

Green Recovery for Practitioners

Examples from around the World for Building Forward Better



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Berlin, Brussels, June 2021

What can we learn from green recovery experiences on the ground?

This report presents a compilation of examples that can inspire the practical implementation of a green recovery, drawing upon measures and instruments that have been deployed in countries worldwide, particularly in developing and emerging economies.

Several cross-cutting takeaways can be gained from the 23 examples featured in this report:

- ▶ **Striving for agenda coherence between climate, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development goals should be the guiding principle** for designing and implementing green recovery measures. Existing plans and frameworks such as nationally determined contributions (NDCs), biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) or mid- to long-term sectoral and economy-wide development plans can guide economic recovery from the Covid-19 crisis to ensure they are resilient and enhance people's wellbeing.
- ▶ **Practitioners should build upon existing initiatives as a foundation for launching green recovery measures** to the extent possible to enhance their ability to deliver at speed as they benefit from existing infrastructure, staff, relationships and acceptance by stakeholders.
- ▶ **Creating initiatives from the bottom up – based on local needs, ideas, and solutions – can help improve their durability and success.** Participation in decision making, planning and implementation of measures as well as fair distribution of benefits create acceptance and ownership among target groups. Moreover, transparent communication and regular information exchange are key.
- ▶ **Nature-based solutions can create large numbers of jobs and offer multiple social, environmental and economic benefits.** Healthy ecosystems sustain livelihoods and create new income streams and employment opportunities while enhancing resilience to climate change. Many nature-based schemes have come under scrutiny on account of labour conditions as well as effectiveness and durability. Consequently, including all stakeholders (also local communities) in decision making and long-term project planning should be set as priorities from the outset.
- ▶ **A continuous process of project monitoring, evaluation and improvement ought to be pursued to improve the outcomes of projects,** with a focus on working with labour groups and marginalised stakeholders.
- ▶ **Additional, multi-year finance from international funders can cement the long-term benefits associated with projects.** Where fiscal space is limited, countries can benefit from additional support from international lenders and funders. Long-term funding can ensure programmes are sustainable through the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.
- ▶ **Individual initiatives can serve as inspiration – but for systemic change the replication and upscaling of good practices is needed.** To this end, practitioners should seek collaboration and cooperation opportunities at all levels, from the local to the international. Exchanging and learning from each other's experiences while perceiving the Covid-19 pandemic not only as a crisis but also as an opportunity to innovate and experiment is crucial to identify and ultimately replicate or scale up best practices. Finally, the pandemic offers an opportunity to direct resources and political attention towards climate, biodiversity and sustainable development issues that have received little attention in the past.

Seeking inspiration from green recovery practices

Over a year ago, the Covid-19 pandemic started to severely impact people's lives worldwide. As recovery funds were mobilised, calls grew to integrate climate and biodiversity concerns in Covid-19 response measures – giving rise to the concept of a green recovery, a topic widely discussed today. In early 2021, reports such as the [Dasgupta Review](#) on the economics of biodiversity or the UNFCCC [NDC Synthesis Report](#) underlined the urgent need for broadening the implementation of integrated approaches that drive **sustainable, inclusive and resilient transformations**.

Yet, recent analyses have shown that many governments continue to support [high-carbon recovery strategies](#), and have not fully embedded climate, social and biodiversity factors into their response packages. [A new study](#) finds that while one third of the total **US\$14.9 trillion stimulus packages announced to date** have supported environmentally relevant sectors such as agriculture, industry, waste, energy and transport, **less than one in five dollars has supported green objectives**. This finding is consistent with [tracking of current efforts](#), which suggests that high-level pledges to support green recovery are often not accompanied by concrete measures and funding.

Green Recovery Trackers

Several organisations have developed public tools for tracking recovery efforts worldwide. These trackers can provide useful insights for practitioners seeking examples from across the globe in the countries they work in. They can also help identify common themes, challenges and trends. **The table below provides an overview of some of the most relevant trackers.** A comprehensive overview of trackers can be found in the [Oxford Supertracker](#) database.

Tracker	Organisation(s)	Focus	Scope
Greenness of Stimulus Index	Vivid Economics	Green contribution of stimulus measures	G20
Green Recovery Tracker	Wuppertal and E3G	Analysis of EU Member States' recovery efforts	Europe
Global Recovery Observatory	UNEP and Oxford University	Analysis of 3,500 fiscal policies from 2020	50 largest economies
Energy Policy Tracker	IISD et al.	Energy types benefitting from stimulus measures	G20+
CarbonBrief Tracker	CarbonBrief	Overview of agreed measures with focus on green effects	'major economies'

Countries are of course differently positioned to pave the way for a green recovery. Some nations can afford to develop large stimulus packages, while others struggle to meet the basic needs of their citizens and stabilise their economies, in some cases actually redirecting capital away from sustainable development programmes. Accordingly, it is decisive that public authorities have the capacity, knowledge and resources to support an effective and implementable green recovery.



Green recovery measures for transforming urban mobility: Pop-up bike lanes were set up in the city of León, Mexico. To learn more, see [snapshot number 13](#).

Green recovery is a widely used term for packages of measures addressing the social, economic and political consequences of the Covid-19 crisis in a way that sets a course for long-term structural reforms and a transformative shift towards sustainability, biodiversity protection, resilience and climate neutrality.

Why do we need to look at what is happening on the ground?

Green Recovery, Build Forward Better, Green Renaissance, Recover Better – the list of programmatic approaches aimed at guiding countries out of the Covid-19 crisis in a sustainable way continues to grow. But what is actually happening on the ground? **How do communities, cities, countries translate these concepts into concrete action?** What progress are they making in their implementation? And what lessons have they learned so far?

These questions provide the starting point for this report, which seeks to inform and inspire the practical implementation of a green recovery. It compiles green recovery measures and instruments that are currently being (or have previously been) deployed in countries worldwide, particularly in developing countries and emerging economies. These ‘snapshots’ reflect a wide range of sectors, entry levels (from national to local) and approaches. **By providing implementation insights and by highlighting lessons learned, these examples can help determine practical steps for taking green recovery planning from ambition to action.**

A publication series for practitioners

This report is the second publication in the series *Green Recovery for Practitioners*. Published in January 2021, the first part in the series, titled [Setting the Course Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Transformation](#), mapped out key arguments in support of a green recovery and the various components, stakeholders and instruments it might entail. This second report, which presents a compilation of practical examples, will be followed by a third report offering a deep dive into the finance sector to identify entry points and approaches for integrating climate and biodiversity concerns into fiscal policy making for a green recovery.

How can we identify practical examples for a green recovery?

What might seem like a straightforward question at first glance is in fact not without its difficulties. Despite the prominence that the topic of green recovery has gained, the range of practical measures implemented so far is actually still limited. Consequently, identifying examples and classifying them into 'best' or 'good practice' is a challenge, especially given that **the impact and success of measures is yet to be demonstrated in many cases.**

We have sought to circumnavigate these challenges by focusing on the selection criteria described in the following. These criteria include practical considerations, namely ensuring that a broad range of countries is represented, together with a diverse range of instruments and outcomes. Measures were also selected based on their contribution to the various outcomes identified as key for a green recovery in the first part of this publication series (outlined in Table 1). We note that the list is not exhaustive and that the examples provided often still have room for improvement, as is reflected in the snapshots.

