

Inclusive transitions to climate resilience and green economy: 2015 update

We want to challenge current power and incentive structures so countries can move away from inequitable ‘brown’ economic models towards more inclusive, greener economies. To work for everyone, this move must strengthen the livelihoods and opportunities of marginalised groups in developing countries. We will therefore emphasise the potential of informal economic actors and the assets they need to ensure economies serve them well. We are convincing government, business and community representatives to join a set of national dialogues, so their knowledge and ideas begin to shape new economic thinking. We are also influencing the main international initiatives, who come to us for advice on inclusion. We will drive much of this change initiative by hosting the Green Economy Coalition and through programmes in focus countries.

The ‘brown’ economy has been entrenched by powerful groups, vested interests and short-term incentives. It has stretched our ecosystems to their limits and contributed to global warming. It has increased the gap between the rich and poor.

In response to these challenges, governments and other actors are exploring different development strategies and business models for a green economy and climate resilience. This emerging agenda is bringing new players to the table and attracting new investment from governments, international organisations, the private sector and others. It is also helping developing countries to make more integrated plans that respond to their context and development priorities.

However, there is a risk that designs for a green economy will continue to exclude the people who both need and can contribute most to low-cost green solutions, particularly at local level. This could result in narrow objectives, such as prioritising emissions reductions, at the expense of integrated approaches that build on a country’s natural resource base and that recognise the value of informal economies.

Our long-term vision is to use political and economic momentum for a ‘green transition’ to promote more inclusive models that prioritise equity and recognise planetary boundaries.

Within the next four years

We will:

- Establish learning and action hubs to share knowledge and frame decisions, building directly on the green economy dialogues we have pioneered in ten developing and emerging countries so far. The hubs will draw together multiple networks from across IIED at local, national and global levels, focused on the Green Economy Coalition and potentially including external partners.
- Generate evidence to understand the relevance and effectiveness of different green economy and climate resilience tools, instruments and policies for bringing about better outcomes for the poorest people, particularly women and informal economic actors.
- Develop tools and frameworks to support planning and investment needs aimed at the local, national and global level.

Our first key outcome is an increase in green economy initiatives that embrace inclusion. The second is a greater number of poor, marginalised and informal actors in the economy having an impact on policy, planning and implementation for a green economy. The third key outcome is more public policy, investment flows and emerging business models supporting the goals of an inclusive green economy.