledge of what works and how policy can be applied in practice. To play this role, civil society needs the tools, knowledge and confidence to engage.

Growing evidence suggests that citizens can successfully engage with green economy policy through new movements and programmes that combine social and environmental needs – including transition towns, wellbeing economies, food sovereignty and frontier finance. Just transition plans are being formulated at city and

regional levels, bringing all relevant actors into the planning stages.¹² And the SDG reporting process has begun to include civil society in its assessment criteria, recognising that government self-assessment is insufficient.¹³

Whereas ten years ago green policymaking made scant reference to social impact, most countries now aspire to a level of social inclusion where they seek to design ‘win-win’ policies that deliver both green and social outcomes.¹⁴ There is no country that as yet exemplifies fully integrated and holistic green economy policymaking. But many are heading in the right direction.

¹² UNRISD, 2019. *Climate Justice from Below: Local Struggles for Just Transition(s)*. UNRISD, Geneva.

¹³ Spotlight on Sustainable Development, 2019. *Reshaping governance for sustainability. Reforming institutions – shifting power – strengthening rights*. Global Civil Society Report on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Bonn.

¹⁴ Raworth, K, Wykes, S. and Bass, S. 2014. *Securing social justice in green economies. A review of ten considerations for policymakers*. IIED and CAFOD, London.

"Whereas ten years ago green policymaking made scant reference to social impact, most countries now aspire to a level of social inclusion where they seek to design 'win-win' policies that deliver both green and social outcomes."

- In the UK, citizens' climate assemblies have been convened to make policy recommendations for achieving the country's net-zero greenhouse gas emissions commitment by 2050.
- New Zealand's Just Transition Summit brought together diverse groups from across the country in 2019 to provide an opportunity for all to have their say in defining what a just transition to a low-emissions future looks like, and what steps to take towards a sustainable, productive and inclusive economy.
- To give greater effect to South Africa's vision of developing pathways to a just transition, enshrined in its long-term National Development Plan, a country-wide stakeholder dialogue process to interrogate pathways to a just transition was initiated in 2018.
- Guyana's Green Sustainable Development Strategy, a long term strategy until 2040, seeks to develop 'an inclusive and prosperous Guyana that provides a good quality of life for all its citizens based on sound education and social protection, low-carbon and resilient development, providing new economic opportunities, justice and political empowerment'. The strategy emerged from a 9-month national consultation process that involved 136 private, public and civil society representatives setting the policy direction and priorities of the Strategy.
- Jordan's 2017 National Green Growth Plan was based upon a 2-year consultation process which included civil society actors to develop strategic guidance on green growth planning and implementation.

The civil society dialogues convened by the GEC form a significant part of this growing movement, seeking to give life to social justice considerations in green economies.

2.2. The Green Economy Coalition: Building social demand, seeking policy impact

The GEC is a global alliance of more than 50 organisations committed to a green and fair economic transition. It is working with partners around the world to support and develop new green economies that are ‘grounded locally and connected globally’.

In March 2016, funded by the EC, the GEC initiated a three-year programme with local civil society partners (referred to as Hubs) in 6 countries and 1 region, entitled ‘*Creating enabling policy conditions for the transformation towards an inclusive green economy*’.

The EC has implemented a series of programmes to accelerate the green economy transition and encourage coherent action across relevant economic sectors. It aims to highlight the roles that civil society can play in the green economy transformation. The EC’s support to the GEC therefore focuses on the development of Hubs in developing countries and regions to ‘strengthen networks of civil society to campaign for green economy reforms’.¹⁵

The GEC national dialogues programme sought to complement the government-focused technical assistance programmes that are also supported by the EC, notably: the UN-PAGE (Partnership for Action on Green Economy) programme, which supports nations in reframing economic policies and practices around sustainability; the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) which works with countries to design and deliver programmes and services that demonstrate new pathways to pro-poor economic growth; and Switch to Green, a flagship EC initiative with an emphasis on sustainable consumption and production, working with local actors to enhance progress towards green transition through technical assistance, including information and capacity building.

GEC Hubs

- 1. The Caribbean:** Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
- 2. India:** Development Alternatives (DA)
- 3. Uganda:** Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
- 4. South Africa:** African Centre for a Green Economy (AfriCGE) and Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)

- 5. Peru:** Foro Nacional Internacional (FNI) and Libélula Institute for Global Change (Libélula)
- 6. Mongolia:** Economic Policy and Competitiveness Research Centre (EPCRC)
- 7. Senegal:** Innovation, Environnement et Développement en Afrique (IED-Afrique) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Senegal)

¹⁵ Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, 2018. *The inclusive green economy in EU development cooperation: An innovative approach at the intersection of the EU’s Planet, People and Prosperity objectives*. European Commission, Brussels

GEC's work in the Hub countries and regions has been organised around the following hypothesis:

- Inclusion is a necessary condition for sustainable and systemic green economic reform.
- Dialogue is a working approach that fosters meaningful inclusion through all stages in the 'policy cycle'.
- Inclusion is not just a one-off exercise but should become embedded in government processes and institutions.
- Green economic reform cannot be achieved by a single intervention, but is dependent on coherent, mutually reinforcing and integrated action across different policy areas.
- Inclusion should be core to all these policy processes.

The Hub-facilitated dialogues sought to identify green economy issues that impact local groups and, working with them, to frame and voice demand for change, to take action as agents of that change, and to convey their aspirations to policymakers.

Thus green economy 'dialogues' were not simply one-off meetings. They were processes convened by GEC Hubs over 3 years. At EC request, they covered countries and regions where either UN PAGE or other international green economy programmes were also being implemented: the Caribbean region and 6 countries: India, Mongolia, Peru, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda.

What is "dialogue"?

A GEC green economy dialogue is a structured citizen-led enquiry into the opportunities that greener choices offer different stakeholder groups. Through workshops, consultations, evidence gathering and advocacy, the process explicitly seeks to connect local realities with national policy agendas.

Dialogue is the core mechanism for the GEC's work at country and regional level. Rooted in the IIED dialogue methodology, GEC dialogues support civil society organisations to convene relevant stakeholders – be they communities, businesses, or policymakers – to identify shared concerns and co-develop solutions

for greening their economy in equitable ways. Dialogue helps stakeholders look at how their economy and society link with environmental issues, to scope what a 'green economy' means for them, and to identify policy actions. Bottom-up messaging arising from citizen-led dialogues can then advocate for green economic reform at local, national and global levels.

[See 3.2 for more details and methodology.](#)

Inclusion was regarded as a critical, but neglected area of focus in the green economy policy framework in all GEC Hub countries. The EC anticipated that a strategic partnership between the GGGI, Switch to Green and UN-PAGE programmes, active in all 7 of the GEC Hub countries,¹⁶ would lead to an innovative in-country approach towards Inclusive Green Economies. This would combine the 'top-down', government-focused external technical assistance programmes, largely targeted at policymakers in government, with the more embedded national civil society dialogue processes supported by the GEC. It would also lead to greater coherence and complementarity of the different programmes in-country.

The GEC has a close relationship with the key international green economy programmes. Through an informal institutional collaboration group, they have worked together globally to develop shared visions and principles, and nationally to deliver inclusive green economies. At country-level, the GEC and UN PAGE agreed that they would integrate analyses, strategies and activities to realise synergies between their programmes. Ideally, GEC would work in a country prior to UN PAGE, as it takes time to set up civil society partners. However, this was only realised in India thus far, where the GEC had been working on the ground 3 years prior to India joining the UN PAGE programme.

Recommendations emerging from an evaluation of UN PAGE in 2017¹⁷ highlighted that, while there was good evidence of partnership building and multi-stakeholder involvement in the UN PAGE countries, more civil society and private sector engagement is needed. To deliver on the UN PAGE objective of supporting the most vulnerable sections of society, greater consideration of the social implications of green

economy interventions and actions was also recommended. Multi-stakeholder engagement is equally central in the objectives of the Switch to Green and GGGI programmes.

Together with their own networks of civil society actors, researchers, policymakers and local stakeholders, the GEC Hubs convened dialogues on green economic reform in the six countries and one region. The specific role of the GEC dialogues programme was to build Inclusive Green Economies through convening social demand for green and fair economies, in ways that would best influence green economy policy processes.

Inclusion – often excluded...

*"Development of an **inclusive, people-centred** green economy model that is meaningful for the Caribbean is arguably the area where OECs countries and territories still have most progress to make."*

CANARI, Eastern Caribbean Green Economy Barometer

*"Inclusion' is not a nice-to-have, it is the **vehicle of the transition**. Promoting inclusion beyond social policies will accelerate the transition towards a green economy by giving means to vulnerable populations to benefit from markets, financial instruments and incentives."*

FNI and Libélula, Peru Green Economy Barometer

*"The main gap in South Africa's endeavour to build a **fair and inclusive economy** is the lack of effective measures to address the concerns of marginalised people and the informal sector."* **AfriCGE and TIPS, South Africa Green Economy Barometer**

¹⁶ India, Mongolia, Peru, Senegal and South Africa participated in the UN PAGE programme, while Barbados and Guyana, among the countries engaged in the Caribbean, are also UN PAGE countries. Uganda, Senegal and Mongolia receive support from GGGI, while the Switch to Green programme operates in India, South Africa and Uganda

¹⁷ UN Environment, 2017. *Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) of the UN Environment-ILO-UNDP-UNIDO-UNITAR project 'Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)*. UN Environment, Geneva.

Policy feedback loop

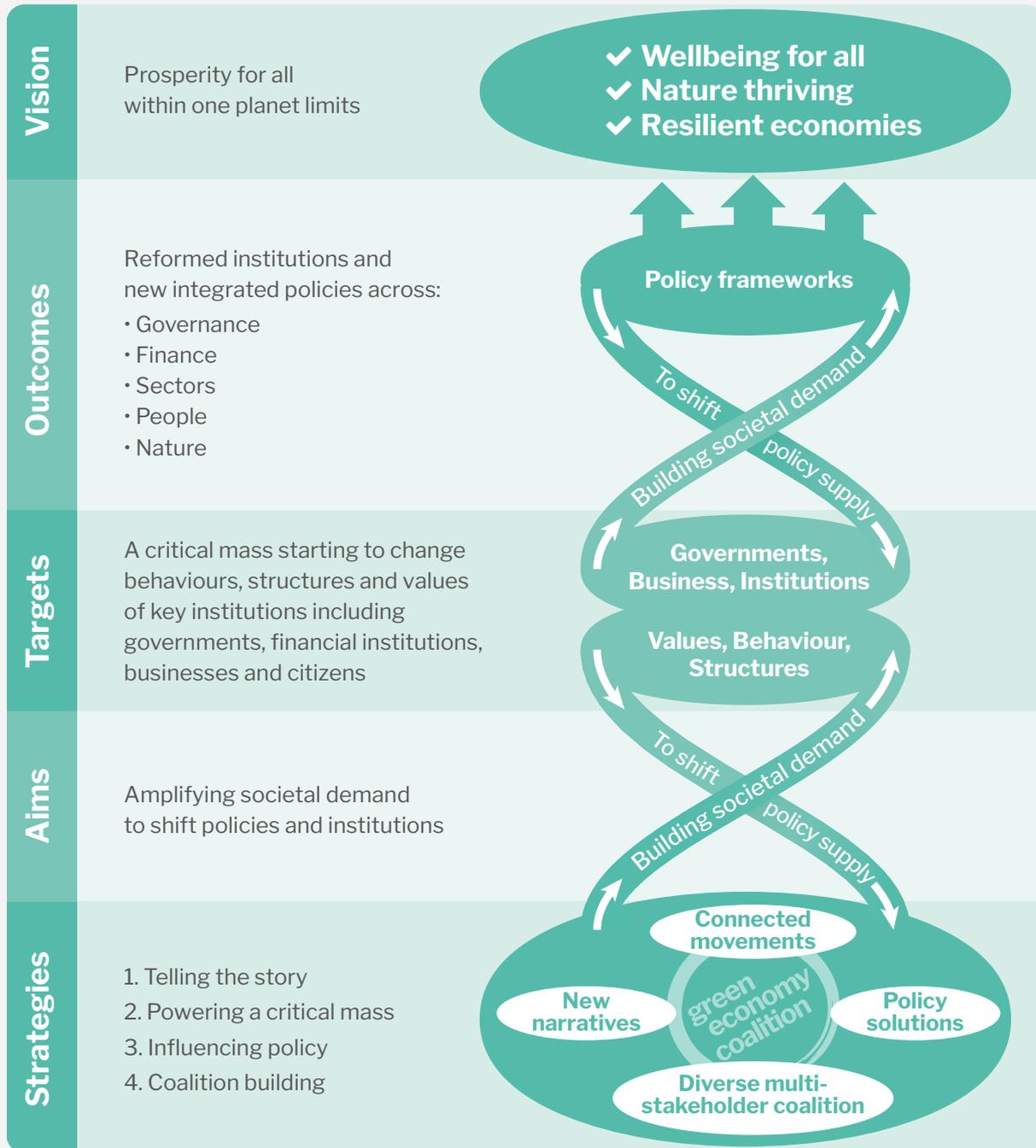


Figure 2: Policy feedback loop in the GEC Theory of Change

3. The GEC dialogues: An overview

The GEC has supported 17 multi-stakeholder national and regional processes, involving over 300 civil society organisations, in the 7 Hub countries and region over 3 years. Convened by the GEC Hub partners, practical guidance for hosting inclusive green economy dialogues has emerged. The broad intent of the dialogues is to embed inclusion in the green economy policy process, giving people a stake and a say in green economies.