Therefore, rather than presenting 'good practice' examples, **this report seeks to showcase initiatives and concepts that may inspire current planning efforts** – identifying early lessons that can be learned and reflecting on aspects of the measures critical for their success. All snapshots are based on desk research and have undergone an extensive peer review process with experts from the respective countries.



Green recovery measures for improved waste management and recycling: Employees at TakaTaka Solutions, a Kenyan recycling business supported under the 'Circular Economy 4 Africa' initiative. To learn more, see [snapshot number 10](#).



Table 1: Key outcomes for a green recovery

Desired green recovery outcomes		Examples
	Impact-level, measurable improvements for the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonisation in line with the Paris Agreement and NDCs • Enhanced biodiversity and nature/forest conservation and restoration • Reduced pollution and smog • Restoration of natural heritage and ecosystems • Enhanced resilience of ecosystem services
	Social justice, just transition and peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced poverty and improved living conditions • Reduced inequalities, including along race and gender dimensions • Strengthened peace and democracy, reducing conflict and increasing resolution • Sustained green employment, reskilling, decent working conditions
	Economic systems and business models compatible with ecological boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular economy and reduced waste, shifting away from linear production-consumption • Post-extractivist economies that do not depend primarily on the extraction or removal of natural resources for exportation • More diversified economies that do not depend on a few economic sectors • Environmentally and socially sustainable supply chains, driving investments in upstream and local sectors and businesses • Green innovation and entrepreneurship • Direct foreign investment, and inward financial flows, supporting sustainable economic activities
	Regulatory and policy frameworks that promote people and planet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate and biodiversity mainstreamed into economic planning and regulation • Stronger laws ensuring biodiversity protection and workers' rights (including migrants) • Decentralisation and digitalisation of energy through distributed renewable energy systems that are flexible and efficient
	Enhanced resilience to disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities more resilient to heatwaves, flooding and rising sea levels • Improved national and local public services • Enhanced, smart digitalisation • Food security and sovereignty
	Governance and democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust governance systems and processes • Disclosure and accountability around spending and policy making decisions • Enhanced participation in decision making
	Increased global solidarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-cutting global alliances addressing multiple crises • Enhanced global cooperation and solidarity

Global examples for a green recovery

This study presents a compilation of examples that can inform the work of governments, agencies and international institutions around the world. The table below provides an overview of the thematic areas they cover (note that some examples touch upon more than one theme). The collection comprises **23 examples from more than 19 countries**, including 8 from Latin America, 7 from sub-Saharan Africa, 4 from Asia-Pacific and one from the Middle East and Northern Africa.

The snapshots cover a range of information, including the actors and sectors involved; expected outcomes and overarching themes; a brief summary of the respective measure, taking into consideration what it seeks to achieve, how decisions were arrived at and how initiatives are being delivered; implementation to date; and any lessons and conclusions that can be drawn so far. Most snapshots feature measures that were developed or adjusted in 2020, a few months into the Covid-19 pandemic. However, **many examples are rooted in pre-pandemic efforts and were scaled up as recovery measures**. They reinforce the important aspect of learning from past crises and building on existing green economy tools and approaches for just and environmentally sustainable development that generates economic prosperity through green activities. All snapshots were drafted in March 2021 and are based on the information available at that time.

Table 2: Overview of thematic areas and examples

Thematic area	Snapshots included in this report
Alignment and reform of national planning	
<p>This category considers actions to generate or develop national strategies for sustainable development. In the context of a green recovery, this might include utilising existing planning tools; integrating sustainability plans into national financing and development strategies as well as macro-economic planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia: Mainstreaming climate action in Colombia's national recovery plan • Costa Rica: Mainstreaming green recovery into national planning and policies • Indonesia: Proposal for a Green Recovery Roadmap focusing on regenerative agriculture, improved waste management, and renewable energy • Jordan: Integrating a climate-responsive, green economy approach with economic recovery • Nigeria: Supporting a green recovery through a sustainability plan for economic diversification and job creation • Rwanda: Fostering green recovery through more ambitious climate targets
Economic, monetary and fiscal tools	
<p>This wide-ranging category consists of actions related to financial and planning ministries; central banks; and national investment and development banks. Specific tools and actions ministries might adopt include public green infrastructure and investment programmes; planning tools; and imposing a moratorium on fossil fuel investments. Central banks can apply green and social conditionality on lending; set capital ratios, with higher ratios for holding high carbon assets; and create fiscal space for system transformation. National investment and development banks might update their mandates to support a green recovery and identify pipelines of sustainable, green projects to develop better practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union: Providing a taxonomy on sustainable economic activities to facilitate green investments • Peru: Green financial instruments and targeted support for sustainable businesses

Thematic area

Snapshots included in this report

Just transition and employment

This category comprises actions and measures to support workers and communities in the transition to zero emissions work. Specific tools might include supporting public work programmes in green sectors; promoting social dialogue and workers representation in decision making; and improving education and training in green skills. Also important is protecting vulnerable groups, e.g. women and girls to ensure inclusion.

- **Chile:** A new energy efficiency law to reduce energy consumption and create economic relief for the most vulnerable
- **Ethiopia, Ghana & Kenya:** Creating green jobs and sustainable value chains via the 'Circular Economy 4 Africa' initiative
- **New Zealand:** Improving building efficiency to lower energy consumption and costs for those most affected by the pandemic
- **South Africa:** Working for Water Programme – creating employment opportunities through nature-based approaches

Local action and sustainable urban development

This category encompasses actions and initiatives to expand sustainable transport infrastructure; measures to develop and prioritise low-carbon and resilient urban infrastructure, as well as rural and community-based solutions; efforts to improve residential infrastructure in marginalised areas, or to improve health and living conditions; and green public procurement.

- **Argentina, Colombia, Mexico & Peru:** Improving cycling infrastructure for healthy people and cities
- **Kenya:** Reclaiming green public spaces and urban ecosystems – a green infrastructure plan for Nairobi
- **Mexico:** Ensuring hot water supply in public hospitals through solar water heating systems
- **Uruguay:** Sustainable electric solutions for urban cargo transport and last-mile logistics

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

This category includes a range of actions and measures to promote biodiversity and climate adaptation through nature-based solutions. Specific instruments might include mitigation activities, such as forest preservation and afforestation, peatland protection; ecosystem-based adaptation, including mangrove protection, biodiversity conservation; and sustainable ocean activities aligned with biodiversity conservation (fisheries, eco-tourism, etc.).

- **Ethiopia:** Supporting reforestation, creating jobs, and strengthening resilience through nature-based solutions
- **India:** Creating employment and supporting biodiversity protection through national economic stimulus programs
- **Jamaica:** Supporting blue economy measures for a green economic recovery
- **Pakistan:** Generating employment through reforestation and biodiversity activities

International cooperation and financing

This category seeks to enhance international and regional coordination for a green recovery. Relevant measures include engaging with international finance institutions as shareholders to steer the direction of the institutions to provide financial and technical support; engaging with international creditors to negotiate 'debt-for-climate/nature swaps'; and creating new finance vehicles and international frameworks to buy out fossil fuel assets.

