
G. Helping developing countries measure progress towards achieving a green economy

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme (\$800,000)

Background

31. Green growth is gaining support as a way to pursue economic growth and development, while preventing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable natural resource use. Since developing countries have a larger share of their economies directly dependent on natural resources, the issue of green economy and green growth becomes even more relevant for them, in particular when sustainable development and aspects of poverty eradication are taken into consideration.
32. Green economy and green growth within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication is a theme of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20). In addition, in early 2009 the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination launched the green economy initiative as one of the Joint Crisis Initiatives, which includes a wide range of research and capacity-building activities by more than 20 United Nations agencies, including the Bretton Woods Institutions.
33. Measuring progress towards a green economy requires a solid foundation of statistical data. As such, the project will build on the methodological work of ongoing programmes adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission on the development of relevant international statistical standards and recommendations. The project will also help build statistical capacity to produce economic and environmental indicators, with a particular focus on such sectors as energy, industry, water and waste management. A list of indicators and methodologies will be developed on the basis of existing frameworks, such as the framework for the development of environment statistics and the system of environmental-economic accounting.
34. In this project, the United Nations regional commissions will be integral partners, coordinating activities with their respective member countries and providing input on region-specific requirements and region-specific barriers to measuring proposed indicator sets in a timely manner. Cooperation with UNEP and UNCTAD will ensure that activities are consistent with other United Nations initiatives on green growth/green economy, that proposed indicator sets are developed in accordance with needs identified by these partners and that statistical data are embedded in progress-measuring efforts by other United Nations entities.

<p>Objective of the Organization: To improve the capacity of national statistical offices in developing countries to measure progress towards achieving a green economy, through utilization of a comprehensive set of economic and environmental indicators</p>	<p>Summary budget (Thousands of United States dollars)</p> <table> <tr> <td>Consultants</td> <td style="text-align: right;">286.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">140.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workshops</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>368.0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">800.0</td> </tr> </table>	Consultants	286.0	Travel	140.0	Operating expenses	6.0	Workshops	<u>368.0</u>	Total	800.0
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<p>Relationship to the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 and the Millennium Development Goals: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 5 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 9 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 7 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 11 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 5 (Statistics for evidence-based policymaking); Millennium Development Goal 7</p>											

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Increased awareness of Member States of the need for descriptive and timely statistics for measuring of progress towards a green economy</p>	<p>(a) Increased number of countries develop national action plans that address the production of economic and environmental indicators for measuring progress towards a green economy</p>
<p>(b) Enhanced capacity of national statistical offices to measure progress towards a green economy, in general, and in the areas of energy, industry, water, and waste management, in particular</p>	<p>(b) Increased number of countries provide a broadened scope of economic and environmental indicators to organizations at the national, regional and international levels</p>

Main activities

35. The main activities of the project will include:
- (a) Review current statistical frameworks, data collection activities and data availability for measuring the progress towards a green economy in selected developing countries;
 - (b) Organize regional workshops (1 each in 4 regions) to discuss the outcome of the assessment exercise, train countries in the application of the relevant components of existing frameworks, identify indicator sets for green economy/green growth measurement on a regional basis and identify strategies for countries to produce the required data;
 - (c) Provide assistance to national statistical offices in 16 pilot countries to implement the findings of the regional workshops;
 - (d) Organize regional follow-up seminars (1 each in 4 regions) to help countries finalize national work plans and to monitor and coordinate the development of the economic and environmental indicators for the green economy.