

Trade and Green Economy

A HANDBOOK

Third Edition



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United Nations
Environment Programme

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The United Nations Environment Programme
Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
Economics and Trade Branch
and
The International Institute for Sustainable Development

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the overall coordinating environmental organization of the United Nations system. Its mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnerships in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

UNEP's Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) is part of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). ETB's mission is to enhance the capacities of countries, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to integrate environmental considerations into development planning and macroeconomic policies, including trade policies. A key workstream of the ETB is the Green Economy Initiative (GEI), which is designed to assist governments in "greening" their economies by reshaping and refocusing policies, investments and spending, for example towards deployment of renewable energy, clean technologies, water services, sustainable transportation, waste management, green buildings and cities, and sustainable agriculture, forests and tourism.

The trade component of ETB's work programme focuses on improving countries' understanding of the intersection between trade and green economy. It includes research and capacity building at global, national and sectoral levels, on how to use trade as an engine for sustainable development and poverty eradication. ETB also provides technical input to the trade and environment debate through a transparent and broad-based consultative process. Trade activities ultimately aim to foster mutually beneficial outcomes for trade and the environment, for example by identifying and harnessing trade opportunities that are associated with the green economy transition, particularly in developing countries.

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The International Institute for Sustainable Development

Established in 1990, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is a non-partisan, charitable organization specializing in policy research and analysis, and information exchange. Through their head office in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and their branches in Ottawa, New York, Geneva and Beijing, the Institute champions sustainable development around the world through innovation, partnerships, research and communications. It is dedicated to engaging decision-makers in business, government, non-government organizations and academia on issues around economic and legal frameworks, energy and climate change, water, resilience, and knowledge.

IISD is registered as a charitable organization in Canada and has 501(c)(3) status in the United States. IISD receives core operating support from the Government of Canada, provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Environment Canada, and from the Province of Manitoba. The Institute receives project funding from numerous governments inside and outside Canada, United Nations agencies, foundations, and the private sector.

IISD's work in trade, investment and sustainable development seeks to find those areas of synergy where trade, investment, environment and development can be mutually beneficial, and to help policy-makers exploit those opportunities. It concentrates on two major themes in its work: reform of trade and investment rules and institutions, and building capacity in developing countries to address the issues of trade and sustainable development. Since 1991, IISD has worked to broaden the terms of the trade-environment debates to encompass the concerns and objectives of developing countries—to make them evolve into debates about trade and sustainable development. All of IISD's work aims to raise public consciousness about the importance of the issues of sustainable development. This handbook, first produced in 2001 and widely hailed as a standard for the educated layperson, is part of that tradition.

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Preface

This handbook aims to foster a better understanding of the interlinkages between international trade, the environment and the green economy. It therefore focuses on national and international trade policy and rules, on environmental governance and principles, and the relationship between both.

This third edition of *Environment and Trade: A Handbook* covers a wealth of new information, including the emergence of the green economy concept, the latest WTO jurisprudence, and increasingly important legal and policy linkages between trade and green economy policies and practices in the changing dynamics of international trade with the emergence of the BRIC economies and the exponential rise in preferential trade agreements. The handbook has been renamed *Trade and Green Economy: A Handbook* to reflect the green economy as an important tool for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to illustrate the holistic approach that is required when addressing issues at the nexus of trade, environment and sustainable development.

The targeted audience includes those interested in and with some knowledge of trade, environment or development, but who are not expert on the intersection of the three. It should serve as a practical reference tool for policy-makers and practitioners, and be equally useful to civil society. With this in mind, the handbook uses clear language and a minimum of jargon to foster a greater understanding by all segments of the public.

The handbook is available online at www.unep.org/greeneconomy and www.iisd.org/trade/handbook.

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