- **Global:** Supporting countries in the implementation of ambitious NDCs and in their alignment with national green recovery agendas
- **Global:** Financing a green recovery through debt-for-nature swaps
- **Rwanda:** Improving sustainable electricity and clean cooking

Alignment and reform of national planning

Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

Just transition and employment

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

Colombia

Mainstreaming climate action in Colombia's national recovery plan

Expected outcomes

- Diversification away from a fossil fuel economy
- Creating over 100,000 jobs in low-carbon sectors
- Planting 180 million trees for a positive environmental impact

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation
- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- National government
- Local environmental authorities
- International energy companies
- International lenders (i.e. World Bank)

Sectors and fields

- Energy
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Infrastructure and technology
- Waste

Overview

Colombia's comprehensive national recovery package, [Compromiso por el Futuro de Colombia](#), shows that countries with the necessary fiscal space can integrate stimulus investments and green transition goals in order to promote sustainable development, job creation and nature-based solutions. At its core, the plan integrates climate action through investments in clean technologies and nature-based solutions. In addition, a specific National Policy on Sustainable Recovery ([CONPES document 4023](#)) has been finalised in February 2021, with a complementary green recovery strategy to follow. These policies were added to the rapid and short-term response measures decided in the CONPES document 3999/2020.

In a country severely [threatened by climate impacts](#) and that has long been [reliant on the production of oil, coal and other minerals](#), the Government is [planning](#) to invest COP\$19.2 billion of the COP\$135 billion recovery package into 25 strategic renewable energy and transmission projects, accelerating the energy transition and with the aim of creating up to [55,000 jobs](#). In addition, seven infrastructure and environmental projects are expected to create 59,300 jobs. The package re-affirms a [previously announced goal to plant 180 million trees](#), and the Government has linked recovery efforts to its National Circular Economy Strategy. While Colombia is receiving some support from international lenders such as the [World Bank](#), the Government is also planning to significantly [increase public debt](#) in order to finance these and other necessary response measures.

Implementation

- The Government is supporting a number of different clean energy projects, [implemented](#) by international energy companies such as ENEL and Trina Solar, but also regional actors such as Celsia.
- These measures have been very positively received by the private sector and the regions to which investments are being channelled.
- In October 2020, the President reported that [38 million trees](#) had been planted to date.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- A focus on strategic renewable energy and transmission projects can help countries diversify away from fossil fuels, while supporting jobs in clean energy sectors.
- Other countries can learn from Colombia's [concise presentation of the elements of its national recovery plan](#), making its contents accessible to all citizens as well as enabling the private sector to search for environmental, social and governance projects and align with government initiatives.
- International financial institutions can support domestic budgets and, in turn, additional initiatives and programmes.

Alignment and reform of national planning

International cooperation and financing

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

Costa Rica

Mainstreaming green recovery into national planning and policies

Expected outcomes

- Incorporating green recovery into long-term, whole-of-government strategies
- Transforming agricultural and land-use practices to low-carbon practices

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation
- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- National government
- Inter-American Development Bank
- United Nations Development Programme
- World Bank
- NDC Partnership

Sectors and fields

- Transport
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Energy
- Tourism
- Biodiversity

Overview

In early 2019, Costa Rica [announced an economy-wide plan to decarbonise by 2050](#); serving as the country's Long-term Low Emissions and Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) under the UNFCCC and structured along ten axes corresponding to its major emission sources. The implementation of the National Decarbonisation Plan is supported by the [Inter-American Development Bank \(IADB\)](#). The multi-year US\$230 million loan aims to accelerate political reforms focused on strengthening the management and monitoring of climate action in the planning, investment and public budget process; conserve and restore ecosystems; and encourage electric power, moving towards e-mobility and public transport. The World Bank also recently provided a [US\\$300 million loan](#) to promote the country's low-carbon development process.

In order to coordinate intersectoral public policy in the country, the Ministry of Planning (MIDEPLAN) presented a [long-term sustainable development strategy](#) in March 2021 (*Estrategia Territorial*

Productiva para una Economía Inclusiva y Descarbonizada 2020-2050). The strategy is centred around digitalisation, decentralisation and decarbonisation ('3D') and reflects the federal government's [commitment to a green recovery from the Covid-19 crisis](#), focused on adaptation planning, food security, green and blue job creation as well as sustainable production and consumption.

While some countries opted for the development of distinct (green) recovery plans to overcome economic setbacks caused by the pandemic, Costa Rica aims at a green recovery that results from the implementation of existing long-term decarbonisation and sustainable development strategies. The country is working towards an integrated, systemic approach facilitating the exploitation of synergies between different strategies. [UNDP](#) and the NDC Partnership have provided funding for related analyses. This approach is intended to foster a sustainable economic recovery in regions and sectors especially affected by the recession.

Implementation

- MIDEPLAN's [sustainable development strategy](#) tackles the hyper-concentration of economic activity and innovation in the San José Greater Metropolitan Area. Investing in rural areas and evolving from an economy solely based on tourism and agriculture (including forestry), the strategy pursues diversification, including circular cement, iron and steel industries, biotechnology, and the knowledge and orange economy.
- Various other green recovery measures are being implemented across different sectors, including plans for an [electric train line](#) and [buses](#), and a ['More Women, More Nature'](#) programme, investing in women-centred forest protection and regeneration.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- A [cost-benefit analysis of decarbonising the Costa Rican economy](#) shows the significant post-pandemic recovery potential that the National Decarbonisation Plan's implementation entails, indicating a US\$41 billion net benefit between 2020 and 2050. Two key sectors for a beneficial implementation are transport and land use in rural areas.
- International funding can be crucial for supporting policy implementation when countries face fiscal restraints and economic challenges.
- Identifying synergies and conflicts between different development frameworks (e.g. climate, disaster risk reduction, SDGs) can improve efficiency in the use of financial and/or human resources and a smooth implementation (see this recent [analysis on policy coherence](#)).

Alignment and reform of national planning

Just transition and employment

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

Indonesia

Proposal for a Green Recovery Roadmap focusing on regenerative agriculture, improved waste management, and renewable energy

Expected outcomes

- Revitalizing smallholder plantations for rubber, coffee, cocoa, oil palms and coconut
- Improving waste collection and recycling capacities while generating new employment opportunities in the waste sector
- Supporting small-scale rooftop photovoltaic, thus driving the transition to clean energy and lowering energy costs at the household level

Measure to support

✓ adaptation ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- Ministry of National Development Planning
- Team of embedded advisors
- International partners: German Environment Ministry, GIZ, NDC Partnership

Sectors and fields

- Agriculture
- Waste
- Energy

Overview

In the first quarter of 2021, the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), supported by a team of embedded advisors, started developing a proposal for green recovery activities in three key sectors: agriculture, waste and energy. After the government's initial fiscal stimulus package focused on immediate needs related to healthcare and social support, the proposal by Bappenas aims to link recovery efforts with progress on environmental agendas, including Indonesia's [Low Carbon Development Initiative](#) launched in 2019.

