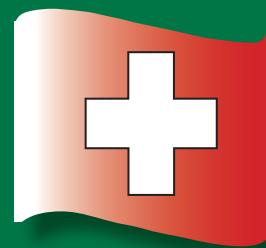


Transitioning to the Green Economy

Contributions of Impact Assessment



30th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment
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Background for IAIA10

What is Green Economy?

The Green Economy is one in which the vital links between economy, society, and environment are taken into account and in which the transformation of production processes, production and consumption patterns. It will contribute to a reduction per unit in reduced waste, pollution, and the use of resources, materials, energy, as well as waste and pollution emissions. The green economy will revitalize and diversify economies, create decent employment opportunities, promote sustainable trade, alleviate poverty and improve equity and income distribution.

What does 'Transitioning to the Green Economy' mean?

The global economy is in a state of crisis, bringing down major companies and threatening millions of jobs. This financial crisis is compounded by the fuel and food crises that have put almost 1 billion people worldwide at risk of hunger, malnutrition and social exclusion. This current global situation has drawn worldwide attention and is providing an opportunity for governments and businesses to seek and adopt alternative strategies that lead to a shift from carbon dependant societies to green sustainable ones.

To promote this shift, the world will need the assistance and cooperation from both public and private interests. IAIA10 can help demonstrate the role of impact assessment in transitioning to the Green Economy, and communicate a strong and convincing economic case to governments and the private sector for greening economies and businesses, and creating decent green jobs by investing in a new generation of assets (natural, human, & financial).



Geneva's Lakefront Photo by AMMeschlmann. Courtesy of Geneva Tourism.



IAIA
www.iaia.org

Host Organization



What is the rationale for choosing the five sectors: Agriculture*, Industry, Tourism, Transportation and Cities?

The five sectors were chosen as they were identified to be promising areas for potential sustainable green investment that can help revive the world economy, save and create jobs, enhance poverty reduction, and reduce carbon dependency and ecosystem degradation. This is based on research conducted as part of the "Global Green New Deal Policy Brief, March 2009", led by UNEP with the involvement of several other agencies, along with a group of eminent scholars and business executives, underpinned on the research paper written by Professor Edward B. Barbier of the University of Wyoming, entitled "A Global Green New Deal", February 2009, (see below for copies of these documents).

As illustrated in these documents, and others as listed below, these green investments are an immediate response to the current global crises (financial, food, fuel, and climate change). Ongoing work involving other organizations will continue to be conducted on these five sectors. The information and the outcomes of the discussions at IAIA10 will contribute to these future research initiatives and can provide very useful inputs to future work on these sectors.

* Agriculture refers to the entire agricultural landscape, the geospatial and ecologically based natural resource management system that integrates agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock and land use change (FAO).

What is the link between the Sectors and Impact Assessment?

The main link between these sectors analyses for green investment and impact assessment (IA) is that assessment will help demonstrate the types of green investments that best fit local, national, and regional environments. We hope that the Conference will produce evidences, tools, and methods that will help worldwide nations (both developed and developing) to conduct assessments that will identify which green investments to make. IA can assess the linkages between investment into these sectors with the environment, health, employment generation, economical diversification, and poverty alleviation. It should also assist in identifying policy packages that provides the enabling conditions and facilitate the transition to a green economy.

In the context of policy development, which in itself is an investment by the government, assessments can reduce the risks and enhance the positive benefits by identifying which sectors of green investment can maximize environmental (natural resources, ecosystem and the services it provides), social (employment, health, equity and poverty reduction considerations) and economic (trade, stimulating and diversifying economies, and sustainable development) benefits. IA can be a vital tool by encouraging the comprehensive analysis of the complex issues. The methods and tools that will result from IAIA10, can lead to the design of policies that promote sustainable development and help countries to take the right decisions through the current global crises (financial, food, fuel, and climate change).

Moving towards Greening Economies?

Below are reference for some Web sites and publications that provide information on how to achieve the shift towards a global green economy driven by massive job creation from the growth of resource and energy-efficient building and construction, widespread use of modern public transport systems in mega cities. The green economy will also tremendously increase solar, wind, wave, thermal, and bio energies in the total energy mix, as well as support the use of sustainable chemicals and clean waste management methods. The development of ecotourism and sustainable agriculture will also reflect the latest thinking in ecosystem management, biodiversity and water conservation, creating an harmonious environment for both human and natural development.

- **A Global Green New Deal - Policy Brief**
http://unep.org/pdf/A_Global_Green_New_Deal_Policy_Brief.pdf
- **Rethinking the Economic Recovery: A Global Green New Deal**
<http://unep.org/greeneconomy/docs/GGND-Report-April2009.pdf>
- **Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World**
http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/PDFs/Greenjobs/UNEP-Green-Jobs-Report.pdf
- **For facts on sustainable tourism**
http://www.unwto.org/media/key/en/str_messg.php?op=4&subop=7
- **OECD Declaration on Green Growth**
[http://www.oilis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/linkto/C-MIN\(2009\)5-ADD1-FINAL](http://www.oilis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/linkto/C-MIN(2009)5-ADD1-FINAL)
- **G8 Declaration July 8, 2009: Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future**
<http://www.financialtaskforce.org/2009/07/08/g8-leaders-declaration-responsible-leadership-for-a-sustainable-future/>