3.1. Background to the dialogues

The GEC dialogues programme is rooted in the earlier experiences of 11 national and regional green economy dialogues initiated in 2011, facilitated by the IIED under the auspices of the GEC.¹⁸ These sought to develop an understanding of what a green economy transition would look like for countries. It also had the added purpose to explore progress, barriers and prospects, and to identify what works at national and local level, as an input to GEC engagement with the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012. The IIED-facilitated dialogues resulted in a 2013 guidance document¹⁹ to encourage governments to consider what a green economy would mean for their country.

While these formed the antecedent for the GEC dialogues, there were some key differences. The earlier dialogue process were short-term interventions, externally facilitated (by IIED with a local consultant or NGO), and brought together civil society and private sector participants with government stakeholders in meetings which were co-chaired by ministries of finance/planning and ministries of environment.

They sought to establish multi-stakeholder platforms for green economy diagnosis which could then evolve into mechanisms for broader action learning, ultimately seeking to influence policy processes. This early dialogue process shaped the design of the EC-funded green economy dialogue programmes initiated in 2016. India and the Caribbean participated in these early dialogues, and maintained some features of this early process in the three-year dialogues, notably a focus on action learning.

From the early model, the dialogues evolved from a process presided over by government (even if joint environment and planning authorities) into a process led by civil society. Through a diagnosis of the economic, environmental and social challenges that countries confront, the dialogues have been able to assert civil society perspectives and identify opportunities to address them. They have also provided a sense of what a green economy means on the ground in different cultural and ecological contexts. They have generated reflections and actions on policy needs, creating a policy feedback loop where people's local perspectives feed into the policy cycle.

¹⁸ GEC and IIED, 2011. *Green economy: Developing country stakeholders have their say*. GEC and IIED, London.

¹⁹ Bass, S., 2013. *Scoping a Green Economy*. IIED and GEC, London.

An independent mid-term review²⁰ of the dialogues programme which focused on three of the Hubs (India, Senegal and Uganda) assessed how effectively the demand for Inclusive Green Economy approaches was being catalysed by the programme. The review found that the GEC Hubs had successfully built a good foundation for influencing national policy and practice through a bottom-up process of community engagement. Institutional mechanisms for dialogue had been strengthened. The top-down advocacy and bottom-up implementation approach, exemplified by the dialogues programme, utilised existing institutional mechanisms

to reach out to the targeted audiences, but also established new dialogue platforms in countries where mechanisms for engagement did not exist.

"An independent review found that the GEC Hubs had successfully built a good foundation for influencing national policy and practice through a bottom-up process of community engagement. Institutional mechanisms for dialogue had been strengthened."

3.2. About the GEC dialogue methodology

The green economy dialogues convened diverse local perspectives on the priorities and pathways of transitions to green economies. Typically, green economy policies are driven by governments and, in developing countries, international technical support programmes such as UN PAGE and GGGI. The GEC work, however, is complementary and seeks to influence, enrich, and sometimes challenge, government efforts.

Aims: Convened by civil society partners, the GEC dialogues focused on:

- Understanding the context of transitions to an Inclusive Green Economy by taking stock of policies, initiatives and programmes in place, and assessing the extent to which these are making a difference on the ground;
- Exploring what a transition looks like from diverse people's perspectives, identifying local priorities and the opportunities offered by green economies to people in their everyday lives;
- Connecting local and national activists, community groups and civil society networks to build their understanding of green economic reform;
- Convening diverse sector perspectives – energy, agriculture, transport, infrastructure – and stakeholders to understand different transition pathways;
- Supporting and convening networks of local green enterprises to connect;
- Defining priorities for policy and institutional reform in sectors, themes or industries through evidence and consensus;
- Documenting and communicating the dialogue experience and outcomes to provide the evidence of how societal demand for policy action is built; and
- Developing an online space to support ongoing dialogue and mobilisation.

²⁰ Nottawasaga Institute, 2019. *Review of EU Dialogues Program. Final Consolidated Report*. Nottawasaga Institute, Kenya.

Diagnostics:

The dialogues were initiated by a baseline diagnostic to establish a contextual foundation for the programme, take stock of the state of play and consider the overall status of the green economy in the Hub countries. It was completed in a questionnaire format where Hubs scored country progress in five policy themes which frame the architecture of new green economic models: Measuring and Governing, Reforming Financial Markets, Greening Economic Sectors, Tackling Inequality, and Valuing Nature. The policy themes guided both the baseline diagnostic, as well as the country barometer reports subsequently produced by each of the Hub partners.

The country baseline diagnostics established that green economy transitions were underway in all the Hub countries, and that green economy was recognised as a priority by government and key public and private stakeholders. However, policy processes were largely top-down with limited consideration of equity, inclusion and environmental limits. Indeed, every GEC Hub highlighted tackling inequality as an area with much progress still to be made.

"Every GEC Hub highlighted tackling inequality as an area with much progress still to be made."

The baseline diagnostic was revisited during interviews with Hubs for this paper. One of the significant changes observed over the 3-year period was that policy spaces for inclusion were emerging. There was also a growing recognition that green economy policies could deliver both social and environmental outcomes. While official policy positions display a strong commitment to inclusion, on paper at least, policymakers continue to put forward technocentric green economy solutions centred on the provision of green technology and finance, without deeper engagement with the social dimensions of a green economy transition.

Each Barometer report presents a unique, civil society driven assessment of the status of the green economy transition, complementary to the green economy scoping and stocktaking studies undertaken by UN PAGE, GGGI and others. Given their civil society perspective, they proved powerful in kickstarting lively dialogue.

"While official policy positions display a strong commitment to inclusion, on paper at least, policymakers continue to put forward technocentric green economy solutions centred on the provision of green technology and finance, without deeper engagement with the social dimensions."

Participatory process:

The GEC green economy dialogue process,²¹ facilitated by Hub partners, is structured to influence policy action through a three-tier engagement process at national (macro), state (meso) and local (micro) levels. The GEC Secretariat provides technical support and guidance on the dialogue methodology, which begins with a systems inquiry to identify priority issues around which to structure the dialogue processes.

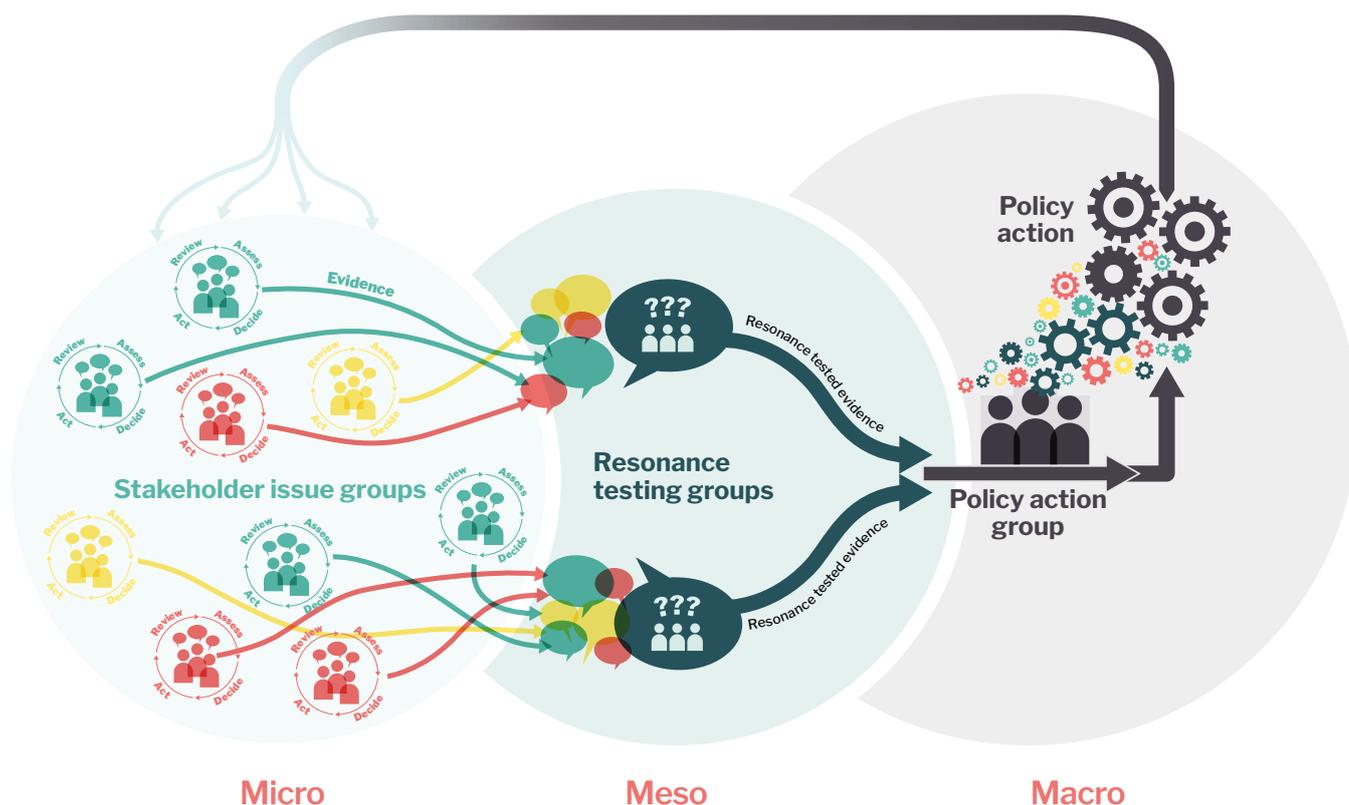


Figure 3: The GEC Dialogue Methodology

At the *micro* level, dialogues are centred on priority local issues that foster local actions. Constructed around an action research framework, people explore green economy issues that interest them, decide on what to do about them, and plan actions. The micro-level dialogues are facilitated by the Hub leads, and occur at specific locations where groups of concerned people become active in identifying and addressing green economy issues that concern them.

As the diagram above shows, several stakeholder groups can emerge from the inquiry process. Issues that arise are typically local problems that relate to nexus challenges that people want to address, or opportunities that they want to exploit. The multiple issues that emerge are reviewed at the micro-level to identify areas of convergence, and to highlight priorities for further action at the meso-level.

²¹ Worsley, S., 2017. *An Approach to Dialogues: Green Economy Coalition*. Unpublished paper. Green Economy Coalition.

At the *meso* level, dialogues bring the evidence of micro level action together. At this level, dialogues enable interaction with further stakeholders and begin to test micro-evidence for broader resonance with the green economy narrative and policy framework. Resonance-tested stories can be used at a higher level, and may need to be retold in aggregate to reflect their resonant nature. It is these that are used to pass evidence to the macro-level dialogue processes. Policy action at this level in turn influences the micro level, and either enables or disables local green economy action.

At the *macro* level, dialogues begin to engage national, regional and international policy actors to use resonant issues revealed through micro and meso level dialogues, and to advocate for policy action. At this level, GEC Hubs form policy platforms, and policymakers are invited to engage with evidence received through micro dialogues and resonance-tested meso dialogues.

As macro-level actors develop options for action and pull policy levers, they exert a greater or lesser effect on the micro level. This generates new experiences at the micro level, and evidence will emerge, be resonance-tested and presented back to the macro level within a relatively short time frame. This provides a unique process which acts as a live policy feedback mechanism.

Facilitation by Hubs:

A diverse set of civil society institutions drive the dialogue processes at the country and regional level. Working at the confluence of research, policy and practice, these GEC Hubs possess strong technical expertise in a variety of areas, notably stakeholder engagement, analysis, advocacy, communications and network building. Moreover, they have displayed the agility required to engage diverse stakeholders and to convene dialogues at multiple levels. All are united in their commitment to deliver socially equitable, environmentally sound and economically scalable development outcomes.

At national and regional levels, the Hubs are recognised for their expertise and commitment to inclusivity. Some Hubs have been at the forefront of developing the research and evidence driving their country's green transition. At local level, they have gained experience in facilitating dialogues with communities, enterprises and local resource users. Increasingly, they are broadening the perspectives of powerful interest groups, including government and business, towards local green economy perspectives.