As many plantations for oil palm, rubber, coffee, cocoa and coconut are degraded in Indonesia, the first part of the proposal focuses on regenerative agriculture. Through recovery funds from the government, 19 million smallholder farmers shall be supported in carrying out restorative techniques such as intercropping or plantation rejuvenation. The outcomes will create short-term employment and mid- to long-term economic benefits as agricultural productivity is expected to increase by 15-17% from now until 2030 and contribute to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

The second part of the proposal addresses waste management. In the wake of Green Recovery planning, Indonesia seeks to tackle this challenge on two levels: (1) the governance level, by strengthening law enforcement, partnerships, financing mechanisms, and policy development, and (2) the entrepreneurial level, by improving the capacities of businesses to collect, sort, and recycle waste. The waste sector in Indonesia is comprised of thousands of small businesses at the local level; financial and legislative support hence bears a great potential for generating additional employment opportunities, while reducing environmental stressors posed by waste.

The third part is concerned with the installation of small-scale rooftop photovoltaic. The activity targets both public buildings (17 government ministries and other public institutions will participate) and households that largely rely on diesel for energy generation which comes with high costs. The activity creates jobs through the installation of PV panels, reduces emissions in the energy sector and reduces energy costs at the household level.

Implementation

- Bappenas seeks to coordinate with relevant line ministries on the development and implementation of the planned activities.
- Implementation is planned to occur between 2022 and 2030.
- Activities on plantation rejuvenation and waste management are envisioned to be extended consecutively until 2030.
- The team of embedded advisors is supported by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety under the Economic Advisory Initiative of the NDC Partnership.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- A phased approach of implementation over several years can contribute to long-term and sustainable changes.
- Green recovery efforts offer the potential to drive action in "green" sectors that receive little attention (e.g. waste).
- Directly targeting stakeholders at the local level, such as small businesses or households, can generate direct impacts.
- Green recovery planning requires a lot of capacities within ministries, a team of expert advisors can provide valuable support.

Jordan

Integrating a climate-responsive, green economy approach with economic recovery

Expected outcomes

- Aligning programmes and planning frameworks, with the NDC at the core for green recovery planning
- Mainstreaming green recovery across various economic sectors
- Building resilience to future climate and public health shocks
- Creating new employment opportunities

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation
- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- Ministry of Environment,
- Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation
- Royal Scientific Society
- International partners, e.g. Global Green Growth Institute

Sectors and fields

- Water
- Energy
- Agriculture
- Tourism

Overview

In Jordan, interlinkages between the country's NDC, a national green growth plan and green recovery measures show the value of integrating crisis response measures into broader strategic frameworks already under development before the crisis hit.

Under the Paris Agreement, Jordan, through the Ministry of Environment, ratified its [NDC](#) in 2016 and launched an NDC Action Plan in 2020. In 2017, the Ministry of Environment formulated an overarching '[National Green Growth Strategy](#)' with a vision for creating employment and resilience through an expanding and sustainable economy. To drive the implementation of this strategy, the Ministry of Environment, together with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), launched the [Green Growth National Action Plan \(GG-NAP\) 2021-2025](#) in July 2020.

The GG-NAP is a multi-sector implementation plan that will support Jordan's economic growth objectives and climate change targets and build resilience to climate and public health shocks. It focuses on [several key sectors](#): water, waste management, energy, agriculture, tourism and transport. For instance, it supports the development of a smart electricity grid, a charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, water management projects and sustainable mobility solutions in selected cities. The energy and transport sectors are [major contributors](#) to increasing emissions in Jordan.

Although these strategies and frameworks were developed prior to Covid-19, they are now used for streamlining green recovery efforts. These efforts were elevated by the highest political level, when in early 2021, the [prime minister called on all ministries and national institutions](#) to incorporate both the NDC Action Plan and the GG-NAP in all development plans. During the pandemic, these frameworks are ensuring that [Jordan's socio-economic recovery measures](#) also foster environmental sustainability, a critical component for building resilience to future shocks.

Implementation

- Assessing impacts of Covid-19 on the economy and on the key sectors selected by the Government of Jordan (Agriculture, Tourism, Health and Energy).
- Developing a framework for assessing potential green recovery measures, considering local policy frameworks and international good practices.
- Coordinating with relevant planning frameworks, including the NDC Action Plan, the GG-NAP, or the [Economic Growth Plan](#).

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

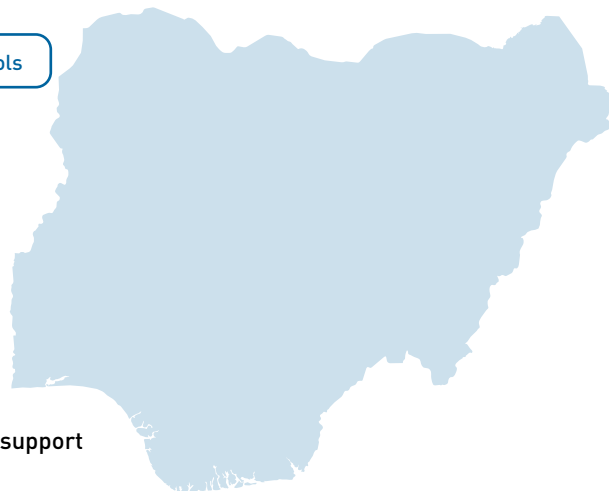
- Synergies between existing and ongoing economy-wide efforts for climate-responsive, green development and necessary economic recovery measures can be effectively used: NDCs, for example, can provide a central framework for green recovery planning.
- Green recovery measures provide an opportunity for collaboration with international agencies and stakeholders.
- Green development measures can be applied in a wide array of different economic sectors and at different levels of government.

Alignment and reform of national planning

Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

Nigeria

Supporting a green recovery through a sustainability plan for economic diversification and job creation



Expected outcomes

- Supporting a green recovery by promoting green jobs (i.e. in agriculture, agro-processing, renewable energy), industries, digital economy and homes, with a focus on household solar energy
- Promoting manufacturing and local production at all levels
- Supporting economic diversification and MSMEs, with a focus on gender equality

Measure to support

- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- 15 ministers and state ministers
- Economic Sustainability Committee (ESC) chaired by the vice-president
- Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)
- Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation
- Small businesses

Sectors and fields

- Clean energy
- Housing
- Agriculture
- Infrastructure
- Oil and gas

Overview

Approved by the Federal Executive Council on 24 June 2020, the [Nigeria Economic Sustainability Plan](#) (NESP) was developed by the Economic Sustainability Committee established by President Muhammadu Buhari. The committee comprises several cabinet ministers as well as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and Central Bank of Nigeria.

With a budget of roughly 1% of GDP (US\$5.9 billion or NGN 23 trillion), the plan is intended to [stimulate and diversify the economy, retain and create jobs and extend more protection to the poor](#). The recovery plan includes investments in clean energy, agriculture, services and industry (i.e. support for micro, small and medium enterprises) and infrastructure. A key piece of the plan is the US\$619 million [Solar Home Systems](#) project serving about 25 million Nigerians who are currently not connected to the national grid. It also provides monetary incentives for private solar installers and aims to create more domestic jobs. One of the

largest renewable energy stimulus measures in response to Covid-19 in a middle- or low-income country, the project aims to improve energy access and equality.

