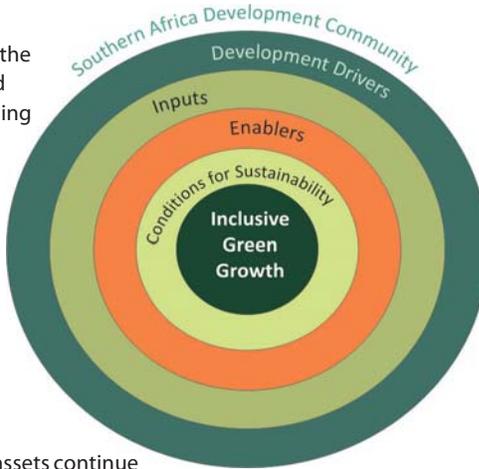




Going Green with Equity

For further information, pls contact Leisa Perch, Team Leader Rural and Sustainable Development & Principal Investigator, Green Guide Project at leisa.perch@ipc-undp.org

In their paper on 'competing paradigms' presented at the recent UNRISD conference, Payal Benerjee and Atul Stood highlight that going 'Green' has become a "rapidly expanding cognitive category" cast as an "interventionist shift in paradigm" for reassessing everything from lifestyle to policy making. The rationale is to turn the current environmental crisis into an opportunity for a new and alternative path to development that is at its core both sustainable and carbon-neutral. This responds to those concerns voiced by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the recent G20 held in Cannes, that: "there will be no sustainable development, nor sustainable economies, if we do not confront the realities of climate change."



- Development Planning, Mineral Wealth, Water, Food Security and Equity
- Policy, Partnerships, Finance and Investment
- Jobs, Technology, Energy and Environmental Security & Innovation
- Environmental Governance, Equality, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Poverty Reduction and Growth

All future growth in this regard must ensure that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which we rely.¹ Growth must be resource efficient and, in the spirit of sustainability, socially inclusive² and socially sustainable.³ Increasingly recognized within development circles, much of the focus seems now to be on "rethinking development" or the creation and sustainability of a new model, looking even beyond the MDGs (MDG+) and embracing the concept of Sustainable Development Goals. UNEP's recent flagship report on 'Greening the Economy' provides us with a solid research base but does not answer all of the fundamental questions about creating an entirely new pathway. More broadly, climate compatible development (CCD) as an approach is not yet well complemented by practical guidance on 'what to do, when, and how.'

The Green Guide

As part of a broader contribution to understanding the nature and scope of inclusive green growth as well as contributing to an improved social sustainability framework in the context of Rio +20, the IPC-IG⁴ in collaboration with the SADC Parliamentary Forum⁵ will produce a 'Green Guide'. The CDKN⁶ (funded by DFID) has agreed to fund this as an innovation proposal. This "Green Guide" will mainstream CCD in practice and bridge existing gaps in the lexicon by enabling forward movement at the national level on 'where to start?', 'what next?' and 'how to make this work for the benefit of the poor and most vulnerable?' While South Korea and China, amongst other countries, have made efforts, identified strategies and advanced greener approaches, these still remain largely untested. At its core, this Green Guide will position the twinned discussions on the green economy and climate change as an opportunity for both equitable and

inclusive development that will bring win-win solutions for the environment, poverty reduction and equality. Though focused initially on the SADC region, the intention is to develop a tool that can be adapted in order to be applicable across the Global South and enhance the benefits of targeted South-South cooperation. This Green Guide will represent the diversity of the SADC region which in many ways serves as a microcosm of the global reality.

Where and How the Pieces Fit?

There remains little policy clarity on what such a transformation looks like or where governments or actors can start in substantially reforming the economy while simultaneously acting to mitigate social risk, ensure both the participation and benefits sharing of the poor and most vulnerable and at the same time also sustain growth.

The Guide aims to take forward the notion of 'greening' as a process and not just an outcome (see diagram). We seek to understand the key drivers of development in the SADC region, the required inputs and enablers for transformative change, and the necessary conditions for sustaining efforts to de-couple environmental degradation from growth. Next steps include a number of research-based activities (i.e. consolidation of baseline analysis into a working paper; perception assessment of key stakeholders and potential path changes in the context of the key drivers) and partnership building efforts.

By linking these elements this Green Guide is intended to strengthen policy makers' understanding of the linkages between climate change and development, helping them consider if and how pending policy decisions and proposals are and could be climate-compatible, green and inclusive. The project is expected to be completed, in this first phase, by late 2012.

Green Guide Project Outputs:

- Considerations for socio-environmental and socio-political policy innovation (booklet);
- A web-based decision support tool;
- Operational Principles for Parliamentarians; and
- Capacity Building in risk assessment and development policy planning for improved CCD.

Notes:

1. OECD, 2011. "Towards Green Growth."
2. UNEP, 2011. "Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication."
3. Perch, L., 2011). "Where People, Poverty, Environment and Development Meet". Overview Article for Poverty in Focus #23 entitled Growth, Gender, Poverty and Environment – Dimensions of Inclusive Development forthcoming. Pp.3.
4. Coordinated by Leisa Perch (Rural and Sustainable Development Team) in partnership with:
5. Paul Msoma (SADC-PF), and strategic guidance/expert inputs from Dr. Merylyn Hedger, Adeolu Odusote, Muhammad Taher and Andrew Bilski.
6. Climate and Development Knowledge Network <<http://cdkn.org/>>.