

Is Green Growth Different for Developing Countries?

Sharing Ideas and Experiences

Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Room: Leme (L776)

Rua Marquês de São Vicente, 225, Gávea - Rio de Janeiro

17 June 2012, 11:30-15:30

The need for greener economic models is global. The global nature of environmental threats, and the ecosystem services needed to address them, transcend national borders. Developing countries are concerned about environmental sustainability and in many cases have led the way in responsible use of natural resources. However, the context for green growth in developing countries is different from that in developed and emerging economies. High rates of poverty mean that accelerating growth and development is essential and, therefore, the trade-offs between environmental benefits and human welfare are different. But in developing countries growth and livelihoods, especially those of poor people, are more dependent on natural resources and, consequently, vulnerable to environmental degradation. Greener growth is important for developing countries, but if it is to succeed, it must deliver sustainable development and poverty reduction objectives. Differences in economic structure, the scale of the informal economy and limitations in institutional capacity will also lead to different policy choices. Green growth strategies in developing countries must be appropriate to individual country contexts and can only be defined through national policy and planning processes led by their own Governments.

The OECD has been working with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED) and experts from developing countries to prepare the Green Growth and Developing Countries Report, which explores and tries to propose answers to fundamental questions about green growth in developing countries, such as:

- How can greening the development pathway accelerate economic growth and poverty reduction in developing countries, including LDCs?
- What policy frameworks and instruments are needed, and practical, in developing country contexts?
- How can the international community support developing countries to develop and deliver their own green growth strategies?

The OECD will host a half-day consultation at the Rio +20 Conference – as a platform for an open and inclusive discussion on the concepts explored in the **Green Growth and Developing Countries Report** and its initial findings. These will be presented in an Interim Report published in advance of the conference. The consultation will be targeted at participants from developing country governments, the private sector, civil society and academia. International organisations and experts in the field of environment and development are also invited to be present. It will be part of the two day **Fair Ideas** forum hosted by the IIED to showcase and share knowledge and experience of practitioners and researchers from across the world in a discussion on future priorities for action and international co-operation towards sustainable development.

The consultation will begin with a presentation of the emerging findings from the interim Green Growth and Developing Countries Report, followed by interventions from keynote speakers to kick-off discussion on specific findings or concepts outlined in the report, such as the policy approaches, the international enabling environment and the measurement agenda for green growth in developing countries. Participants will be encouraged to highlight knowledge gaps, technical difficulties and political challenges in pursuing national green growth strategies, on which further research and consultation is required in order to deliver more concrete and relevant policy frameworks for developing country decision-makers. The Rio consultation will help shape the final report but will also be the starting point for a more in-depth consultative process over the following six months at regional and country levels aimed at testing and identifying practical policy options for real country contexts. **The event at Rio will be an opportunity for developing country partners to indicate their interest in collaborating with the OECD to shape a green growth agenda that is feasible and relevant for them and addresses the aspirations of their citizens.**

Agenda

11h30-13h00

Session I: Green Growth and Developing Countries

Chair - Serge Tomasi, Deputy Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

This session will begin with an overview of the OECD work on *Green Growth and Developing Countries*. This will be followed by interventions from a range of speakers to kick-off discussion on the specific findings of the report. The focus of the discussion will be on the policy framework, the international enabling environment and the measurement agenda for green growth in developing countries. Participants will be encouraged to highlight knowledge gaps, technical difficulties and political challenges in pursuing national green growth strategies, on which further research and consultation is required in order to deliver more concrete and relevant policy frameworks. Relevant questions to guide the discussion include:

- Are there experiences at country or regional level where the green growth agenda was advanced? What lessons should we take from these experiences about how to implement green growth policies?
- At the national level, what are the main challenges in: 1.) integrating green growth into existing policy approaches and 2.) adopting green growth specific instruments?
- At the global level, what international barriers need to be tackled in order to create incentives to spur the green growth agenda? How could development co-operation providers better tailor their support?

Presentations

- Earnan O' Cleirigh, Senior Analyst, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD
- Steve Bass, Head, Sustainable Markets Group, IIED
- William Hynes, Policy Analyst, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

Comments from Discussants

- Sérgio Margulis, Ministry of Environment, Brazil
- Kevin Urama, Executive Director, African Technology Policy Studies Network
- Shrashtant Patara, Vice President, Development Alternatives

Discussion

13h00-14h00

Lunch

(Lunch will be provided for all participants)

Country case study: Promoting national green growth in Rwanda

Representative from the Government of Rwanda (TBC)

Development co-operation case study: Promoting sustainable resource management

Joint Presentation by Petter Nore, Head, Department of Economic Development, Energy, Gender and Governance, Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) and a representative from the Government of Ghana

14h00-15h30

Session II: International Co-operation for Green Growth

Chair - Serge Tomasi, Deputy Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD

In addition to shaping the *Green Growth and Developing Countries Report*, this consultation will facilitate co-operation between the OECD and developing country partners. This process aims to test and refine practical policy options at the regional and country level.

The OECD is eager to work with partners in moving beyond green growth concepts to implementing specific strategies. Such collaboration may include regional consultations and country pilot studies. It is hoped that this session will conclude with agreement on a plan for putting theoretical ideas about green growth into practice. Relevant questions to guide the discussion include:

- How can national level green growth efforts be supported by an international enabling environment?
- What can the international community do to advance effective co-operation for green growth in developing countries?

Discussants

- Estherine Fotabong, Head, Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate, NEPAD
- Frank Sperling, Chief Climate Change Specialist, Energy and Climate Change Department, African Development Bank

OECD Reference Documents

- Green Growth and Developing Countries: A Summary for Policy Makers
- Green Growth and Developing Countries Report (Consultation Draft)

For more information, please visit www.oecd.org/dac/greengrowth or contact Shannon Wang at the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (Shannon.wang@oecd.org)