The plan also includes a National Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) [Survival Fund](#) to address the impacts of the pandemic on this key sector. The MSME Survival Fund will support the private sector to help diversify the economy, with a particular focus on women.

Nigeria has also taken advantage of the pandemic as an opportunity to [reform fossil fuel subsidies](#), a decision taken in response to the recent drop in oil prices. The subsidy removal is expected to save the government at least [US\\$2 billion a year](#). However, the [World Resources Institute](#) notes that the plan also invests in high-carbon activities, including road building and promoting natural gas.

Implementation

- According to the Rural Electrification Agency, Solar Home Systems are now available in [12 communities, with 19,000 installations](#).
- Nearly [300,000 Nigerians](#) have benefitted from the MSME Survival Fund Payroll Support so far.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- High-level engagement and political buy-in permitted an ambitious programme.
- Low oil prices can provide an opportunity to remove oil and gas subsidies, although possible knock-on effects on households from rising energy costs need to be considered.
- It is important to ensure climate considerations are embedded in all areas targeted by stimulus initiatives, and that progress is not undermined by support for road building and fossil gas infrastructure.

Rwanda

Fostering green recovery through more ambitious climate targets

Expected outcomes

- Cutting emissions by 16–38% by 2030
- Supporting green jobs across a number of sectors to promote green growth

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation
- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- National government
- UNFCCC

Sectors and fields

- Economy-wide
- Sustainable urban development

Overview

In May 2020, Rwanda became the [first African country](#) to submit a [more ambitious climate target](#) (NDC) to the UNFCCC, pledging to unconditionally cut emissions by at least 16% by 2030 (compared to a business-as-usual baseline), and noting that emission cuts of up to 38% would be possible if it were to receive technical, financial and technological support. The updated [NDC climate action plan](#) was informed by in-depth analysis, improved information and data, an increased ambition and an extensive stakeholder-driven consultation process. It foresees investments in green growth and green job creation.

The announcement and plan have been [internationally recognised](#) as a contribution to a green economic recovery, bearing opportunities to support [green growth and sustainable development](#). The

importance of ambitious [NDCs](#) for a green recovery has also been emphasized by international partners, such as [UNDP](#) or the NDC Partnership, who supports member countries in ensuring that NDCs are considered at the heart of responses to the coronavirus crisis.

Rwanda's NDC includes sectoral implementation plans covering both mitigation and adaptation measures, and distinguishes between measures that are possible without external support and those that would require additional assistance. The funding requirements for adaptation and mitigation measures amount to [US\\$11 billion](#), 40% of which are unconditional and 60% are conditional.

Implementation

- The announcement was widely welcomed, with Rwanda heralded as '[one of \[the\] more ambitious climate leaders](#)'.
- Through consolidated support from the [NDC Partnership and seven development partners](#), Rwanda is beginning its NDC implementation efforts with particular emphasis on developing the data needed to quantify emission reduction targets.
- An NDC Implementation Framework is currently being prepared and is expected to be delivered in May 2021.
- An Urbanisation Technical Advisor, supported by UN-HABITAT, and an Economic Advisory support through GIZ will assist the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) and the Ministry of Environment (MoE), which are responsible for coordinating NDC implementation activities.
- The TAs supporting NDC implementation will identify investment opportunities that contribute to mitigation and adaptation measures of NDC targets and pinpoint bankable projects to submit to funding opportunities.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- The submission of the more ambitious NDC shows that even during difficult crises, progress on tackling the climate crisis is not just necessary but also possible, including in countries with limited economic resources.
- NDCs can provide a good opportunity for linking long-term economic development, including in the context of the economic recovery from the current crisis, with necessary climate targets, including through detailed sectoral plans.
- The distinction between conditional and unconditional measures shows the importance of international cooperation for realising the measures necessary for climate safety and resilience, especially in countries of the Global South.
- The NDC implementation plan will serve as an opportunity to inform the Covid-19 Recovery Plan and to ensure that recovery includes climate actions and green strategies to contribute to adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Furthermore, NDC implementation will be a great opportunity to boost Rwanda's urbanisation agenda and the achievement of sustainable urban development goals.

European Union

Providing a [taxonomy](#) on sustainable economic activities to facilitate green investments

Expected outcomes

- Redirect capital flows towards green investments
- Create security for investors and prevent greenwashing
- Help companies to plan the transition towards sustainability

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation
- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- European Commission
- Financial market participants (in the EU)
- Large companies (+500 employees)
- EU Member States when setting public standards

Sectors and fields

- Finance and banking
- All sectors

Overview

To achieve its long-term goal of [climate neutrality by 2050](#), the European Union [identified the financial sector](#) as one of the main drivers to foster change towards sustainable economic practices and development. As an integral part of the [EU Sustainable Finance Strategy and Action Plan](#) the EU taxonomy establishes a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities based on [six environmental objectives](#) including climate change mitigation and adaptation, water use, circular economy, pollution, and biodiversity.

Business activities are considered sustainable if they contribute to climate change mitigation or adaptation without significantly compromising the other four objectives. [Starting from 2022](#),

financial market participants need to state to what extent the business activities of the companies they invest in are consistent with the criteria of the EU taxonomy. Similarly, from 2022 onwards, companies with more than 500 employees will be required to self-assess their economic activities based on the taxonomy.

The coronavirus crisis has underscored the [importance of sustainable and resilient systems](#). At the same time, the pandemic has induced [massive investments into economic recovery](#). In that context, the EU taxonomy provides a framework that helps to direct recovery spending to those economic activities that are consistent with the ideas of a [green recovery](#).

Implementation

- Diverse representatives of [governments](#), [civil organisations](#) and [business actors](#) committed to a quick uptake of the EU taxonomy and the further implementation of additional sustainable investment measures.
- More than 40 investment managers (including financial market actors such as BlackRock, AXA or Nordea) voluntarily implemented the [EU taxonomy](#) during an [initial case](#) study in anticipation of the upcoming law.
- With the taxonomy becoming a formal EU law by mid-2021, companies (with more than 500 employees) will be required to implement it by 2022/2023 respectively, a deadline for financial actors is currently under discussion.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- The EU taxonomy is a promising approach to transparently define sustainable economic actions and guide economic recovery investments towards sustainable businesses.
- The case study report showcases how the taxonomy can be operationalised in practice.
- A successful implementation might serve as a blueprint for similar projects in other countries such as [Indonesia](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [China](#) or [South Africa](#).
- The taxonomy can be further used for companies to set sustainability strategies or attract investors; investors on the other hand might find it useful to identify promising investment opportunities.

Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

Just transition and employment

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture



Peru

Green financial instruments and targeted support for sustainable businesses

Expected outcomes

- Supporting economic and financial instruments for sustainable businesses
- Promoting sustainable businesses and use/consumption of their products
- Stimulating the growth of existing sustainable businesses with potential for scaling-up

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation
- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- Ministry of Environment (MINAM)
- Ministry of Production (PRODUCE)
- Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF)
- Green businesses

Sectors and fields

- Biodiversity
- Green Finance

Overview

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and a lockdown lasting three months between March and June 2020, Peruvian businesses were severely affected financially and had to reposition themselves in the market. The country now has the opportunity to incorporate a circular economy and green recovery approach into the production processes of businesses. To this end, the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) has defined five lines of action for the reactivation of the Peruvian economy. The following are related to green recovery:

1. Stimulate the growth of sustainable businesses – classified into what are referred to as *econegocios* (eco-businesses) and *bionegocios* (organic businesses) – by promoting them through an [online catalogue](#) that brings together companies and customers. Eco-businesses seek not only economic, but also social and environmental sustainability with fair distribution of benefits. Organic businesses use natural resources in a sustainable way and incorporate the costs of conservation of

native resources, the involvement of communities and the harvesting of traditional knowledge in the creation of value and the dynamisation of local economies.