"The GEC Hubs have displayed the agility required to engage diverse stakeholders and to convene dialogues at multiple levels. All are united in their commitment to deliver socially equitable, environmentally sound and economically scalable development outcomes."

4. Transition stories

The following narratives document the dialogue process across the 7 Hubs over a three-year period.

While context-specific, these have each followed the same three-step cycle of inquiry, synthesising, and policy action.

Each narrative assesses how the dialogues progressed at micro, meso and macro levels, the challenges faced and how they were overcome, innovations developed to improve inclusion in the specific country context, and some early indications of impact.²²

²² Within the 3 years of implementing the dialogues, it is still too early to observe contribution towards full policy impacts, which should take several years to materialise, although the transition stories do point to the establishment of a solid institutional foundation for Inclusive Green Economies.

4.1.1. Towards resilient green-blue economies in the Caribbean

Country/Region	Hub Lead/s	Priority green economy issue/s
Caribbean	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	Viability of local green enterprises

The green-blue policy context

Like many other small island developing states, the nations and territories of the Caribbean are on the frontlines of climate change. Rising sea levels, increasing severity and frequency of storms, and the deterioration of land and ocean ecosystems all threaten the social and environmental fabric of Caribbean economies.

In response, the region is increasingly exploring new economic pathways, focusing on resilience, inclusion, and sustainability. This new development agenda is strongly influenced by international agencies, with many initiatives driven by external financing. Because of this, engagement of Caribbean people in shaping their own development is critical. As early as 2011, regional dialogue processes²³ were convened to ‘shape resilient, self-reliant and sustainable economic pathways for the region’.

Across the region, there has been widespread policy commitment to develop “green” and “blue” economy strategies to enhance resilience, catalyse growth, protect nature, create jobs and increase social inclusion (see boxout).

Global institutions are actively supporting green and blue economy processes in the Eastern Caribbean. In Grenada, the World Bank is supporting efforts to diversify the economy towards a blue growth model that is based on sustainable and well-governed use of ocean resources.

In Barbados, UN PAGE is working to integrate inclusive green economy goals and targets into SDG-aligned national development planning. In Guyana, UN PAGE supported the development of the country’s Green State Development Strategy.

In the 11 Member States of the Eastern Caribbean, the Global Environment Facility, through the World Bank, is supporting marine spatial planning and other work to move the sub-region to a blue economy.

²³ Geoghegan, T., Leotaud, N. and Bass, S., 2014. *Green economies in the Caribbean: Perspectives, priorities and an action learning agenda*. IIED Country Report, IIED, London.

Forging links between green economy and blue economy, which has been heavily promoted by international partners, has been critical. At the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in 2018, Caribbean delegates recognised the need for a regional definition, vision and strategy for blue economy. Following this, the 11 Member States in the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) developed a Green-Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan, in which social inclusion forms a central principle. The strategy builds on an earlier CANARI diagnostic, the *Eastern Caribbean Green Economy Barometer*,²⁴ that explored opportunities for a transformation to inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies in the sub-region.

The 2018 Barometer rated the status of the transition in the 11 Member States of the sub-region as below average, noting that the narrow interpretations of both green and blue economy have shown very little consideration for equity and social inclusion. It contends that *"development of an inclusive, people-centred green economy model that is meaningful for the Caribbean is arguably the area where OECS countries and territories still have most progress to make"*.

Definition: "Blue Economy" – The World Bank defines Blue Economy as the *"sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem."* It forms an *important complementary approach to green economy in regions with a strong dependence on marine resources.*

Small businesses play a key role in this. A national diagnostic study²⁵ concluded that *"local green enterprises can play a role in transitioning to an inclusive, green and resilient economy in Trinidad and Tobago. This will require a change in the current fragmented approach to economic development to recognise and support the contribution of local green enterprises in delivering economic, social and environmental benefits."*

"The development of an inclusive, people-centred green economy model that is meaningful for the Caribbean is arguably the area where OECS countries and territories still have most progress to make."

²⁴ CANARI and GEC, 2018. *Eastern Caribbean Green Economy Barometer*. Trinidad and Tobago and London. www.greeneconomycoalition.org/assets/reports/Barometers-2018/East-Caribbean-GE-Barometer-2018-WEB.pdf

²⁵ Dardaine E.A., Sandy, K. and Leotaud, N., 2019. *Opportunities for local green enterprises in Trinidad and Tobago*. Port of Spain: CANARI.

Rooting dialogues in action learning networks

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) convenes the GEC dialogue process in the region. There are three levels of stakeholder engagement, namely national (Trinidad and Tobago), sub-regional (the Eastern Caribbean) and regional (the Caribbean). Stakeholders are engaged through two dialogue platforms that have been structured as Action Learning Groups (ALGs).

The Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group (GE ALG), an independent Caribbean-driven initiative, forms the foundation of the GEC dialogue processes focusing on national, sub-regional and regional policy processes. The Caribbean GE ALG has 27 members from 10 island states, including representatives from key regional and sub-regional organisations. It is recognised by regional institutions and policymakers as a leading forum for critical and independent discussion on green and blue economy policy.

At national level, the Trinidad and Tobago Small and Micro Enterprises Green Economy Action Learning Group (TT SME ALG) champions small green enterprises in Trinidad and Tobago and comprises entrepreneurs as well as public, private and civil society support agencies. The ALGs have been instrumental in making policy recommendations that seek to influence regional and national institutions.

Within Trinidad and Tobago, the work of the TT SME ALG has focused on developing a self-assessment tool, the Local Green-Blue Enterprise Radar, to help small and micro community enterprises assess whether their business is delivering ‘triple-bottom line’ benefits. The analysis generates ideas on how to improve business performance and deliver social and environmental benefits.

The Radar is a visual representation of economic wellbeing and viability, social inclusion and equity, environmental sustainability and good governance within an enterprise.²⁶ It helps local community entrepreneurs understand their role in green and blue economies to drive transformation and policy change from the bottom up.

The TT SME ALG has highlighted issues that affect local green enterprise viability and engaged with key policy processes. A draft Green Enterprise Policy remains shelved in Trinidad and Tobago’s Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development, with no political will or political champion to push for its promulgation. The TT SME ALG has engaged other ministries working on green and local economic development to champion small businesses. This points to the challenges confronting policy advocacy and reform, which are not one-off efforts, but rather an institution- and network-building process that takes time.

The pilot application of the Radar tool across 11 countries with over 47 SMEs and SME associations has generated case studies across economic sectors. There has been strong interest in the tool from countries within the Caribbean, and small business experts from 10 countries have been trained by CANARI to facilitate the Radar self-assessment with SMEs. Broadening engagement across the Caribbean via scaling out the work with SMEs and scaling up to influence policy will be the next steps.

²⁶ CANARI. *The Local Green-Blue Enterprise Radar*. www.canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/canari-ge-radar-poster-web.pdf

Policy engagement in the Eastern Caribbean and beyond

Building on CANARI's national dialogue platforms, the project has also taken the inclusive transition message to the regional and global stage. CANARI engages with key sub-regional and regional initiatives on green and blue economy policy and financing strategies, both as a key stakeholder and through its regional dialogue platform, the Caribbean GE ALG.

The GE ALG has developed a deep understanding of blue and green economy principles and practices in the Caribbean context. With limited resources, maintaining interest and momentum of the GE ALG through virtual means has been challenging, yet strong commitment and strategic positioning sees the group members participating in key national, sub-regional and regional green and blue economy policy processes.

The regional GE ALG is recognised as a key stakeholder, noted for its independent technical advisory role and membership of champions from key institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Organisation of American States, governments, academia and private sector.

In the Eastern Caribbean sub-region, CANARI's study on *'Exploring opportunities for transformation to inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies in the Eastern Caribbean'* was presented at the 5th Meeting of the OECS Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability in July 2017. The OECS Ministers resolved to define a strategy and plan of work for an inclusive green-blue economy and are partnering with CANARI to develop this. The strategy will be presented to the Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability for adoption in June 2020.

The blue economy concept, which has been widely adopted by the OECS, is also informed by and grounded in principles of social inclusion and seeks to include marginalised and underrepresented groups in policymaking and economic activity.²⁷ CANARI and GE ALG members have advocated that green and blue economy initiatives need to be brought together. This has been adopted by the OECS.

CANARI has employed its strong relationships with national governments and regional bodies to achieve noteworthy policy action promoting green enterprise development. Thought leadership on inclusion and environmental sustainability, notably by the ALGs, has been central to this process.

Key stakeholders have been engaged through the ALGs to connect local action with national, regional and global policy initiatives. Rooted in the engagement with local green enterprises, the dialogue platforms convened by CANARI have made significant strides in promoting small enterprises in general as potential conduits for achieving both social inclusivity and environmental sustainability.

Greening local enterprises in the Caribbean is becoming an issue of note and is placing the issue of inclusion squarely within the ambit of blue and green economy transitions. With more than 50% of employment in the region generated by small businesses,²⁸ the sector can be a driving force to ensure that transitions are both green and fair, and the GEC Caribbean Hub is at the heart of this ongoing process.

²⁷ Caribbean Development Bank, 2018. *Financing the blue economy: A Caribbean Development Opportunity*. CDB, Barbados.

²⁸ Caribbean Development Bank, 2016. *Micro-Small-Medium Enterprise Development in the Caribbean: Towards a New Frontier*. CDB, Barbados.

4.1.2. Charting an inclusive, climate friendly pathway in India

Country/Region	Hub Lead/s	Priority green economy issue/s
India	Development Alternatives (DA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sustainable construction in Bihar – Sustainable agriculture in Madhya Pradesh – Sustainable tourism in Sikkim

Innovation-led green growth

Social inclusion, economic growth and environmental sustainability is core to the development vision of India, among the fastest growing, populous and most unequal economies in the world.²⁹ In its final 5-year plan Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth, the Indian administration committed itself to an equity-based approach to sustainable development. While a long-term development vision is still being prepared, India has adopted a strategy which recognises the opportunities presented by green technological innovation in growing a resource-efficient and sustainable economy.

Economy-wide development pathways, such as green and circular economies which chart a ‘climate friendly and cleaner path of economic development’,³⁰ were also part of the country’s Nationally Determined Contributions, submitted under the Paris Agreement. Upon joining the UN PAGE programme in 2018, India identified ‘state-level stakeholder consultations that capture different perspectives on inclusive green economy opportunities and challenges’ as a priority action. Development Alternatives, the GEC-India Hub, participated actively in the stakeholder engagement processes of the UN PAGE programme.

India faces multi-dimensional inequalities and inclusion is central to its development vision. At the onset of the GEC dialogue process in 2017, India’s policy commitment to an inclusive green transition was rated as “good” by the GEC-India team. This is largely due to the country’s policy vision and large social protection programmes, which prioritise human-centred development and poverty alleviation.

"In India, delivering green social, economic and environmental policy will require building public awareness on the multiple benefits of green economy transitions, creating social demand and crafting inclusive policy processes."

²⁹ George, A., 2016. *Unequal India in an Unequal World: Causes, Consequences & Policy Options*. Working Paper. Trivandrum: Institute for Sustainable Development & Governance (ISDG).

³⁰ Government of India, n.d. *India’s Nationally Determined Contribution: Working towards Climate Justice*. www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/India%20First/INDIA%20INDC%20TO%20UNFCCC.pdf

Technocentric and innovation-led strategies, which currently characterise India's emerging green economy narrative, tend to open the door to bigger business and could lead to the marginalisation of rights- and equity-based approaches. Technological innovation is core to many green economy visions, and not only helps countries meet carbon targets but also creates jobs, establishes industries and grows economies in a cleaner way. However, in developing an enabling framework for greentech innovation, the impacts on society will have to be carefully negotiated through inclusive and transparent governance processes.

In India, delivering green social, economic and environmental policy will require building public awareness on the multiple benefits of green economy transitions, creating social demand and crafting inclusive policy processes. However, greening the economy is not yet fully recognised as a tool to achieve social prosperity and environmental sustainability.³¹ Towards this end, the dialogues convened by Development Alternatives connect practice on the ground with policy solutions – showcasing the symbiotic relationship between research and action.

Policy dialogues around greener construction

The GEC-India Hub, Development Alternatives (DA), has built on its extensive policy networks with government and business to engage and influence green economy policy. GEC-India operates at three levels – bringing citizen voices into the policymaking process.

National engagement focuses on shaping green economy policy and narratives. Initially centred on the environment ministry, this has broadened to include government ministries focused on industrial development, small enterprises and science and technology, indicative of the broader mainstreaming of environmental sustainability in public policy.

