

UNEP Green Economy Report Stakeholder Workshop 5-6 July, 2010, International Environment House II, Geneva CFFA Report

CFFA and the Green Economy Initiative

In the framework of the Green Economy Initiative, launched in October 2008, UNEP started working on a global Green Economy Report, together with over 70 research institutes around the world. This report targets decision-makers and aims to identify the key “enabling conditions” required to achieve a transition to a green economy globally, as defined in the report preview published in May 2010¹.

CFFA’s first input in this process took place during the ICTSD/UNEP meeting on “Fisheries, Trade and Development”², held in Geneva on the 16th of June. Comments were made on the “Aid for Trade” aspects of developing countries fisheries³. This discussion and the contacts made with UNEP led us to this official multi-stakeholder consultation on the GER.

According to the agenda, the purpose of this two days workshop was for the authors of the GER to share initial results/key messages and respond to questions and comments from a broad range of stakeholders. The issues discussed at the workshop, together with comments from a technical peer review process (to take place in late 2010), will be assembled for guiding the final revisions of the various chapters: renewable energy, industry, transport, cities, buildings, waste management and recycling, fisheries, water, forests, agriculture, tourism, finance, modeling, and enabling conditions.

CFFA participated in this workshop in order to:

- Share the “preliminary comments” on the GER (general and specific comments on fisheries) ;
- Make contact with Dr. Rashid Sumaila, Chapter Coordinator for fisheries ;
- Participate in the round table on fisheries ;
- Make contact with other people who commented on the fisheries chapter ;
- Participate in several other discussions, as requested by the facilitator ;
- Keep track of the GER process.

Workshop report

Session 1 and 2: Welcome and introduction to the workshop / Introduction to the Green Economy Report and review process

The first day of the workshop introduced the GER and discussed cross-cutting themes, including “enabling conditions”, “modeling”, “finance”, and “transport”.

According to Steven Stone (Chief, Economics and Trade Branch at UNEP), this workshop was a chance for the authors to share findings as well as to get feedbacks. He raised questions such as “what is the rationale of moving to a green economy?” and “how do we measure success?” pointing at the issue of metrics and indicators.

¹ <http://www.unep.ch/etb/publications/Green%20Economy/GER%20Preview%20v2.0.pdf>

² <http://ictsd.org/i/events/dialogues/75670/>

³ http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/06/fourth_panel_yann.ppt

He emphasized the need to have a reflection on the current economic paradigm and to consider a move towards a more socially equitable, more inclusive model.

In order to address these issues, he introduced us to Gillian Martin Mehers (Director, Bright Green Learning), our leading facilitator. She introduced us to a technique called “Pecha Kucha”, a facilitation method designed to limit the length of presentations and comments, force speakers to focus their messages and dynamize discussion tables. She split us into 8 discussion tables, in a way to channel the comments made to the panels.

In his introduction session, Pavan Sukhdev (Head of UNEP Green Economy Initiative) highlighted what a green economy is not: “One which consumes capital or risks human survival”. “It is important to measure ecological scarcities and earth’s regeneration capacity and to add these metrics to the GDP”, he said. According to him, there is an urgent need to increase public and private investments to “green sectors”, to increase the quantity and quality of jobs in “green sectors” and to increase the share of these green sections in the GDP. On the other hand, there is a need to lower energy and material resources use, to lower CO2 and pollution level and to lower wasteful consumption per GDP unit. Now that the concept has been taken on board by several states (like Sao Paulo in Brazil), “we have to provide them with analysis and policy advice they need on the field”, he said.

We then had our first table discussion and Q&A. Key concerns were about the range and impact of the GER, and the overlapping of its chapters. The need to emphasize education and health aspects was mentioned, as much as the apparent need to get over the dichotomy between “growing” and “greening”. It was also highlighted that the green economy is not a parallel economy but a revolution towards another global economy.

Session 3: Global modeling: an overview and preliminary results

Andrea Bassi (Millennium Institute) presented his preliminary results as regards the modeling of the green economy transition. He explained the metrics that are taken into account in this “integrated cross-sectoral model”: ecological footprint, resource efficiency, carbon intensity, etc. He gave us an overview of the possible scenarios, including the BAU (Business as Usual), with a focus on the various possible inputs (green investment, pro-energy policy, renewable energies, etc). The discussion then raised several issues such as how to measure well-being and quality of jobs, what is the cost of action vs. inaction, how to address income redistribution, etc.

Session 4: Financing the transition to a Green Economy

Andrew Dlugolecki (finance consultant) looked at the potential sources for financing the transition. He highlighted the persistent problem of short-termism in the financial sector, and its well known “circle of blame”. He pointed out the option to consider the use of insurance and pension funds. He also mentioned the necessity to recognize the value of natural capital. Paul Clements-Hunt (Head, Finance at UNEP) raised the issue of financial sustainability and investment risk. The discussion then raised several questions such as how to link the private sector with the green economy, what kind of sources will reduce the cost of transactions and monitoring, to what extent is it connected to climate funding and how connections can be made between sectors.

Session 5: Transport in a Green Economy

Holger Dalkmann (Programme Director, Transport Research Laboratory) raised the key challenge: the explosion of transport vehicles activity, leading to a global increase of energy/fuel consumption. He mentioned the main external costs of such explosion: pollution, noise and blocking. He highlighted the importance of planning. Our facilitated discussion then focused on several points: the improvement of existing vehicles fleets (rather than scrapping policies), the need for education and awareness raising, the environmental cost of switching to renewable energy vehicles, the call for a more environment-friendly policy for public transportation, the predominant need to reduce the need of transportation, the potential triggers (tax on gas, etc) and the role of transportation infrastructure as an engine of development in developing countries rural areas.