2. Promote specialised economic and financial instruments within the framework of the [National Competitiveness and Productivity Plan 2019-2030](#) by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), a development plan that contemplates the relaunch of the 'Green Protocol' (see below) and the establishment of a 'Green Finance Roadmap', among other instruments.
3. Create tax incentives for sustainable investments. At the Global Landscapes Forum in October 2020, MINAM's Deputy Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources highlighted the aforementioned lines of action during the [event Financial incentives for a biodiversity-friendly future – is green recovery a catalyzer?](#) MINAM will [further promote initiatives](#) that prioritise economic growth while maintaining environmental balance.

Implementation

- The [Green Protocol](#) was relaunched and signed by MINAM and three Peruvian finance sector bodies in October 2020 with the aim of promoting the integration of environmental and social impact assessments in projects and investments.
- The [Roadmap to Green Finance](#) in Peru, launched in January 2021, establishes lines of action, identifies relevant stakeholders (e.g. MEF, PRODUCE, finance sector), and sets timeframes, deadlines and means of implementation.
- The multinational group AJE, member of the [Peru Coalition for Sustainable Production](#), has developed [drinks based on Amazonian fruits](#), which are purchased from Indigenous communities. Launched in July 2020, the coalition aims to achieve deforestation-free supply chains and establish sustainable business environments.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- MINAM is actively advocating for the inclusion of biodiversity protection in various public economic reactivation programmes (e.g. [FAE-Mype](#) and [Reactiva Peru](#)). So far, approximately 140 eco- and organic businesses have benefitted from these national support programmes.
- Covid-19 response measures that are built on already existing green growth strategies can reinforce the functionality of such measures and efficiently direct recovery spending to sustainable economic activities.
- Cooperation across different sectors and the inclusion of diverse political and societal stakeholders is crucial to design effective green recovery measures.
- Sustainable nature-based businesses create benefits from an employment, financial and environmental perspective and are well suited to drive green recovery.

Just transition and employment

Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

Chile

A new energy efficiency law to reduce energy consumption and create economic relief for the most vulnerable

Expected outcomes

- Under the new energy efficiency law, plans for reducing energy consumption must establish short-, medium- and long-term goals to lower energy consumption by 10%
- Mitigating 28.6Mt of CO2 until 2030
- Reduction of end-user energy prices to provide financial relief for those most affected by the Covid-19 crisis

Measure to support

- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- Ministry of Energy
- Energy intense industries

Sectors and fields

- Energy
- Transport
- Industry and mining
- Residential, public, commercial

Overview

In early 2021, Chile passed its [first energy efficiency law](#) which targets (initially) a 10% reduction in energy intensity by 2030 compared with the 2019 baseline. One of the first of its kind in the country's history, the new law addresses energy efficiency in the sectors of transport, industry and mining, as well as the residential, public and commercial sectors. The 10% reduction in energy intensity is expected to result in [cumulative savings of US\\$15.2 billion and an emission reduction of 28.6 Mt of CO2](#).

To improve energy efficiency across all sectors, the law foresees standards for labelling new buildings according to efficiency, as well as for production processes and transportation. In addition to the long-term reduction of greenhouse gases, the law also aims to provide financial relief for those most affected by the Covid-19 crisis. This is to be achieved through the expected reduction in energy prices on account of the lower production costs of renewable energy. Such cost savings can be transferred to consumers, providing them financial relief.

Implementation

- Under this plan, large energy consumers will be required to plan and implement an energy management system and to report annually on the state of their energy consumption.
- New buildings need to satisfy specific energy efficiency criteria.
- In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, a change towards sustainably sourced energy is expected to reduce energy prices and thus create financial relief for end users.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- The energy efficiency law sets the same target across multiple sectors, thus imposing a need for coordination across sectors that would not otherwise plan their energy consumption holistically.
- The Covid-19 pandemic can [accelerate the implementation of sustainability measures](#) if they are set up in a way that fosters positive environmental and economic effects.
- It is possible to embed recovery measures into [existing environmental policies](#) – thus increasing the overall positive impact.

Just transition and employment

Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

International cooperation and financing



Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya

Creating green jobs and sustainable value chains via the 'Circular Economy 4 Africa' initiative

Expected outcomes

- Creating, improving and securing up to 2,300 jobs in African partner companies, including training of about 1,600 people, e.g. through local training centres
- Facilitating the creation of sustainable value chains in the circular economy with a focus on plastic, textile and organic waste streams
- Strengthening and integrating 100 African small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into sustainable value chains
- Obtaining short-term leverage of further private investments for African SMEs through the key actors

Measure to support

✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- Private sector companies
- Non-governmental organisations
- GreenTec Capital Africa Foundation
- International partners: German Government, GIZ, Sequa gGmbH

Sectors and fields

- Infrastructure and technology
- Waste
- Private sector cooperation

Overview

In the context of the second Covid-19 response call, the [develoPPP.de](#) programme initiated the formation of the 'Circular Economy 4 Africa' (CE4Africa) initiative to be implemented in Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya. The initiative is supported by a [broad alliance](#) of more than 40 German, European and African companies, associations, NGOs and innovative financing partners.

The consortium focuses on the short- and medium-term creation of new and improved jobs including ad hoc Covid-19 activities in the circular economy to improve health conditions in the partner countries. It commits to the development of private sector cooperation dedicated to a green economic transformation in Africa.



Employees at TakaTaka Solutions, a recycling business in Kenya supported under the 'Circular Economy 4 Africa' initiative, are weighing plastics at the Thika buyback centre.

Implementation

- Establish a sustainable waste and recycling value chain for the sectors of plastics, organics and textiles in Ethiopia.
- Develop a sustainable system to separate collection and treatment of recyclable and organic waste in Ghana.
- Implement ad hoc Covid-19 training activities in Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya.
- Foster a pan-African approach to increase the amount of available recycled plastic for further industrial use.
- Total project volume of approximately €1 million, of which 70% is contributed by GIZ's [develoPPP.de](#) programme and 30% by the private partners.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- 10 business cases developed for private sector uptake show high job creation potential of SMEs.
- The supported business solutions in the recycling sector demonstrated vast potential for replication and scalability.
- Considerable interest from additional public and private partners offers the opportunity to strengthen the mutually beneficial partnerships towards building forward better.
- Good example for integrated measures that alleviate the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, support climate change mitigation and promote local action and sustainable urban development simultaneously.