State- and **local-**level actions are largely focused on specific environmental issues - sustainable construction in Bihar, sustainable agriculture in Madhya Pradesh and sustainable tourism in Sikkim. Over the course of three years, DA has convened annual national dialogues, regional dialogues and workshops with over 300 stakeholders in dialogue processes and harnessed online communications tools to reach out to its national networks. Through its online knowledge platform, [MAP-SA](#), it has mapped local case studies, dialogues and relevant green economy policies.

Among the three state-level dialogue processes which DA is facilitating, the small business fly ash network in Bihar state, building on DA's focus on sustainable construction in the state since 2013, have achieved the most notable engagement with public and private policy actors.

³¹ Development Alternatives and the GEC, 2019. *The Green Economy Barometer 2018: India*. New Delhi and London.

Green economy dialogues in Bihar have centred largely on environmental challenges related to air, water, and ground pollution caused by red brick manufacturing that uses 'energy intensive, resource depleting and highly polluting technologies and production practices'. As an alternative, fly ash (a waste product sourced from local coal-based power plants) is recycled and turned into 'eco-friendly' bricks by local enterprises. The dialogue processes with fly ash entrepreneurs focused on identifying challenges to the promotion, production and increased use of fly ash bricks in Bihar state.

Fly ash brick production addresses multiple challenges in Bihar state. It tackles the health and environmental impacts of pollution and soil loss by red brick enterprises. It recycles fly ash waste from thermal plants, which would usually be dumped at the site or ponds, resulting in depletion of topsoil, groundwater deterioration and air pollution. And it has provided new employment and livelihood options to local communities.

The small businesses that have emerged have also demonstrated how green economy actions are shaped around local concerns or pain points. The GEC India Hub has engaged fly ash entrepreneurs to both demonstrate the environmental and employment potential of cleaner technologies, and articulate the challenges entrepreneurs face in expanding the industry.

While national laws promote fly ash brick manufacturing, state laws in Bihar did not, until recently, implement these laws. The dialogue process supported local entrepreneurs to articulate key challenges they face, including the lack of market uptake, quality assurance and standards of the eco-friendly bricks. In response to this, the Bihar state government has now passed landmark policies to create an enabling environment for the development of the fly ash industry.

Chief amongst these is a notification that requires all state-led construction activities to use 100% fly ash bricks. Second, the state banned the establishment of new red brick enterprises and issued a notification that red brick units within 300 kilometres of a coal-fired power plant should transition towards fly ash-based enterprises. DA is supporting, with its civil society partners, research to develop standards that would increase quality assurance around fly ash bricks.

But this is only one dimension of technology uptake. Knowledge, awareness and understanding of the social, environmental and economic benefits of the fly ash industry is central to social acceptance and uptake. DA has convened policy roundtables and dialogues, in partnership with civil society, government and business, involving over 150 existing and potential entrepreneurs, to raise awareness of the value of transitioning to cleaner technology. This contributed to the draft Patna Declaration on Improving Air Quality, led by Bihar State's Disaster Management Authority. The Declaration focused on improving the air quality of Patna, identifying the red brick industry as a significant contributor to air pollution in the state.

Multi-stakeholder networks driving policy action

The GEC India Hub has engaged public and private sector policymakers around sustainable construction at the state and local level in Bihar, demonstrating the powerful role of citizen voice. It has worked in partnership not only with civil society organisations including the Centre for Science and Environment, Greentech India, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation and its local implementing partner, Mascot Foundation, but also the Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Department of Environment, Department of Industries and NTPC Ltd.

The Hub has brought together collective experience and capacities of CSOs in networking, research and advocacy to bring citizens into policy processes. Models of citizen engagement that address and respond to citizen-based demands and needs, such as the dialogue processes, offer lessons to the energy, water, waste and transport sectors, identified as core to India's transition to a green economy.

"The women and men whose work and livelihoods are tied into the red brick industry must become a part of the process if this is to be just and inclusive transition."

In Bihar, where social action has centred on sustainable construction, awareness of the soil and air pollution impacts of red brick manufacturing is growing. Communication flows have connected entrepreneurs and policymakers. The women and men whose work and livelihoods are tied into the red brick industry must become a part of the process if this is to be just and inclusive transition which

acknowledges the trade-offs in shifting towards cleaner industries. Skills, finance and knowledge transfer that enable a phased transition will be required to shift towards cleaner enterprises. Inclusive transition planning, which address both the risks and opportunities of this shift, is required to achieve a just transition.

DA and its national partners are working together with the Government of India to engage with international programmes. As well as helping to shape the agenda of the UN PAGE India programme which began in 2018, DA is also closely involved in India's membership of the Switch Asia programme, the European Union's largest programme to promote sustainable consumption and production through demonstration projects and policy support actions.

DA also participates in green economy research, including the development of a national roadmap on resource efficiency.³² The dialogue process convened by DA in Bihar state, involving strong civil society, policy and entrepreneur networks, facilitated positive policy outcomes that promote sustainable construction and green enterprise development.

These local and state-level actions resonate strongly with the emerging national green economy agenda in India, covering issues including green public procurement, resource efficiency, clean energy, sustainable consumption and production, and stakeholder consensus. It also demonstrates that India's green economy policies and pathways, which are centred on green technological innovation, can be structured to deliver outcomes that benefit and empower local communities.

³² The Energy and Resources Institute, 2019. Reference Report for "National Resource Efficiency Policy" for India. TERI Press, New Delhi.

4.1.3. Centralising local citizen engagement in Mongolia’s green development plan

Country/Region	Hub Lead/s	Priority green economy issue/s
Mongolia	Economic Policy and Competitiveness Research Centre (EPCRC)	Air and soil pollution

A model green economy policy

Mongolia is often noted as a green economy pioneer, with a comprehensive green transition policy framework dating back to the “National Green Development Policy” ratified by the Parliament in 2014. This was followed by action plans and a national “Sustainable Development Vision 2030” in 2016. In addition to this, Mongolia was among the first partner countries to join UN PAGE.

Mongolia’s National Green Development Policy (NGDP) set out a long-term vision for ‘participatory and inclusive economic growth based on a green development concept’. This includes targets related to greening key economic sectors, as well as building sustainable finance, environmental knowledge and green technological capabilities. The policy also reflects a commitment to social inclusion and recognises citizen participation as being essential to the transition process.

On one hand, policy processes in Mongolia show relatively high levels of interaction with private sector actors, notably the financial sector. On the other hand, effective platforms that give voice to and engage civil society in policy processes are largely absent, demonstrating the need for innovative governance approaches such as the GEC dialogue processes.

The comprehensive green economy policy framework is sometimes overshadowed by political instability and policy discontinuity, which may have negative impacts on sustaining a green transition. With an ongoing Mid-term Review of the NGDP in 2020, there is an opportunity to assess whether the policy is still on track to achieve a sustainable future that is both green and fair.

In the 2018 *Green Economy Barometer for Mongolia*,³³ the country scored low on the status of its green economy transition. It fared even worse on its commitment to social inclusion. As the Barometer notes, “new policies, laws and participation in international programmes are necessary elements of the transition, but they are not sufficient in and of themselves.”

Multiple challenges, such as rapid and unplanned urbanisation, air and soil pollution, water scarcity and desertification, present opportunities to engage on issues that matter to Mongolian citizens. However, the lack of a collective civil society voice, political support and effective platforms for citizen participation make it challenging to build widespread citizen demand for greener economies. The GEC civil society dialogue process sought to test the connection between committed policy leadership and citizen demand, thereby bringing citizen voice into the process.

³³ EPCRC and GEC, 2018. *Mongolia Green Economy Barometer 2018*. Ulaanbaatar and London.

"New policies, laws and participation in international programmes are necessary elements of the transition, but they are not sufficient in and of themselves."

Ger district residents envision a green economy

The Economic Policy and Competitiveness Research Centre (EPCRC) is a key stakeholder in Mongolia's green economy network.

Well-connected to national policy networks, the EPCRC authored several of the key green economy policy research diagnostics for the country, including the green economy stocktaking and green jobs assessments.

Definition: "Ger": While the word 'ger' refers to the traditional nomadic tent used by Mongolians, in Ulaanbaatar, ger districts refer to the unplanned (and largely un-serviced) sprawling settlements around the capital. The ger districts suffer from many of the challenges which arise from unplanned settlements, such as poor sanitation, inadequate solid waste management, and limited water supply, which pose health and environmental hazards.

It has used its convening power to actively position citizen networks to engage in emerging green economy policy debates, connecting policy vision to the realities of Mongolian citizens. The EPCRC has undertaken several actions to engage citizens in articulating the key green economy issues that matter to them. Initial efforts centred on raising awareness of a green economy through knowledge products such as the [Nogoonhutuch \(Green Guide\) web site](#), presenting green economy solutions at a national cultural festival and supporting public campaigns around pollution. This expanded towards engaging urban dwellers on emerging green economy issues.

The EPCRC has engaged closely with citizens, conducting a wide range of interviews and field surveys. These have included surveying Mongolian children on what a green economy means to them; speaking with mothers in Ulaanbaatar on raising children in one of the most polluted cities in the world; and engaging marginalised communities in the ger districts of Ulaanbaatar around the intractable air and soil pollution problems. Through a community forum set up around participatory solutions, the GEC-Mongolia Hub is exploring, with ger residents, how to overcome these problems.

Recent years have seen substantial numbers of nomadic rural communities settling on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar because of weakening pasture systems, which is mostly due to climate change and extremely cold winters. The growing *ger* districts, made up of traditional tents or makeshift block houses, have poor access to water, energy or sanitation services. Homes in the *ger* district are heated by burning unwashed coal on stoves. Consequently, there has been an alarming growth in the level of air pollution, coupled with growing hostility towards *ger* residents.

Among the most polluted cities in the world, 80% of Ulaanbaatar’s air pollution in the winter months is caused by burning of unwashed coal in *ger* districts.³⁴ The ash from the coal-fired stoves is spread on the icy roads to enable vehicles to have traction in winter. In summer, when the ice melts, the soil is contaminated, and air born dust engulfs the city.

The Mongolian government is struggling to find safe, workable solutions to replacing coal. It is exploring a longer-term solution, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, to upgrade infrastructure in the *ger* districts. An urban renewal programme funded by the Green Climate Fund to transform the urban *ger* areas into eco-districts through the provision of affordable green housing and infrastructure is being piloted in two *ger* districts, Bayankhoshuu and Selbe.

The GEC Hub has been conducting citizen inquiries with residents in the *ger* district of Chingeltei to find out what issues concern them, and what could be done to alleviate these. Residents raised concerns about air pollution, local waste management (garbage, stove ashes, grey water), sanitation, disjointed social relationships and the way in which district redevelopment was being neglected. The inquiry process revealed that normal neighbourhood relationships barely existed in the *ger* districts. The dialogues with residents have begun to build social cohesion through the establishment of community groups that have engaged with the area’s Governor and local authorities on district improvements.

³⁴ World Health Organization, 2019. *Air Pollution in Mongolia*. Bulletin of the World Health Organization. www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/97/2/19-020219.pdf

Green hopes of citizens count

GEC-Mongolia has focused on bringing citizen voices into wider national green economy conversations. Yet with limited platforms, processes and opportunities for community engagement, the dialogues are creating spaces for inclusion in policy processes. While the EPCRC has strong links with national green economy planning processes, linking citizen-based action with these processes remains difficult when the foundation for citizen action is weak.

About one third of Mongolia's population live in *ger* districts where the dialogue process is being implemented. Social cohesion is still being built in many cases, but the gains achieved through the dialogue process in Mongolia are significant.

The participatory inquiries have established community networks in the *ger* district – these have helped residents identify relevant stakeholders, work together on co-creating solutions with researchers, district government and NGOs, and conveyed the concerns of *ger* residents to local government. This process plays an important role in bringing marginalised people into policy considerations.

Many of the issues raised by *ger* residents resonate with green economy policy focus areas identified in the NGDP. Including these into policy discussions and planning at district and national levels could bring these into greater focus.

Mongolia has drawn on many international technical support programmes to craft its transition to a green economy. The GGGI supports the government's green development targets related to renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as greening of public green investment. UN PAGE continues to support the government on a comprehensive sustainability plan to sustain the implementation of the NGDP. The country has successfully accessed funding from the Green Climate Fund for seven projects, valued at close to USD 800 million.

One of these, the Ulaanbaatar Green Affordable Housing and Resilient Urban Renewal Project (AHURP) is focused on supporting building of eco-friendly mini-districts in the *ger* districts and driving urban planning that combines climate resilience and social cohesion. Another project, to be implemented by Xacbank, involves setting up a credit facility to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Half of the support is earmarked to support women-led MSMEs.

The dialogue process that has been facilitated by the GEC Mongolia Hub, the EPCRC, offers inroads into inclusive green economy policy and planning processes that engage women, men and vulnerable and marginalised groups. They also offer ready opportunities for engaging communities in shaping a more inclusive and greener future.

