



Green Economy Initiative (GEI)

To encourage and enable Member States to support investment in low-carbon development and in green sectors. GEI provides evidence of the contributions green investments can make to economic performance, social development and environmental improvement, including climate mitigation and adaptation.

GEI is a collaborative effort, launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in October 2008 and endorsed by the UN System Chief Executives Board in April 2009 as one of the nine UN system-wide Joint Crisis Initiatives in response to the global financial and economic crisis.

Why this Initiative?

- There is a need for integrated solutions to the problems wrought by climate change and the imbalances in growth strategies that underlie the global financial and economic crisis. Policymakers should be motivated to give green investments sufficient space in their counter-cyclical policies, thus reducing the threat of further food, water, energy, ecosystem and climate crises.
- The Initiative aims to demonstrate that investing in green sectors has a better chance to bring about recovery and sustainable growth, increase competitiveness, save and create decent jobs, and reduce poverty while tackling acute environmental problems. It builds on the collaborative work of UNEP and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on Green Jobs.
- It also aims to identify the policy and institutional framework that is needed to support green investments, taking into account national and regional conditions, special characteristics, capacities and needs.

Objectives

- Provide guidance on coherent sets of policies and policy instruments that will enable green investments. These policy options are integrated with related initiatives such as the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), infrastructure development, as well as policies and programmes for employment and social security.
- Inform governments of the potential for green investments to contribute to economic recovery, the creation of decent jobs, poverty reduction, and reduced carbon dependency and ecosystem degradation.

Activities

- The GEI conducts global level research on the macroeconomic significance of investing in low carbon development in green sectors including renewable energy technologies, energy efficient buildings, low emission vehicles, and public transport. It also provides broad policy guidance to encourage a world-wide shift towards a low-carbon green economy.
- The GEI works through partnerships involving regional institutions to support regional and subregional low-carbon green

economy initiatives. This includes organizing regional studies, facilitating regional dialogues and South-South cooperation, and conducting capacity development workshops.

- The GEI provides advisory services to governments including taking stock of relevant existing initiatives, identifying gaps, and proposing ways forward. In providing such services, GEI seeks to involve partners both within the UN system and beyond. It also seeks to strengthen the capacity of institutions in developing countries to design and implement green economy strategies and policies in their respective countries.

- The Initiative is contributing to a global Green Economy Report, to be released in the fall of 2010, which will provide guidance on green investments and focus on the implications for employment and income distribution.
- More than a dozen governments have requested support from the United Nations system for launching low-carbon green economy initiatives in their respective countries. To date, the Governments of Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, the United Nations Foundation, and the ILO Green Jobs Initiative have provided generous financial assistance to the initiative.

Moving Forward

- The GEI relies on partnerships not only within the UN system, but also with civil society groups, the business sector, trade unions and academic institutions.

Contact

Mr. Sheng Fulai
 United Nations Environment Programme
 International Environment House
 11-13 Chemin des Anémones
 CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
 Tel: +41 22 917 8168
 Email: fulai.sheng@unep.org
 Web: <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy>

CEB climate change action framework	
Five focus areas and four cross-cutting areas have been identified in response to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation process and in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the United Nations system:	
Focus areas	Cross-cutting areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation • Technology transfer • Reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) • Financing mitigation and adaptation action • Capacity-building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate knowledge: science, assessment, monitoring and early warning ➔ Supporting global, regional and national action • Climate-neutral UN • Public awareness-raising