



GREEN ^{economy} and **TRADE**

Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project



SYNTHESIS REPORT



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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

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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
BEPS	Biotrade Export Potential Study
BSI	Bank Strategy Institute
CAEPS	Certified Aquaculture Export Potential Study
CIEM	Central Institute for Economic Management
COP	Conference of the Parties
CTE	Committee on Trade and Environment
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EGA	Environmental Goods Agreement
EST	Environmentally Sound Technologies
ETB	Economy and Trade Branch
EU	European Union
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
GVCs	Global Value Chains
HDI	Human Development Index
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IPSARD	Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development
ISPONRE	Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and the Environment
JWPTE	Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment
KNUST	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MoIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MoNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Industry
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NITS	National Interconnected Transmission System
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PEF	Product Environmental Footprint
PROFONANPE	Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas
PV	Photovoltaic
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEPS	Ghana Solar Export Potential Study
SUPA	Sustainable Pangasius Value Chain
TEC	The Energy Centre
tralac	Trade Law Centre
UN	United Nations
UNCCC	United Nations Climate Change Conference
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
USA	United States of America
VRA	Volta River Authority
WAPP	West African Power Pool
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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