4.1.4. Greening Plan Senegal Emergent through local policy action

Country/Region	Hub Lead/s	Priority green economy issue/s
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Innovation, Environnement et Développement en Afrique (IED-Afrique) – International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Senegal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Artisanal fisheries – Agroecology for smallholder farming

Greening Senegal’s national plan

Plan Senegal Emergent (PSE), the long-term vision for Senegal’s economic and social policy adopted in 2014, rests on three pillars: structural transformation of the economy, human capital development, and good governance. Addressing inequalities and social injustices are core to the PSE’s vision of achieving ‘more balanced development’ while ‘preserving the resource base’.

Most of Senegal’s workforce is concentrated in climate sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and livestock. With the region facing climate risks that include escalating temperatures, sea level rise and changing rainfall patterns, climate change presents a significant challenge as Senegal strives to ‘transform its economy, create jobs, achieve social solidarity, and conserve its natural resources’.³⁵

The political commitment to greening the Senegalese economy has been accompanied by a supportive green economy policy framework. Multi-stakeholder consultative policy processes were initiated to formulate the National Guidance Document and Strategy on Green Economy as well as the National Green Jobs Strategy.

Priority sectors identified for ‘greening’ in the Strategy include agriculture, fishing, forestry, water resources, renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as waste management.

In October 2019, the Government of Senegal received the international Future Policy Award for its *National Strategy for the Promotion of Green Jobs (2015–2020)*, the national framework for green jobs promotion. The development of participatory processes in planning the green jobs strategy, along with carrying out sustainable projects that have created 2,000 green jobs mainly for young people and women, were key factors behind the award.³⁶

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has established a multi-stakeholder national platform to support the implementation of green economy policies. With a focus on greening economic sectors in the second phase of the PSE, there is an opportunity for civil society organisations to champion inclusive approaches to sectoral planning processes.

³⁵ Zamudio, A. N., and Terton, A. 2016. *Review of current and planned adaptation action in Senegal*. CARIIA Working Paper no. 18. International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada and UK Aid, London. www.iisd.org/sites/default/files/publications/idl-55877-senegal.pdf

³⁶ UN Page, 2019. *Senegal’s National Strategy for the Promotion Of Green Jobs (2015–2020) receives the Future Policy Award 2019*. www.un-page.org/Senegal’s-National-Strategy-Promotion-Green-Jobs-2015–2020-Receives-Future-Policy-Award-2019

Inclusive policy processes are central in ensuring that Senegal's green development pathway, which will be profoundly influenced by the discovery and planned exploitation of oil and gas reserves,³⁷ does not veer off course. Public pressure is also growing as ecosystem decline is becoming more apparent, and as people understand the impacts of climate change and resource degradation on local economies and livelihoods.

Senegal's Green Economy Barometer³⁸ found that over half the country's population live in multi-dimensional poverty, lacking access to many basic social services such as health and education, social protection and decent work and are at risk of climate impacts. Established by the Senegalese Government, the multi-stakeholder platform, the National Platform for a Green Economy (PNEV), is regarded as a key lever for inclusive policy dialogues on a green economy transition. The GEC-Senegal Hub leads are represented on this platform.

Sustainable livelihoods in fisheries and agroecology

The GEC Hub in Senegal is facilitated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Senegal) and Innovation, Environnement et Développement en Afrique (IED-Afrique). The dialogue process in Senegal is centred on citizen dialogues with artisanal fisheries and small farmer agroecology actors on green transformations in these sectors. The dialogue outcomes have been shared at the national level to inform policymaking.

The green economy platform, PNEV has functioned largely at the national level, and has evolved as a highly centralised and top-down policymaking structure. With IED-Afrique and IUCN-Senegal represented on the platform, the key messages emerging from local dialogue processes are now being articulated at the national level.

The dialogue process in Senegal is focused on two key sectors: small-scale agriculture and artisanal fisheries, where over 70% of Senegalese make their living. Accordingly, the dialogues focussed on those directly involved in artisanal fishing (fishermen, fishmongers, processors, technical fishery agents) and agroecology (farmers, vegetable sellers, carters, agricultural equipment mechanics, processors).

Local government, representatives of technical services, professional organizations and NGOs were also engaged in the process. To give voice to local stakeholders in these two sectors, a series of dialogues were held in sites where many local actors confront challenges in sustaining their livelihoods due to natural resource degradation. Pressures in sustaining livelihoods in agriculture has seen many communities shift towards fisheries, increasing pressure on a sector already facing an 'economic and environmental crisis'.

³⁷ UN PAGE, 2018. *Funds and mechanisms for the management of oil and gas revenues to support sustainable development: Insights from country experiences and lessons for Senegal*. Geneva. www.un-page.org/files/public/page_fiscal_study_senegal_-_en.pdf

³⁸ IUCN-Senegal, IED and GEC, 2018. *The Green Economy Barometer 2018: Senegal*. Dakar and London.

For the Senegalese agriculture sector, prolonged drought, recent floods and declining soil fertility have highlighted increasing vulnerability to climate change impacts. Agroecology approaches seek to address these vulnerabilities by ‘working with nature’ to integrate ecological processes in agricultural production systems. Yet the absence of government support for sustainable agricultural inputs (such as organic fertiliser), infrastructure and marketing of agroecology products has impeded the growth of agroecology.

There was a clear recognition in the dialogue processes that national agricultural policy is not supportive of sustainable agriculture, despite its potential to catalyse a more resilient and secure food supply. Key messages from the dialogues were validated with local stakeholders, and used to develop recommendations, solutions and an action plan to inform national policy discussions in greening agricultural policy through small-holder agroecology. The GEC Hub has engaged key government departments and ministries during the dialogues.

In the vibrant fisheries sector, composed of seven maritime regions along the country’s 700 km coastline, national policy is committed to achieve sustainable management of resources, including restoration of degraded habitats. The National Committee on Climate Change established a sector platform on fisheries to guide and assist the Ministry of Fisheries to understand and manage climate impacts on fisheries.

The state of fisheries in Senegal largely mirrors fisheries worldwide, facing overexploitation, declining catches and habitat degradation. Senegalese aquaculture is caught between large international companies capable of geo-locating fish and scraping the bottom of the waters on one hand, and artisanal fishermen who persist in damaging practices such as use of explosives and non-compliance with regulations.

Sustainable fishing practices drafted through the dialogue process seek to reduce the pressure on key species, regenerate resources, reinforce a network of protected marine areas and, by extension, create more jobs. It does not yet address upcoming exploitation of oil and gas reserves off the coast of Senegal, which will impact significantly on the fisheries sector. The dialogue processes provided an opportunity to generate social mobilisation around the looming challenge of oil and gas exploitations vis-à-vis the fisheries sector, which sustains millions of families.

Green sectoral policy action plans

GEC-Senegal has conducted local dialogue processes within the fisheries and smallholder agroecology sectors covering six geographic areas. The citizen dialogue processes, upon identifying their key challenges facing the sectors, produced sectoral policy action plans which include solutions and recommendations to support green economy transitions at sectoral level. These dialogues are beginning to inform policy.

The Hub has used its position on PNEV, the national platform on the green economy, to share community dialogue results and to make policy recommendations informed by citizen voice. Dialogue outcomes are also presented to the sub-regional network of parliamentarians and to regional ministerial meetings on land- and seascape restoration. The Hub also works closely with ongoing International Labour Organization (ILO), PAGE and GGGI programmes.

The current phase of *Plan Senegal Emergent* seeks to mainstream the greening of economic sectors. GEC-Senegal is well positioned to facilitate and inform the development of inclusive green economy policies at sectoral level, using insights and policy recommendations developed through the local dialogues in the agroecology and fisheries sectors. The dialogue processes have also identified local champions in agroecology and fisheries who are willing to foster SME networks in these sectors.

Further engagement with multi-level governance structures in the agriculture and fisheries sector will be essential to ensure that policy actions emerging from the local dialogue processes land at local as well as national levels. This requires engagement with local institutions and communities over natural resource governance.

4.1.5. Convening civil society for a just transition in South Africa

Country/Region	Hub Lead/s	Priority green economy issue/s
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – African Centre for a Green Economy (AfriCGE) – Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) 	Viability of green SMEs

A just and low carbon transition

South Africa’s 2011 National Development Plan³⁹ outlines the long-term goal of a ‘transition to an environmentally sustainable, climate change-resilient, low-carbon economy and just society’, while over 32 green economy-related policies and strategies⁴⁰ were in place at the last count. These have set concrete targets, among others to create green jobs, increase renewable energy capacity, build green skills and incentivise energy efficiency.

However, South Africa’s transition to a low carbon economy faces multiple challenges. The carbon-intensive economy of South Africa sees the country ranked as the 14th largest emitter of greenhouse gases globally. Unemployment, recently estimated at 29% overall and over 50% among young people, remains persistent. And the country has the dubious position as the world’s most unequal society.⁴¹ Transforming the carbon- and resource-intensive economy of South Africa will have to be addressed in tandem with efforts to create jobs and achieve greater social and economic inclusion – in short, a just transition.

Transitioning to a greener economy is increasingly recognised as a pathway to achieving the country’s ambition to reduce emissions and grow the economy. Many green economy policies have been driven by technical innovations in key sectors, including energy,

transport and construction, but a renewed focus on poverty, inequality and inclusion is beginning to shift this narrative.

"Transforming the carbon- and resource-intensive economy of South Africa will have to be addressed in tandem with efforts to create jobs and achieve greater social and economic inclusion – in short, a just transition."

South Africa’s post-apartheid policy processes were built on a strong tradition of social inclusion, sadly eroded over the last decade. However there are encouraging signs that this is beginning to change. Growing calls for a just transition reflect awareness that a fair and inclusive transition is necessary. The language of green economy discourse is also changing. Jobs, land rights, inequality, informality, youth unemployment, water, housing and health are beginning to feature more strongly in green economy narratives. South African civil society is now building social consensus for a transition that addresses a changing climate, resource scarcity and environmental degradation, alongside unemployment, inequality and poverty.

³⁹ National Planning Commission, 2011. *The National Development Plan*. Pretoria: NPC.

⁴⁰ PAGE, 2017. *Green Economy Inventory for South Africa*. www.un-page.org/files/public/green_economy_inventory_for_south_africa.pdf

⁴¹ Stats South Africa, 2019. *Inequality Trends in South Africa: A Multi-Dimensional Diagnostic of Inequality*. Pretoria: Stats SA.

Mainstreaming green economy at national and local level

The GEC-South Africa Hub is facilitated by two civil society organisations, Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS) and the African Centre for a Green Economy (AfriCGE). The Hub partners brought their collective experience together to convene multiple stakeholders, and facilitate policy linkages between the national and local level. They linked local, grassroots entrepreneurs and communities to policy advocacy and reform efforts at the national level. While TIPS brings a strong focus on policy research, dialogue and advocacy to the partnership, AfriCGE was tapped into a regional network of enterprises and local communities.

TIPS has been pivotal in national processes to green South Africa's industrial policy. With its focus on economic and industrial policy, it has supported the creation of cooperative policy action on mainstreaming sustainability agendas in government policy, notably industrial and sectoral policy. It has convened multi-stakeholder platforms to foster South Africa's just transition to greener and more inclusive industries, building an impetus for socially-inclusive policy change.

TIPS is increasingly engaging in national dialogues on just transitions, green enterprises and green employment. Working with key national stakeholders in government, the private sector and civil society, it has addressed the impacts of climate change and response measures on the economy and on jobs. Civil society dialogues on achieving a just transition in South Africa, involving a growing network of industry, civil society, trade union movements and governments, are exploring how to resolve conflicts arising from the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. TIPS brings to this discussion a focus on the role of small enterprises in achieving a just and inclusive transition, themes that are central to the networks being convened by AfriCGE.

AfriCGE has convened a wide range of stakeholders to enable greater societal engagement with green economy narratives, including entrepreneurs, women and youth township cooperatives who are concerned about urban food, water and energy security. Green Imbizos (assemblies) were set up as public dialogues to catalyse conversations with diverse stakeholders to unpack various green economy-related themes. These specifically sought to ensure that excluded voices, including women, youth and the creative sector, were being heard.

Building on and expanding its networks with local communities, AfriCGE convened and actively supported local green SMEs, creating opportunities for entrepreneurs to articulate the challenges they experience, which relate largely to inadequate access to finance. Over the course of the dialogue process, AfriCGE set up an online green enterprise platform, the New Economy Accelerator, to provide SMEs with an opportunity to showcase their businesses. A business incubation service was also established for ten green enterprises focusing on renewable energy. The SME network focuses on learning and exchange between enterprises.

AfriCGE is now increasingly convening conversations with communities, regional and global platforms around building resilience to climate change, and on the nexus between natural resources, disaster management, local enterprises and community wellbeing. This includes exploring green business opportunities and identifying ways to adapt to climate change.