Session 6: Enabling conditions

Peter Wooders (IISD) presented the cross-cutting conditions (country/sector) and tools for enabling the transition to a green economy. He widely approached laws, taxes, subsidies, public investment, capacity building, and government policies. Several key messages emerged in our table discussion and were brought to the panel: the need for market-based mechanisms, the need to avoid a one size fits all solution, the need to inform stakeholders and raise awareness, the option of well-targeted subsidies. We also highlighted that enabling conditions are necessary but not sufficient. Attention was also paid to the poverty agenda (how do we create poverty and how can we set up bottom-up environment policies). We then had a discussion on the “evolutionary” or “revolutionary” nature of a transition to a green economy (radical changes in behavior, paradigm shift, radical measures, etc). Peter Wooders closed the discussion by saying that he doesn’t want to overstress the need for a market-based mechanisms, but do want to work more on the poverty reduction strategy aspects.

Session 7: Wrap-up discussion and reflections on the day

Sylvie Lemmet (Director of UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics) made a quick conclusion of the day. Steven Stone and Gillian Martin Mehers made a quick briefing for the second day of the workshop.

Session 8 and 9: Introduction to the parallel sessions (plenary) / Presentations on chapters (parallel sessions)

The second day was organized mainly along two parallel sessions: “Greening the ‘brown’” (chapters on buildings, cities, manufacturing and waste) and “Investing in ecological infrastructure” (chapters on agriculture, fisheries, forest and water). The chapter on tourism was overlapping on the two sessions. I decided to participate in the “Investing in ecological infrastructure” session. The session was organized into five successive short presentations, followed by five round tables (we had to participate in two, as we choose).

Tourism

Amos Bien (International Ecotourism Society) noted that the share of tourism in global investments is 9%. He highlighted that tourism has broad positive and negative social and ecological impact. In order to approach the notion of “sustainable tourism”, he made the link between this economic activity and consumption, waste, transport, energy and water. He mentioned the GSTC initiative

(Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria), “a set of 37 voluntary standards representing the minimum that any tourism business should aspire to reach in order to protect and sustain the world’s natural and cultural resources while ensuring tourism meets its potential as a tool for poverty alleviation”. This initiative focuses on local hiring, quality of jobs, linkage with local economy, biodiversity, etc.

Agriculture

According to Hans Herren (Millennium Institute), climate change will have the biggest effect in developing countries. “What we need is a self-regeneration system in the long-term”, he said. He highlighted the need to look at agriculture like a food production system, with its social, environmental and economic links. As regards job creation, he also highlighted the need to train people and to empower associations, “if you want green jobs that are not drudgery”. He noted the need to focus more on access to market, certification and the removal of pervert subsidies.

Fisheries

Rashid Sumaila (University of British Columbia) highlighted that the “Business as Usual” scenario is not an option for fisheries, due to the state of fish stocks. He presented a series of maps and charts showing the expansion of fishing fleets around the world and its well know effects: overcapacity and depletion of fish stocks. He stressed the dramatic impact that such depletion will have on the global fish market, especially in developing countries small-scale fishing communities depending on marine resources for their livelihoods. There is an urgent need to meet well-identified guidelines for sustainable management, he said.

Forests

Maryanne Grieg-Gran (International Institute for Environment and Development) highlighted the contribution of forests to other sectors: energy, water, tourism and agriculture. She also mentioned the role of forests in the regulation of climate and in the conservation of biodiversity. “Forests are important for livelihoods, especially for forestry and wood energy”, she said. She called for the establishment of REDD+ standards globally (sustainable forestry practices + conservation), an international regime of best practices on which to base investment.

Water

We had an audio presentation on water management by Mike Young (University of Adelaide). He stressed that 70% of diverted water is intended to irrigation. According to Prof. Young, there is a need for a transition to a charging regime that respects full costs of supply. Allocation systems should be enhanced in order to improve the transfer between sectors.

Session 10: Thematic café conversations with authors (parallel sessions)

Round table on fisheries

A few people participated in the round table on fisheries. I noted the presence of Juan Vasquez (CITES), Carlos Enriquez (Mission of Mexico to WTO), Andrew Seidl (IUCN) and Bent Arne Saether (Ministry of the Environment, Norway). The round table was leaded by Rashid Sumaila. The CFFA-EED preliminary comments were circulated and discussed again during this session. Each participant

made a short comment on the chapter, and we elaborated a list of issues that we felt were missing in the paper or were too broadly approached:

- Capacity reduction: how to make it just for the poor?
- The chapter focuses on resource: how to focus more on people?
- Importance of education, training and improvement of living conditions.
- How to treat differently commercial and subsistence fishing (fishing livelihoods)?
- Fisheries management: need to improve control means and to delink science from political and societal.
- Need to focus on international waters management and trade.
- Need to expand the chapter's section on aquaculture.

Rashid Sumaila made a quick wrap-up of our discussion. Report and presentations will be sent to the participants.

Round table on tourism

I participated in the round table on sustainable tourism, where I brought a piece of information on *pescaturismo* and other marine-related ecotourism activities.

Session 11: Plenary exchange – recommendations and closing

During the last plenary, we had the opportunity to hear the conclusions of the authors by chapter, based on the discussions that we had in the parallel sessions.

The UNEP staff informed us that an improved version of the draft GER (with the inputs of these two days) will be ready by September. UNEP units are continuing the work with the chapter coordinators. An external peer review (not public) will also be carried out. In September, UNEP is going to release a publication on the links between the GEI and the MDGs. This will be followed by meetings between UNEP and OECD, World Bank and IMF in October. The GEI will be part of the UNEP's agenda in Cancun (December 2010).

End of stakeholder workshop.

Yann Yvergniaux, July 2010