Just transition and employment

Local action and sustainable urban development

New Zealand

Improving building efficiency to lower energy consumption and costs for those most affected by the pandemic

Expected outcomes

- Increasing building efficiency through retrofits and insulation
- Lowering home energy consumption during peak electricity periods to reduce energy cost for homeowners
- Reducing upper respiratory illnesses and helping to keep the most vulnerable community members safer during the Covid-19 pandemic

Measure to support

- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- National government
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA)
- Local organisations (businesses, trusts, councils, district health boards)

Sectors and fields

- Building efficiency
- Energy

Overview

Launched in 2018, the Government subsidies programme '[Warmer Kiwi Homes](#)' aims to lower energy consumption by improving the insulation of low-income homes based on the subsidization of building retrofits and insulation. The programme is implemented by New Zealand's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). In response to the current pandemic, the Government of New Zealand, through the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Fund, boosted the programme with additional funding of US\$56 million, enabling the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme to reach a further 9,000 homes.

The programme provides sanitary and financial relief to [those most affected](#) by the Covid-19 crisis. At the same time, it helps reduce energy consumption and, in turn, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. This holistic approach could be replicated for future policy development, also for other sectors and countries worldwide.

Implementation

- [Since 2018](#), about 20,000 homes have received the grant; thanks to the recent boost, a further 9,000 homes are eligible to receive the grant.
- The programme is application-based with eligibility requirements – eligible applicants can cover up to 90% of the cost of ceiling and underfloor insulation and 90% of the cost of an approved heater.
- The initiative is a collaborative effort of [diverse businesses, trusts, councils and district health boards](#) who contribute to finance the costs not covered by the programme.
- Over 90 companies have been contracted and 1,300 contractors commissioned.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- This is a good example of a green recovery project that was implemented pre-Covid-19 but has received a boost in response to the pandemic.
- By enabling vulnerable communities to stay warm during winter, the programme [alleviates upper respiratory diseases](#) and decreases the risk of severe courses of Covid-19.
- Additionally, better insulated homes can lower energy consumption during peak electricity periods, thus reducing overall GHG emissions.
- The example shows how a single, well-planned policy can successfully tackle a variety of problems simultaneously.

Just transition and employment

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

South Africa

Working for Water – creating employment opportunities through nature-based approaches



Expected outcomes

- Reducing invasive plants by 22% annually to stabilise water cycles, biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Employment for and empowerment of marginalised populations in rural areas

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation

Key actors involved

- National government
- Municipalities
- Conservancy groups
- Private companies
- Landowners
- Local communities

Sectors and fields

- Water infrastructure
- Biodiversity and ecosystems

Overview

Long before Covid-19, the South African government has set course on using synergies in tackling the socio-economic challenge of unemployment and a major threat to local ecosystems and water cycles. Invasive plants cover about 1% of South Africa's landmass, threatening the country's high biodiversity and [water security](#), and negatively affecting ecosystem services, such as food harvesting or ecotourism. The [Working for Water](#) (WfW) programme was launched in 1995 to address these issues while promoting employment – and was [ramped up in response to the 2008/09 financial crisis](#) as a green recovery measure.

WfW employs people to clear invasive plants through mechanical and chemical means, as well as bio-control measures. It thereby pursues the dual goal of creating employment and development opportunities in rural areas as well as preserving biodiversity and

reducing water stress. Increasing the livelihoods of marginalised communities with special recruiting targets for women, youth and people with disabilities has from the beginning been a cornerstone of WfW, which also implements HIV and Aids projects as well as other socio-economic development initiatives.

Following the financial crisis of 2008/09, the Government decided to scale up WfW. With a yearly budget of ZAR 1.8 billion (€100 million) and about [40,000 people](#) employed in 2018, WfW has not only been expanded, but it has also become the spearhead of a series of 'Working for' programmes that have followed (Wetlands in 2000, Fire in 2003 and Land in 2010) and constitute part of South Africa's [Expanded Public Works Programme](#). In 2020, the Government [announced](#) its plans to further expand WfW in the context of the National Recovery Plan.

Implementation

- Since its inception, the [WfW programme](#) has provided jobs and training to between [20,000](#) and [40,000](#) people from marginalised sectors.
- [Experts](#) have [criticised](#) that WfW prioritises the number of jobs created over the effectiveness of combatting invasive species. Although the programme had removed [2.5 million hectares](#) of invasive plants by 2018, their overall population continues to grow. A [report](#) by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) concludes that the programme would benefit from improved planning and monitoring.
- There is concern about low pay and poor labour conditions, with some [criticism from labour unions](#).

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- Despite its limitations, WfW is an exceptional programme that has made use of large-scale employment opportunities while protecting ecosystems for 25 years – and providing valuable insights for future projects.
- The SANBI [report](#) underlines the environmental and economic value of the programme beyond the employment dimension, as every rand spent controlling invasive species is estimated to save between 8 and 3,000 rand in terms of the prevented damage to ecosystems.
- By scaling up existing programmes, it is possible to benefit from pre-existing infrastructure, skills and personnel.
- Nature-based solutions can be labour-intensive, and a systematic focus on specific groups can promote employment opportunities.
- Project evaluation and improvement processes should be continuous to improve the outcomes of projects, with an emphasis on collaboration with labour groups.
- It is important to learn from past crises, such as the financial crisis of 2008/09, and past recovery strategies.

Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Peru

Improving [cycling infrastructure](#) for healthy people and cities

Expected outcomes

- Sustainable, pollution-free mobility
- More equitable distribution of public space
- Enhanced public health and well-being, including socially distant urban mobility to limit the spread of Covid-19
- Good governance practice

Measure to support

- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- Federal and local administrations
- International partners: IADB, German Government, GIZ

Sectors and fields

- Urban mobility and planning
- Cities

Overview

In July 2020, GIZ Mexico's *Cities and Climate Change* programme assisted the implementation of a 'pop-up', i.e. temporary, bike lane for the City of León. Inspired by the public's positive response to the measure, the Mexican government supported further municipalities in implementing pop-up bike lanes through [technical assistance](#) in the design process, operation, communication strategy as well as monitoring and evaluation. To make biking more attractive for citizens, a social media campaign ('[Huellas Activas](#)') was launched and incentives for cycling were created such as promoting bike sharing schemes or including the sale of bicycles in the list of essential businesses during lockdown. Furthermore, [virtual workshops](#) were held, with the support of the Mexican government and the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI).