"The debate on inclusion is deepening. It is no longer a conversation about social goals, visions and targets in policies and strategies. It is about holding the government to account in delivering a transition that has meaningful social outcomes."

Building solidarity for a just transition

Key points of convergence between the dialogue processes in South Africa emerged around green enterprise development. However, the diverse stakeholders as well as dispersed geographies, led to TIPS and AfriCGE (based in Gauteng and Western Cape provinces respectively) convening separate dialogue processes focused on Inclusive Green Economies.

The civil society network in South Africa, working on social and environmental justice, is active, vibrant and diverse, but remains unstructured. TIPS and AfriCGE have both initiated and engaged with these networks, at national and local level.

As the transition process in South Africa delves into questions around shifting from a brown to a green economy, the debate on inclusion is also deepening. It is no longer a conversation about social goals, visions and targets in policies and strategies. It is about holding the government to account in delivering a transition that has meaningful social outcomes.

Both TIPS and AfriCGE have played active roles in working with international partners, supporting the design and implementation of green economy interventions in South Africa and in the region. TIPS has been an important contributor to the UN PAGE programme's engagement with government, industry and civil society in South Africa. It is also collaborating and convening international and national stakeholders on the coal transition. AfriCGE and TIPS have engaged with both SEED and the Switch Africa Green programmes that seek to stimulate green enterprise development in the country.

The global-level networking and engagement of the GEC Hub in South Africa mirrors the deepening focus in South Africa on inclusive processes, goals and outcomes that gives industries, entrepreneurs and workers a say and stake in the low carbon transition. To gain further momentum, what is needed is greater collaboration among civil society actors to harness the full breadth of the arguments being made for an inclusive and fair transition.

"To gain further momentum, what is needed is greater collaboration among civil society actors to harness the full breadth of the arguments being made for an inclusive and fair transition."

4.1.6. Economía Verde Coalición Perú: Small enterprises build momentum to scale Peru's green economy

Country/Region	Hub Lead/s	Priority green economy issue/s
Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Foro Nacional Internacional (FNI) – Libélula Institute for Global Change (Libélula) 	Viability of green SMEs

Green economy in a changing political context

Strong political commitment to global multilateral processes drove early efforts to pursue green growth in Peru, with the country launching a roadmap for green growth in 2014. By May 2016, a debate on green growth took place between representatives of the two political parties participating in the runoff election, with both candidates foregrounding the importance of green growth in meeting the development vision of Peru.⁴²

However, in the current administration, green growth has lost some of this momentum. The National Green Growth Strategy (NGGS) of Peru, under development since 2015 and finalised in 2018, remains unpublished. However, the principles that guided the foundational policy frameworks on green growth feature strongly in other policies, for example through programmes on green jobs, green bonds, and sustainable industry.

With the change in government in 2018, NGGS leadership was transferred from the Ministry of Environment to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, extending the strategic reach of the NGGS. The draft NGGS highlights the need for economic *and* social development while reducing informality, generating good jobs and using natural resources sustainably.

An analysis of the green economy landscape of Peru reveals a dynamic and active panorama of hundreds of green projects across economic sectors.⁴³ Although vibrant, these remain fragmented and low scale and have not yet coalesced into a critical mass to accelerate social demand for an inclusive green transition. Civil society has made the call that 'to achieve green growth, it is fundamental to address inequalities, as the transformation to a green economy without the implementation of forceful policies and inclusion strategies could increase social vulnerability'.⁴⁴ Progress on this front is still regarded as inadequate, but a growing movement is demonstrating that small green businesses will play a key role in the country's green transition.

⁴² Alcalde, G., 2018. *Politics and the Green Economy in Peru*. 24 July 2018. Green Growth Knowledge Platform. www.greengrowthknowledge.org/blog/politics-and-green-economy-peru

⁴³ FNI, Libélula and GEC. *The Green Economy Barometer 2018*. Lima and London.

⁴⁴ Forsyth, L., 2018. *Leaving no-one behind in Peru: Fighting for an inclusive green economy*. Green Economy Coalition. www.greeneconomycoalition.org/news-analysis/who-could-be-excluded-in-the-transition-to-a-green-economy-in-peru

With close to 90% of employment in the country in small businesses,⁴⁵ there are opportunities to explore both the development of green enterprises as well as the greening of small enterprises. Demand for green products and services is slowly emerging as environmental awareness grows. Green entrepreneurs that seek to meet this demand face considerable obstacles, such as a lack of policy and regulatory environment, access to finance and business development support services.

Given the central role of small enterprises, the GEC civil society dialogue process in Peru has concentrated on building a network of green businesses advocating for policies that *"in addition to contributing to the economy, contribute positively to the environment and society"*.

"Peru has a dynamic and active panorama of hundreds of green projects across economic sectors. Yet these remain fragmented and have not yet coalesced into a critical mass to accelerate social demand for an inclusive green transition."

⁴⁵ OECD/CAF, 2019. *Latin America and the Caribbean 2019: Policies for Competitive SMEs in the Pacific Alliance and Participating South American countries. SME Policy Index*. OECD Publishing, Paris.

Connecting green enterprises

The GEC-Peru Hub is facilitated by Libélula and Foro Nacional Internacional (FNI) bringing together their collective experience in policy research, advocacy, network building and communication to promote a transition to sustainable development and green growth in Peru and globally. Key actions identified by the Peru Hub include building institutional alliances, engaging ministries and policy processes, and increasing knowledge and understanding of green economies – all grounded through the dialogue process with small green enterprises.

By convening green enterprises, the Peru Hub has catalogued communal insights on challenges, motivations, aspirations, and policy suggestions from the green enterprise sector. This process has also made green enterprises more visible, thereby influencing the wider ecosystem of policymakers, investors, service providers and markets.

To convene the network, the Peru Hub hosts regular breakfast meetings, has developed a web platform, and holds wider stakeholder gatherings with key institutional and political actors. At the breakfast meetings, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) deliberate on the opportunities and challenges they face.

The dialogue process enables participants to exchange experiences, share stories of success and lessons learned. Green SMEs also exchange information about opportunities and support available to grow, become more competitive and increase their chances of survival. Expert speakers are part of the breakfast meeting agenda.

The online platform, Economía Verde Coalición Perú, acts as an online catalogue and market space for green enterprises, and shares knowledge, tools, news and events of interest and relevance to green SMEs. Green enterprises have participated in key national events that gather multiple stakeholders to discuss issues and options for co-creating a sustainable future, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their products and capabilities. The green SME network has built on its collective strength to influence relevant policy processes, advocating for legislation that gives legal recognition to green and social enterprises.

Enterprises in Peru operate in a policy framework which has not yet legally defined “green enterprises”. Without criteria to establish what a green enterprise is (or is not), green enterprises are undermined and consumers and investors confused.

Clearer policies are thus needed to define and regulate green enterprises. The green SME network in Peru is advocating for a regulatory framework for Collective Benefit and Interest Companies (BIC), which deliver both an environmental and societal impact.

With strong working relationships with key ministries and departments supporting green initiatives, the network is enlisting the support of political leaders to push for this enabling regulatory framework. The draft BIC framework seeks to enable social businesses and SMEs to operate with defined rights, and was identified as a key lever to structure an enabling policy environment for green enterprises in Peru.

Engaging the private sector

Political changes in Peru have created policy uncertainty, making it difficult to create alliances with the policymaking community. Engagements with the private sector and key international programmes however have started to feature more strongly in the actions of the network. Through key institutions, such as the Ministry of Commerce and Peru's Chamber of Commerce, GEC-Peru has linked the green entrepreneurs platform with wider policy actors in the private sector, including alliance building organisations that promote sustainability. This has been central to raising the profile of green enterprises, and offered significant opportunities for entrepreneurs to engage with both public and private sector support programmes for SMEs.

"Peru's 2018 Green Economy Barometer noted that strengthening the link between social and environmental policies, building a stronger voice for social inclusion, addressing high levels of informality, and coalescing fragmented green initiatives, would all be vital for a successful transition."

Peru was among the first countries to join the UN PAGE programme in 2014. While country operations under the programme are being phased out, GEC-Peru is exploring ways of maintaining momentum on key work areas supported by the UN PAGE programme, including connecting with the ILO to support the country's implementation of its National Green Jobs Strategy. GEC-Peru is profiling small green enterprises, boosting their visibility as a significant sector that aligns with and contributes to the country's focus on green jobs.

At the onset of the dialogue process, the GEC-Peru Hub rated the country's progress in tackling inequality as poor. Their *2018 Green Economy Barometer* noted that strengthening the link between social and environmental policies, building a stronger voice for social inclusion, addressing high levels of informality, and coalescing fragmented green initiatives, would all be vital for a successful transition.

The green SME network and platform, *Economía Verde Coalición Perú*, is active on all four of these fronts. The platform has built a strong network of green and social enterprises that is now pushing for legislation to recognise and support social and green enterprises. This could be central to reducing informality, which currently sees more than 70% of the Peruvian workforce engaged in the informal sector.

The network has also built a critical mass of key stakeholders to accelerate an inclusive transition in Peru. The network is weathering the political transition in Peru, more than doubling its membership from 95 to 193 in a span of 2 years, and expanding and strengthening green SME activity. It is now working towards influencing policy, carving a role for social and green enterprises and deepening Peru's green growth ambitions.

4.1.7. Multi-level networks for an inclusive green growth pathway in Uganda

Country/Region	Hub Lead/s	Priority green economy issue/s
Uganda	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)	Reversing the River Rwizi catchment degradation

Uganda's Green Growth Development

Uganda's Green Growth Development Strategy (UGGDS) of 2017⁴⁶ adopted a 'climate-centric economic model' which envisions "an inclusive, low emissions economic growth process that emphasizes effective and efficient use of the country's natural, human, and physical capital while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide for present and future generations". The strategy recognises the strong dependence of the country's economy on natural resources; 80% of Ugandans rely directly on land, agriculture and fishing for their livelihoods,⁴⁷ with 70% of the labour force dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

As the Ugandan economy is so reliant on nature, it is correspondingly more vulnerable to climate change impacts, soil erosion, deforestation, degradation of wetlands, rivers and lake shores and water pollution. In response to this, the UGGDS serves as a blueprint towards socially and economically inclusive and sustainable development.

It notes that 'social inclusiveness should shape all development efforts', and while focused on interventions in five key sectors, it sets the goal of achieving 'inclusive economic growth along with poverty reduction, improved human welfare and employment creation.' Redistribution of wealth, increasing equity and fairness and job creation features as key objectives of the green

growth strategy. If properly implemented, the UGGDS is predicated to boost GDP by 10 percent, create an additional four million green jobs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28 percent by 2040.

"As the Ugandan economy is so reliant on nature, it is correspondingly more vulnerable to climate change impacts, soil erosion, deforestation, degradation of wetlands, rivers and lake shores and water pollution."

However, the 2018 Uganda Green Economy Barometer⁴⁸ found that involvement of non-state actors in the formulation and implementation of the UGGDS had been low. National coalitions of civil society organisations are now actively engaging with government and the private sector to ensure that local communities are engaged in transition planning. The dialogue process, facilitated by the GEC Hub in Uganda, has established multi-stakeholder platforms to bring the voice of local actors to the fore. It has played a catalytic role in enhancing social inclusion in green growth policy processes – at national, district and local level.

⁴⁶ National Planning Authority, 2017. *The Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy 2017/18 – 2030/31*. Kampala, Uganda.

⁴⁷ Cooper, R., 2018. *Current and projected impacts of renewable natural resources degradation on economic development in Uganda*. K4D Emerging Issues Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

⁴⁸ ACODE and GEC, 2018. *Uganda Green Economy Barometer 2018*. Kampala and London.

Decentralising River Rwizi catchment management

The GEC-Hub in Uganda is facilitated by the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), a public policy research and advocacy think tank. When the GEC country dialogues programme started up in 2017, ACODE rapidly built on its networks to initiate a process of engagement with local communities, small businesses and resource users, and set up platforms for engagement with green growth policymakers, feeding local-level demands into national policy processes.

At the national level, GEC-Uganda focuses on supporting the country’s transition to a green economy through green growth dialogues. These articulate citizen opinions on sustainable transport, green cities, sustainable energy and mineral development, natural resource management and sustainable agriculture. It has brought local insights on river restoration into this national policy process. At sub-national district-level, ACODE has focused on reducing river system degradation through its work on the River Rwizi Catchment that traverses 11 districts. With a focus on river restoration, GEC-Uganda has established engagement platforms that brought the concerns of citizens into the policymaking domain.

Within the Rwizi River catchment, ACODE has convened local communities to engage in problem-solving and focus group discussions to explore the ways that the river system is being degraded, and how this impacts local livelihoods. This work, while centred on the degradation of the River Rwizi catchment, reflects a growing concern for the general degradation of Uganda’s rivers.

