

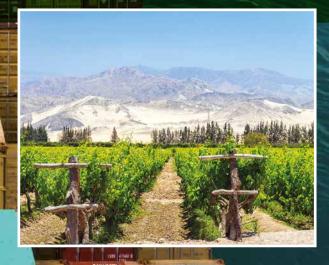
GREEN CONOMY and TRADE

Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project





SYNTHESIS REPORT





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Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project: Synthesis Report



Foreword

Trade: The engine powering the 2030 Agenda

Since the creation of the World Trade Organization in 1995, the complex relationship between trade and the environment has attracted growing international attention. Two decades later, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement re-emphasized the key role of trade and investment in accelerating the transition to an inclusive green economy. It's now clear to us all that trade must drive, not threaten, sustainability.

This synthesis report summarizes lessons from the UNEP Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project, which identified, assessed and harnessed trade opportunities arising from the transition to a green economy. The authors combine international research with case studies from around the world - describing sustainability standards for farming in Chile, organic agriculture in South Africa, biotrade in Peru, solar energy in Ghana and fisheries in Viet Nam. The case studies reveal how trade can drive sustainable development, promote social inclusion and reduce poverty. They also highlight a range of opportunities, from sustainable agriculture and value chains for native biodiversity, to enhanced solar energy production for export and improved international certification in aquaculture.

This synthesis is based on the *Green Economy and Trade – Trends, Challenges and Opportunities Report,* and the subsequent national dialogues, research and advisory work. It is meant to support the work of UNEP's Environment and Trade Hub, a demand-driven initiative that provides countries around the world with capacity building and policy advice on sustainable trade and investment.

I would like to thank the European Commission for its generous support and the many experts, partners and stakeholders who made both this report and the overall project possible. It is our hope that the lessons presented here will inspire public and private decision-makers around the world to promote new trade opportunities that drive the transition towards an inclusive green economy. In this time of change, we must all remember that international trade can be a powerful force for good – for both people and the planet.

Achim Steiner

UN Under-Secretary-General UNEP Executive Director

Jeli Stein

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The Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project was developed and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) together with many partners and experts around the world. The project was kindly supported by the European Commission (EC).

UNEP's Trade, Policy and Planning Unit led the implementation of the project working closely with many other parts of UNEP. Benjamin Simmons, former Head of the Trade, Policy and Planning Unit conceived the project. Anja von Moltke, current Head of the Trade, Policy and Planning Unit, was responsible for overall project management and implementation and guided the project teams.

Nicolas Cisneros, Lennart Kuntze and John Maughan provided crucial support for the completion of the overall project, provided technical guidance and led project management for individual country studies. Important technical contributions were made by the following UNEP staff members and consultants: Liesbeth Casier, Anna Autio, Kristin Dypedokk, Mamadou Diakhité, Giles Chappell, Fabrizio Meliado, Joachim Monkelbaan, Katharina Schmidt and Benjamin Smith.

The project took place under the general supervision of Steven Stone, Chief of the Economy and Trade Branch. Désirée Leon, Fatma Pandey and Rahila Somra provided administrative support and Simon Lobach contributed as editor and provided layout support.

To implement the Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project, UNEP engaged with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental organizations, businesses, research platforms and UN partners. All contributors were acknowledged in the UNEP report *Green Economy and Trade – Trends, Challenges and Opportunities* launched in May 2013.

The national projects were carried out in close collaboration with national governments and other relevant national, regional and international stakeholders. The research and analysis for the country projects was led by national partners, including Fundación Chile (FCh), the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (PROFONANPE) and the Research Centre of the Universidad del Pacífico in Peru, The Energy Centre of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (TEC-KNUST) in Ghana, the Trade Law Centre NPC (tralac) in South Africa, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) in Vietnam. UNEP would like to thank all partners for leading the research and stakeholder dialogue, their contributions and cooperative spirit. Individual acknowledgments are contained in the respective country studies.

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List of acronyms

BAU Business as Usual

BFPS Biotrade Export Potential Study

BSI Bank Strategy Institute

Certified Aquaculture Export Potential Study **CAEPS** Central Institute for Economic Management CIEM

Conference of the Parties COP

Committee on Trade and Environment CTE Economic Community of West African States **ECOWAS**

EGA Environmental Goods Agreement EST Environmentally Sound Technologies

ETB Economy and Trade Branch

European Union EU FCh Fundación Chile

GDP Gross Domestic Product GEI Green Economy Initiative **GESS** Green Economy Scoping Study

GE-TOP Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project

GHG Greenhouse Gas **GRIDCo** Ghana Grid Company Global Value Chains GVCs Human Development Index HDI

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development **ICTSD**

IISD International Institute for Sustainable Development

Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development **IPSARD** Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and the Environment **ISPONRE**

IVVPTE Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment

KNUST Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

MARD Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Ministry of Industry and Trade MolT

Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment MoNRE

MPI Ministry of Planning and Industry NGO

Non-Governmental Organization National Interconnected Transmission System NITS PAGE Partnership for Action on Green Economy

Product Environmental Footprint PEF

Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas PROFONANPE

PV Photovoltaic

SCP Sustainable Consumption and Production

SDG Sustainable Development Goal Ghana Solar Export Potential Study **SEPS SUPA** Sustainable Pangasius Value Chain

TEC The Energy Centre Trade Law Centre tralac United Nations UN

UNCCC United Nations Climate Change Conference United Nations Environment Programme UNEP UNGA United Nationals General Assembly

USA United States of America VRA Volta River Authority WAPP West African Power Pool WTO World Trade Organization World Wide Fund for Nature **WWF**

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