

# Overview: State of the Green Economy

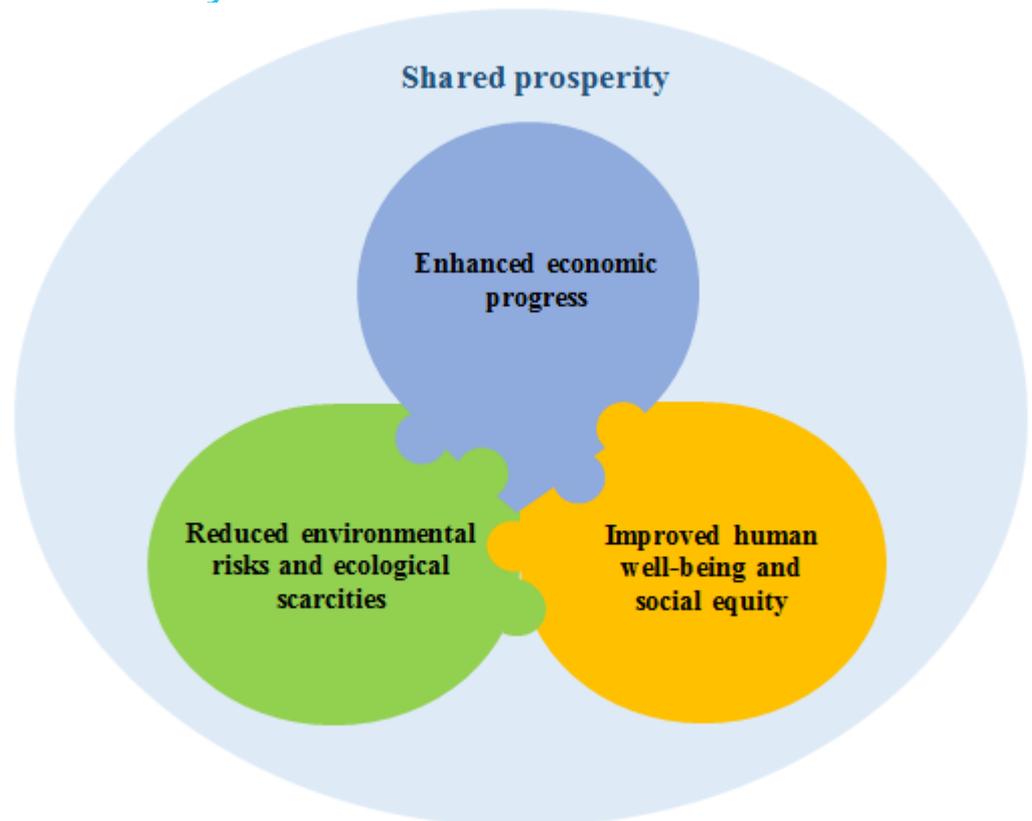
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# What are we talking about?

Green Economy, Green Growth, Sustainable Development, Inclusive Green Economy...

- Many definitions by many different organizations.
- UNEP: *In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.*
- Overall we are looking at a new economic model that will address the inefficiencies of the previous one.





# Influence of NDCs & SDGs

## Sustainable Development all over again?

- Countries are facing multiple pressure points
  - Reduce emissions
  - Enhance resilience
  - Achieve the SDGs
  - By the way, do it all by maintaining a healthy economy
- The Green Economy Approach is seen as an approach to help balance these multiple elements without reinventing the wheel



# What it means in practice



## What are countries doing to achieve a green economy

- Resource & environmental consciousness realized
  - Is natural capital properly valued?
  - Consideration of negative externalities
  - Enhancing (as opposed to depleting) natural ecosystem
- Economic progress
  - Sustainable consumption and production
  - Promotion of green & fair trade
- Social Improvements
  - Jobs: green & decent
  - Education for sustainable development
  - Improved access to basic services



# Developed and developing country perspectives



Goals of a green economy are different, and therefore so are focal points, but there are consistencies

In experience there are differences in approach based on differences in development level

In developed countries:

- Heavy focus on reducing emissions
- Greater inclusion of pricing mechanisms
- Driving technological innovation
- Building a next-generation economy

In developing countries:

- Also want this next generation economy, but basic needs have to be met before talking about reducing emissions
- Don't want to sacrifice national development
- Greater focus on provision of services, health, education, etc.

*Both put heavy emphasis on jobs/employment. For **every** country, jobs are the cornerstone of the economy. Increasingly these jobs must be fair, decent, and in sufficient supply.*

# Green Economy Collaboration in Europe



Countries and partners are increasingly working together

- Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy
- Sharing of practical examples, good practices and tools to be used for accelerating the transition to a green economy, while promoting a bottom-up approach
- Switzerland closely engaged in development of the SFGE
- BIG-E will operationalize the SFGE

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