The crisis of the 8200 km River Rwizi, which is on the verge of drying up due to degradation, is making headlines in the country. With 11 districts depending on the river’s water for both domestic and commercial use, there is a growing sense of urgency. Farmers and pastoralists, sand miners, brick makers, fishers, local communities and industries are engaging with district government to resolve critical issues in the catchment.

While the dialogue process has triggered stronger policy directives and actions around the enforcement of environmental protection laws, it has also brought to light the fact that the livelihoods of local people have to be integrated in river and wetland restoration efforts for these to be sustainable in the long term. Local communities, industries and local resource users are now participating as key stakeholders in environmental governance.

Multi-stakeholder engagement was central to the development of a declaration for the restoration and protection of the River Rwizi catchment that has involved 8 district governments within the catchment. Local communities are represented on the River Rwizi Catchment Management Committee that brings together government, businesses and communities to implement the Rwizi River Catchment Management Plan, a local-level policy action plan. This plan is now attracting both state and private investment in river restoration.

The ACODE-convened dialogues have enabled a sense of collective citizen-based environmental stewardship, built multi-stakeholder environmental governance and established a space for community stakeholders to develop fundable ideas. These local perspectives are now being heard through the Uganda Green Economy Network.

From local to national policy platforms

At national level, the Uganda Green Economy Network is a key platform for dialogues between green growth stakeholders in the country. Chaired by the Ministry of Water and Environment, members include other government ministries, civil society, private sector and media that gather monthly around critical issues related to the national green growth transition. Resolutions of the network has been integrated into national policy processes, such as the consideration of a green procurement policy.

Other key institutional processes developed by ACODE to convene national policy dialogues include its annual State of Nation Platform, themed around green growth in 2017 and 2018, and the Uganda Green Economy Learning Alliance, an online discussion platform that analyses policy actions on green growth.

ACODE represents civil society perspectives in key national and global green economy programmes. Examples include involvement in the development of a green National Public Procurement Policy, and the National Technical Coordination Committee for Switch Africa Green (SAG). ACODE participates in the multi-stakeholder green economy processes being implemented by both the Global Green Growth Institute and the UN PAGE programme. While this has not yet led to joint activities or events, it has supported complementarity between country programmes, echoing the efforts of GEC Hubs elsewhere.

ACODE has made effective use of a wide range of dialogue platforms, establishing an institutional network at local and national levels that effectively link civil society to policy processes. It has engaged across ministries, as well as at district-level where it is influencing and effecting policy change, not only in relation to river and wetland restoration, but on broader thematic issues such as procurement and enterprise development. It is also reaching wider, employing a wide range of communications tools, television programmes, blogs, online platforms and print media to expand media coverage of green issues in the country.

"The dialogue platforms convened by ACODE have enabled citizens and ministries to engage, leading to policy action that has seen citizens, industry and policymakers engage to solve green economy issues together."

In Uganda, the connection between citizens and policymakers has been driven by both top down and bottom up demands which have resonated with national and local policy actions. On the one hand, the members of the national Uganda Green Economy Network have been concerned about Uganda's degrading river systems. On the other hand, citizens have been expressing concerns about the Rwizi River catchment but the district authorities are still facing challenges in addressing concerns of River Rwizi dependant communities. The dialogue platforms convened by ACODE has enabled these to coalesce, leading to policy action that has seen citizens, industry and policymakers engage to solve green economy issues together.

4.2. Key insights from the Hubs

Over the course of the project, the seven GEC Hubs have convened local actors – entrepreneurs, farmers, fishers, resource users and citizens – to articulate what kind of economy they want. Each Hub employed the GEC dialogue methodology to identify levers for policy change. They developed policy demands, and used these to advocate for change. The insights that emerged share five key and overlapping insights:

1) Linking policy and local actors:

The Hubs regard the closer connection between local action and policy processes as one of the most significant impacts of their dialogues. In some countries, significant policy impact is already being achieved.

- In Bihar State, the GEC-India Hub has convened multi-stakeholder platforms to implement state-level policies promoting greener construction technologies, enabling the growth of small green enterprises in the construction industry.
- In Uganda, the River Rwizi Catchment Management Action Plan, co-developed by government, business and civil society, is being put into action in March 2020.
- In Senegal, policy action plans are kick-starting sectoral transitions in fisheries and agriculture.

This is a promising start which illustrates that the theory of change driving the dialogues – *"building social demand to inform, influence and shape policy supply"* by bringing to light local values, priorities and visions – is robust and can be achieved.

2) Expanding and utilising Hub capacities:

The Hub organisations that have led the policy dialogue work are not all environmental organisations, but also work on economic, industrial and development research and policy. The dialogues have expanded the Hub organisations' own focus, knowledge and capacities on Inclusive Green Economies. For all of them, the goal of green economic restructuring has created a stronger emphasis on linking social equity, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity within their work.

While some of the organisations had long-standing experience in grassroots research, for a few, the action research approach to engaging local voices and visioning through multi-tiered dialogue was novel. The dialogue process also enabled them to build capacity to address Inclusive Green Economies among key national stakeholders. The country and regional Barometers brought a civil society perspective to the assessment of green economy status and needs.

The Hubs have further developed their 'connecting' role: they participate in government-led green economy dialogue platforms; they input into key green economy policy processes; and they take the message of Inclusive Green Economies to the private sector. Through this engagement, they have spread knowledge and understanding of the role of inclusion and have advocated for the integration of equity and social justice considerations in green economy policies, plans and investments.

How the dialogues influenced the Hubs

“ *The dialogues have impacted on our growth through improving our knowledge on the reality of SMEs in Peru. They have also led us to engage and create alliances with other actors who promote the green economy... in this sense our networks have increased.”*

FNI and Libélula, Peru

“ *...the dialogue processes certainly helped in bridging the typical work we do – of technical research, setting up of enterprises and providing support services – with the [policy] advocacy agenda.”*

Development Alternatives, India

“ *The team has established better connections with the local authorities and international organizations. We learned more about the current situation in the **ger** district and practised a new research methodology.”*

EPCRC, Mongolia

“ *The dialogue has increased and enhanced our convening power... and given ACODE visibility to participate in key national steering committees of green economy programmes such as Switch Africa Green and others.”*

ACODE, Uganda

“ *The GEC project has been helpful to carve out a space for a green economy focus in TIPS, and more broadly in industrial policy.”*

TIPS, South Africa

“ *This process has helped shape CANARI’s focus on economic development and our strategic plan has a new theme on equity.”*

CANARI, The Caribbean

“ *The dialogues have reinforced the awareness of people of the opportunities of the green economy.”*

IED and IUCN-Senegal, Senegal

3) Movement-building:

Through an extensive and ongoing process of building connections and alliances, the dialogues have strengthened local citizen movements and networks in some countries and in others sowed the seeds for community-driven action. GEC-Peru’s network of small green businesses doubled from 95 to 193 businesses over the course of the dialogue process. In Mongolia, where there are virtually no institutional structures to facilitate the participation of people in policy processes at local level, social cohesion is slowly being built through dialogues that reached out to residents in the ger districts.

Through the multi-stakeholder platforms which they convened, the Hubs have supported the emergence of vital local green economy visions and policy priorities, and built confidence in them. But this emergence needs to be sustained: the role of champions – in local communities, within civil society networks and local stakeholders – has been identified as a particularly important lever to establish more sustainable community-led dialogue and action.

4) Challenges in deepening and embedding stakeholder engagement and of entrenched exclusion:

While it was one of the ‘successes’ of the dialogue process, stakeholder engagement still needs to be deepened. This was among the key recommendations of the mid-term review of the dialogues programme. The Hubs themselves identified several challenges: in broadening social inclusion in the dialogues; in achieving greater inclusion of public and private policymakers at the meso level; and in reaching international partners and working with them at macro level.

In India for instance, a transition from resource-intensive and polluting red brick manufacturing to the use of greener construction technologies requires much stronger engagement with

red brick enterprises. The involvement of youth, women and marginalised groups in the dialogue processes has proven tougher due to the challenge of entrenched exclusion. It will need to be strategically addressed if broad coalitions are to be established that represent multiple perspectives – the basis for citizen-led movements that influence and shape green economy policy.

5) Develop the potential of sub-national/ meso level institutions:

Hubs all found that a key to success was to effectively traverse the space between micro and macro level dialogues. Yet, as the Indian and Ugandan policy action plans point out, the meso level (local, state or sectoral level) is the point where policy asks can be translated into action. Serious engagement of public and private sector policymakers in the dialogue platforms was identified as an area in need of improvement, and a way to unlock meso level action.

Doing this was a feature of the earlier dialogue process, convened by the IIED, which included private and public sector stakeholders and ‘gatekeeper’ national authorities with strong connections to the meso level, such as finance and planning ministries. Such an approach could be incorporated in the GEC dialogue process as it seeks to establish and strengthen sub-national policy networks.

A growing concern expressed by the Hubs was the challenge to move beyond mere information sharing with international partners at country level, toward achieving greater synergy and complementarity through joint planning and implementation. This has not yet materialised to the extent envisioned, and is a key recommendation emerging from the dialogues, discussed in Sections 5 and 6.

4.3. Key solutions that improve inclusion

Across the dialogues, an array of solutions that promote, communicate and advance inclusive green economies have emerged. From blogs to cultural festivals, from televised debates to sustainability forums, the Hubs have drawn on a wide array of strategies to engage local and policy actors. They have built a groundswell of voices articulating the needs of entrepreneurs, local resource users and communities.

As a result, awareness of inclusive green economy has been raised through digital, print and visual communications. In some countries, new institutional structures were formed or existing structures expanded. New networks have been created, and old ones strengthened. And green economy policies, laws and regulations that promote social inclusion are now in place.

The wide range of solutions highlighted by the Hubs is outlined here:

Hub	Key Issue	Innovations for Inclusive Green Economies
The Caribbean	Green enterprise development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Radar toolkit for local blue-green enterprises – Training of trainers on Radar toolkit in the Caribbean – Regional Action Learning Group – National Action Learning Group – National and Regional dialogues
India	Sustainable construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – State-level policies and regulations enacted to promote greener construction industry – Online regional platform on green economy – Regional policy dialogues – Annual national policy dialogues
Mongolia	Air and soil pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ger district residents engaging local authorities – Women and children’s visions of green economy voiced – Green solutions presented at a national cultural fair – Online national platform on green economy
Peru	Green enterprise development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Online platform giving visibility to green SME network – Breakfast meeting platform for green SMEs – Policy champions identified to support policy advocacy
Senegal	Sustainable livelihoods through artisanal fisheries and agroecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sectoral policy action plans in fisheries and agroecology produced – Hubs have a leading role in national green economy platform – Online news and radio engagement on green economy
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Green enterprise development – Green industrial policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Greening annual forum in industrial policy – Green meeting places to gather ‘invisible’ voices – Online platform of entrepreneurs
Uganda	River catchment degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Multi-stakeholder catchment management plan developed – Green economy discussion list, Uganda Green Economy Learning Alliance – National Water and Environment Week giving visibility to green economy issues – Green economy-themed State of Nation platforms in 2017 and 2018

5. Policy lessons for transformative green economies

A central task for the dialogues has been to create an iterative dynamic between citizen demand and policy supply, to ensure that green economies are coherent, inclusive and impactful for all. The experience of the seven GEC Hubs has demonstrated that inclusion is a necessary condition for achieving this interaction, and thus creating a robust basis for sustainable, systemic and enduring economic reform.

But inclusion is not a one-off exercise. The entrepreneurs, farmers, fishers, citizens and resource users that participated in the dialogue processes now understand they are a continuing part of a transition to a green economy. They have discussed the opportunities and challenges of this transition, and have developed policy solutions and actions.

In turn, policymakers have seen how building social ownership is a critical ‘bottom-up’ foundation for transformational policy. Many lessons have been learned. Here we identify ten lessons, each of which is broadly applicable across the seven transition stories, and that we are confident are generally applicable in other contexts.

1. The transition to inclusive green economies is not simply a policy and planning exercise, it needs embedding in governance systems:

Policy visions, frameworks, and political leadership for an Inclusive Green Economy create an enabling policy and political environment for green economy transitions.

But for these visions to move beyond rhetoric, they should be accompanied by coherent governance systems in support of green economies, and mainstreamed into key policies and plans across multiple sectors – horizontally across government ministries and vertically between the various tiers of government. Green transitions are beginning to be embedded in national development processes and visions, such as Plan Senegal Emergent and South Africa’s National Development Plan.

2. Robust and well-resourced institutional mechanisms are essential for stakeholder voice and interaction:

Institutional structures, mechanisms and tools that can create spaces for multiple stakeholder views, values and priorities in green economy policy processes are central to Inclusive Green Economies. In most of the Hubs, few institutional structures or processes were in place to facilitate participatory policymaking.

The green economy dialogue platforms, action learning groups and discussion forums either expanded or created spaces for policy dialogue from local to global levels. In turn, this has given civil society a greater stake in policymaking processes. In the absence of routine policy dialogue structures, the dialogues provided an opportunity to bring citizen voices that would otherwise have gone unheard into policymaking.

3. Multi-stakeholder diagnosis is an essential complement to dialogue, to feed it and draw from it:

The country and regional Barometers presented a complementary perspective to the technical assessments that had been developed in the Hub countries and regions. Where either UN PAGE or GGGI, for instance, were active, green economy scoping assessments mostly did not address the social dimensions of transitions beyond green jobs.

Drawing on both policymaker and civil society insights, the GEC country barometers provide a holistic and systemic analysis of policy progress on the ground. The diagnosis could be deepened with a political economy and stakeholder analysis of how power and resources are distributed, and of the institutional landscape and policy culture that enables or frustrates inclusion.

4. 'Nexus issues' can bring stakeholders together and drive green economy reform:

Priority green economy issues identified through the dialogue processes were centred not only on environmental concerns and challenges, but on linked environment, social and economic issues. Responding to a focus on health, entrepreneurship and livelihoods for instance, green economy policy actions can seek to achieve multiple outcomes and impacts including economic prosperity, social wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

5. Multi-level policy actions are essential:

Actions that engage public and private sector policymakers at regional, national and local level are needed to elicit local voices in policy processes, as well as to pinpoint the levers for policy action. In India policy action emerged at the state-level; in Uganda, at district and ultimately, catchment level; in Mongolia, the dialogues began to link citizens with local governments in the ger districts; Peruvian small green and social enterprises engaged with middle and larger private enterprises; in the Caribbean, influence reached regional policy processes.

Identifying the locus where policy action (and advocacy) is most resonant and tractable is central to activating local voices and achieving impact.

6. Dialogue facilitators are needed who can bridge and convene:

The civil society Hubs that facilitated the in-country dialogue processes exemplified the characteristics and capabilities needed to convene civil society-led policy dialogues. They possessed, to varying degrees, high levels of green economy knowledge and expertise, multi-stakeholder engagement capacities, network building, communication and policy advocacy skills, and good levels of trust across the stakeholder groups. They leveraged and expanded their existing networks to bring citizens' perspectives into policy development processes.

Ultimately, the Hubs played a bridging and convening role, linking local voices with public and private sector policy communities, and supporting improved coordination between different ministries around green economy policy actions. In this way, local green economy actions have been strong enough to play catalytic roles at national, regional and in some cases, global levels.

7. Inclusion highlights society's values in decision-making:

Diverse local actors, entrepreneurs and resource users were engaged in the dialogue processes to articulate local green economy actions and influence policy processes. Entrepreneurs, miners, fishers, farmers and community groups have brought to light urgent issues that impact on their livelihoods, and the green economic opportunities which could address these. Women and children have voiced their vision of a green economy. And, in places where spaces for citizen action had been limited, engagement between citizens and government has been initiated. The dialogue processes offer an opportunity not only to engage in green economy policies, but in many cases, also to revive provisions for citizen participation in governance systems.

8. Sector-level policy action is a powerful conduit for progressing local green economy priorities:

The Hubs' focus on sectors like water, construction, fisheries and agriculture has advanced local green economy priorities and plans into policy processes, and achieved rapid policy actions. Uganda's focus on the water sector has breathed life into decentralised catchment management while Senegal, through a focus on artisanal fisheries and smallholder agroecology, has moved towards strengthening devolved natural resource governance. Sector-level policy actions can be especially effective when there is strong engagement with government institutions – ensuring that policy action is translated into the institutional machinery governing economic sectors.

9. Local green enterprises can be attracted to actively engage in the dialogue processes:

Micro, small and medium enterprises form the 'foundations of economies' in many countries. They wire social and environmental purpose into the economy, and are key agents in local governance of sustainability transitions. It is therefore not surprising that entrepreneurship has emerged as a central theme of green transitions in most of the Hubs. The dialogue processes have illustrated how small businesses have the potential to play a significant role in inclusive green transitions as seedbeds of innovations in green technologies, products, business models and services, where a breadth of producers and consumers can benefit.

10. Prioritise and integrate inclusion and the participatory policymaking approaches to achieve it in country and regional technical programmes:

The agenda of socially just and inclusive green economies has been actively championed by the GEC and its members at global level, leading to profound shifts towards the adoption of Inclusive Green Economies by the main international green economy players. This should be mirrored at country-level. Beyond information exchange and knowledge sharing, this will require sustained advocacy to shape, inform and imprint inclusion into the fabric of country-donor policy dialogue and support programmes.

In these ways, the GEC dialogues have provided invaluable lessons on how to establish the foundation for bringing diverse civil society and sectoral voices into green economy policies and plans. The Hubs have set up institutional structures and networks that can become the conduit for strengthening citizen engagement in Inclusive Green Economies. They have developed policy plans, tools and campaigns and platforms, networks and procedures that target a variety of stakeholders. As more countries engage and adopt green economy pathways, they have shown that broad-based societal engagement should be an essential ingredient of the policy transformations that countries undertake.

"As more countries engage and adopt green economy pathways, they have shown that broad-based societal engagement should be an essential ingredient of the policy transformations that countries undertake."

6. Where next? Advancing inclusive green economies

Most countries are still at the early stages of the transition to inclusive green economies.

While no country has yet fully achieved the economic transformation that delivers equitable social and environmental outcomes, the green economy transition is underway and gathering pace. But the transition will not find the support it needs to accelerate and endure unless it can give everyone a stake, delivering an economy in which everyone feels included, rewarded and listened to. And it will not attract and deliver meaningful participation unless inclusivity drives all the stages of the transition process and is embedded in them. In the shift from brown to green economies, 'inclusion' is not a nice-to-have, it is core to the transition.

The commitment to inclusion in green economy policy processes is being deepened through institutional innovations.

Inclusive outcomes are highly unlikely without inclusive processes. The civil society dialogue and diagnostic work on green economies, facilitated by the GEC Hubs, has enabled local stakeholders to meaningfully engage with policy processes within sectors, countries and regions. The dialogues have expanded institutional structures and mechanisms for participatory policymaking. They have brought local green economy priorities and plans into the policymaking process. And they have helped build societal ownership and demand for policy action and change. These gains will have to be monitored and tracked.

"But the transition will not find the support it needs to accelerate and endure unless it can give everyone a stake, delivering an economy in which everyone feels included, rewarded and listened to."

Tracking progress towards Inclusive Green Economies will be necessary to monitor whether the long-term outcomes sought by stakeholders will be achieved.

The GEC Hub countries were among the 20 countries included in the recently launched Green Economy Tracker, an online tool which benchmarks nations' readiness for a green and fair economy. The Tracker has identified 20 best-in-class and trackable policies across key green economy policy themes – governance, finance, sectors, people, nature.

Of these 20 policies, 6 relate directly to inclusion, such as Inclusive Governance, Pro-poor Policy and Inclusive Policy. Many others depend on having the means for inclusion. The Tracker has been developed as a model policy framework to demonstrate the kind of reforms that are needed, to help civil society push for more ambitious policies, and to hold governments to account to deliver on the commitments they have made.

The Hub countries and regions feature in both the highlights and lowlights, as leaders and as laggards in Inclusive Green Economies. Trinidad and Tobago, severely exposed to climate risks, is leading the way in ‘stress testing’ banks’ resilience to environmental disasters. Mongolia is among the few countries to seriously address the social and labour market challenges and opportunities of the green economy with a *National Green Jobs Strategy*. Senegal, a globally significant hotspot of biodiversity, has a dynamic government Commission for Sustainable Development that has helped guide policy for almost a quarter of a century.

The Tracker enables citizens and social movements to hold their governments to account on their readiness and progress in achieving green and fair economies. This tool is expected to expand its geographic reach and policy coverage – becoming a vital way for civil society to assess transitions to Inclusive Green Economies and spur debate and action.

Green economy policy documents have proliferated, especially through international development assistance, but many lack popular support.

Green economy work has often been driven by technocratic planning, with over 65 countries having developed formal policies and strategies. These ‘paper tigers’ now need teeth, and especially need inclusion to form a meaningful part of transition pathways. Policies matter only if they reflect societies’ real long-term needs and wants, if governments implement their commitment to inclusion, and if people can hold their governments to account.

"Policies matter only if they reflect societies’ real long-term needs and wants, if governments implement their commitment to inclusion, and if people can hold their governments to account."

For the most part, governments’ institutional mechanisms to facilitate inclusion are weak. Given the frequently low quality of existing government provisions for inclusion, the issue of where to target technical assistance is therefore important.

In addition to the 10 policy insights and lessons that have emerged from the 3-year GEC dialogue process, we have developed the following headline recommendations for donors, governments, business and civil society aiming to strengthen inclusive green transition policy.

- **Integrate equity, inclusion and social justice in green economy agendas of technical support programmes.**

Green economy development cooperation programmes should not only focus on the technological and financial transformations required to restructure economies.

They should also support decentralised, multi-actor policy design and delivery processes and embed inclusivity in governance systems and contribute to a societal transition to sustainability.

Greater cooperation between green economy programmes working at country-level is also needed. Cataloguing and sharing knowledge and innovations that work in promoting inclusion can support this. This has been recognised by the European Commission. Achieving coherence was one of the key recommendations of an evaluation⁴⁹ of the European Union’s international cooperation programmes on sustainable consumption and production.

⁴⁹ McCormick, D., Burke, S. and Ugarte, S., 2017. *Evaluation of EU international cooperation on Sustainable Consumption and Production*. European Commission, Belgium.

- **Fund institutional structures that promote multi-stakeholder dialogue collaboration and consultation in policy processes.**

This should be central to green economy technical assistance programmes and should involve not only the development of new institutions, platforms and forums at multiple tiers of governance, but also support the strengthening of existing institutions to focus on inclusive green economy transitions. Local structures for dialogue and discussion should also be utilised and strengthened. The innovations that emerged from the GEC dialogues offer key insights on how best to bring together local actors with policymakers in the public and private sector.

‘Inclusion must move beyond the point of mere public acceptance of policies, towards society-driven and -demanded policies and processes.’

- **Mainstreaming the agenda of inclusion across the policy cycle and across policy interventions.**

Green economy policy norms are emerging across governance, finance, sectors (e.g. renewable energy, mobility, green buildings), and social and environmental policies at global, regional and national levels. But there is a need for greater integration of inclusion as a driving principle and outcome across all these policy areas – as well as for documented examples and evidence of how policy measures, instruments and tools advance inclusion. Inclusion must move beyond the point of mere public acceptance of policies, towards society-driven and -demanded policies and processes.

- **Dialogue is a core process for embracing and organising the various inclusion tasks and tools.**

Achieving broad public support for greener economies requires that citizen engagement becomes central to policymaking. The civil society-led GEC dialogues are a prime example of a way both to build coalitions for transformative change and to begin to disrupt systems which hinder transformative transition pathways. In diverse contexts, the GEC Hubs have supported the identification, design and delivery of locally relevant policy actions that advance Inclusive Green Economies. This kind of approach needs to be accelerated and scaled up. This is in line with the EU evaluation report which called for ‘structured dialogue with a full range of stakeholders’.

According to a 2018 report, *The inclusive green economy in EU development cooperation*,⁵⁰ support to the GEC amounts to 1% of the total EU commitment to green economy work. This support enabled the implementation of the Hub-facilitated country and regional dialogues programme. This investment has led not only to change in seven countries and regions, but also produced lessons on Inclusive Green Economies that can be applied elsewhere. The foundation for societal engagement has been demonstrated. It will have to be broadened, replicated and deepened to give full effect to the representational, procedural and distributional dimensions of inclusion.

Investment in green economy transitions without inclusion is both unjust and risky. In contrast, investment in green economy transitions with inclusion builds the essential foundations for sustainable, enduring and systemic green economic reform. This is the premise of the GEC dialogue programme.

⁵⁰ Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, 2018. *The inclusive green economy in EU development cooperation: An innovative approach at the intersection of the EU’s Planet, People and Prosperity objectives*. European Commission, Brussels.

The three years of EC-supported GEC experience have demonstrated that dialogue is an effective approach. The process recognises all stakeholders, especially the currently excluded, and fosters their meaningful participation in all critical stages of the policy cycle. It seeks wide ownership and a socially acceptable distribution of the results.

By ensuring that people have their say, by producing strongly-demanded green economy policy innovations, and by encouraging inclusive green economic activities including those driven by poor groups, **the GEC has helped people to improve their stake in green economies.**

*"Investment in green economy transitions **without** inclusion is both unjust and risky. In contrast, investment in green economy transitions **with** inclusion builds the essential foundations for sustainable, enduring and systemic green economic reform."*

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