In November 2020, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) published a [guide on how to set up pop-up bike lanes](#) and, building on the insights from the Mexican experience, announced a plan to

[support three more cities](#) in other Latin American countries: Fusagasugá and Tunja in Colombia and Santa Fe in Argentina. The bank had [previously noted the potential of improving cycling conditions](#) for enabling 'Covid-19-safe', affordable and sustainable mobility. According to [IISD](#) research, investments in cycling infrastructure are also a good opportunity to create green jobs. It is important to note that few of the new bike lanes that have been created during the pandemic will be permanent under current planning. To permanently transform and promote sustainable, climate-friendly and inclusive urban mobility, it will be critical to link cycling infrastructure to wider long-term development objectives, to promote intermodal connectivity (e.g. [linking bike lanes with railway stations](#)) and to give local authorities the operational and financial resources to turn successful temporary measures into lasting infrastructure. This view is consistent with the recommendations of the [Vision Zero Challenge](#), an initiative supporting road safety in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Implementation

- During the pandemic, Mexico City has begun the construction of 54 km of cycling lanes, [Bogotá](#) has created an 84 km network, [Lima](#) added 46 km and [Buenos Aires](#) has announced plans for 60 km.
- According to the Mexico City Ministry of Mobility, [bicycle trips increased by 221%](#) between March 2020 and January 2021, while public transport and private car trips decreased by up to 50%. [According to a survey](#) conducted in Bogotá, citizen interest in cycling is growing, as evidenced by a recent doubling in the number of people cycling around the city, from 8% to 16%.
- The processes of planning and implementing pop-up bike lanes were [characterised by fast decision making, and trial and error approaches](#). Implementation was realised through low-cost interventions. The focus on key routes for commuters and routes into community centres was critical to ensure residents' needs were met and bike lanes were accepted.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- Looking at the impacts, the [Mexican government has highlighted the environmental, economic and public health benefits of cycling](#), emphasizing the connections between reducing emissions and air pollution, improving mobility and citizens' health, and even decreasing the risk of a severe Covid-19 illness course.
- Communication strategies to familiarise the population with the emerging infrastructure and encourage widespread usage are crucial for their acceptance and post-pandemic durability.
- Integration into cities' transport networks, along key commuting routes with intermodal connection points, is imperative for the durability of the projects in the long run.
- (Technical) advisory and good governance is crucial; it is not just an infrastructure project but a multi-actor coordination and collaboration effort between federal and local governments, the private sector, and the communities around sustainable, active mobility.

Local action and sustainable urban development

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

Kenya

Reclaiming green public spaces and urban ecosystems –
a [green infrastructure plan for Nairobi](#)

Expected outcomes

- Reduced pollution and cleaner water along the Nairobi River
- Improved public spaces for recreational purposes
- Increased resilience to flooding

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation
- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- Central government departments
- Nairobi City County
- Kenya Forest Service
- Placemaking Nairobi and Public Space Network
- C40

Sectors and fields

- Urban infrastructure
- Urban ecosystems
- Flood prevention

Overview

In [Kenya](#), Nairobi is including a focus on green infrastructure as part of its recovery plan. The city is improving the protection and quality of green spaces, especially along the Nairobi River, while supporting people in need. In March 2020, the city hired jobless former residents of the Michuki Memorial Park to help clean, restore and guard the area. The park now provides locals with recreational space, while also improving the microclimate and habitat quality for species formerly displaced due to high pollution levels. The city is also pushing towards better road corridors with improved sidewalks and drainage as well as more trees to foster active mobility and avoid flooding events.

[Placemaking Nairobi](#) and the [Public Space Network](#) brought together local stakeholders to engender ownership of public streets and parks in the central business district as well as residential estates. As a result, people are more vested in the redesigned street space, with increased ownership in its appearance, its use and its security. The scheme has also received support at the highest political level. [President Uhuru Kenyatta](#) reiterated the Government's commitment to the restoration of green spaces and the improvement of the city's environment in December 2020.

Implementation

- 1,200 tonnes of garbage were removed from the Michuki Memorial Park and according to the director of Nairobi's [central business district](#), 'now the place is clean with cool air and you can even find fish in the Nairobi River, which were never there before.'
- Work with grass roots organisations such as Placemaking Nairobi has increased public participation.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- A focus on green urban infrastructure can improve the lives of local residents.
- Public participation in urban design schemes can generate a sense of ownership.
- High-level political support for green recovery measures helps elevate their profile.

Local action and sustainable urban development

Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

International cooperation and financing

Mexico

Ensuring hot water supply in public hospitals through solar water heating systems

Expected outcomes

- Installing a solar water heating system in a public hospital
- Reducing the hospital's annual CO2 emissions by approximately 50 tonnes
- Training 20 staff members of the hospital on the environmental and economic benefits of solar water heating
- Creating a best-practice example that can be easily replicated and scaled up by other hospitals or public institutions
- Strengthening healthcare services in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic

Measure to support

- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- Luis Cabrera Hospital in Mexico City
- Governmental authorities for health and environment of Mexico City
- Private sector: Módulo Solar
- International partners: German Government, GIZ

Sectors and fields

- Energy
- Private sector cooperation

Overview

The [Covid-19 response call](#) of the develoPPP.de programme supports development projects with the private sector to mitigate economic and health consequences of the pandemic. In this context, the [German Federal Development Ministry](#) in cooperation with GIZ and the Mexican company Módulo Solar launched a project aiming at the provision of affordable and sustainably sourced hot water for a hospital in Mexico City.

One of Mexico City's main public hospitals, the 'Luis Cabrera' centre has been solely dedicated to caring for Covid-19 patients since the start of the pandemic. The facilities are equipped with a

hot water system fired by natural gas. In addition to the high pollution it generates on site, the high cost of fuel does not permit continuous hot water supply, which affects the hospital's operations.

The solar water heating system provides hot water at a low cost, mitigates local pollution and generates economic savings for the hospital. Financial resources previously spent on fossil fuels can be redirected to direct patient care. In the medium term, the project aims to establish a best-practice example that can be easily replicated in other hospitals or public buildings in Mexico and other countries.

Implementation

- The project was jointly funded by GIZ's [develoPPP.de](#) programme (75%) and the Mexican private-sector company [Módulo Solar](#) (25%).
- Once the hospital staff has been proficiently trained, the facility will be fully handed over to the hospital.
- Next steps include the development of a roadmap to promote the benefits of solar water heating systems throughout the healthcare sector.
- The overall objective is to encourage other hospitals as well as other public and private buildings to replicate the approach and install similar facilities.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- The Covid-19 pandemic puts [significant pressure on the healthcare sector](#) and increases the need for using resources as efficiently as possible.
- The provision of [sustainably sourced hot water](#) combines GHG mitigation with economic relief for the healthcare sector.
- Installing similar water heating systems (in particular in regions with high rates of sunlight hours per year) offers great potential for cutting GHG emissions and costs.
- Solar powered heating systems can potentially be included in broader governmental campaigns such as the '[Solar City Programme](#)' of the Government of Mexico City.

Local action and sustainable urban development

International cooperation and financing

Uruguay

Sustainable electric solutions for urban cargo transport and last-mile logistics

Expected outcomes

- Building local capacity in the manufacture of light electric vehicles
- Promoting sustainable technological solutions for urban cargo transport and last-mile logistics (i.e. delivery services)
- Redesigning urban traffic systems
- Fostering collaboration across different Latin American cities, and unite stakeholders from start-ups, city governments and academia

Measure to support

- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- Municipality of Montevideo
- UN-Habitat
- MOVÉS
- Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy
- Urban Electric Mobility Initiative

Sectors and fields

- Transport
- Urban planning

Overview

[SOLUTIONSplus](#) calls on local innovators to create sustainable urban mobility solutions. An EU-funded flagship project, SOLUTIONSplus aims to boost electrification of transport in urban areas in developing and emerging economies. In this context, [Montevideo was selected](#) as one out of two Latin American cities that will receive funds from [UN Habitat](#) to generate a programme that promotes the manufacture and use of electric bicycles and light electric utility vehicles (trikes) in last-mile logistics.

The initiative has gained additional importance in the course of the [Covid-19 pandemic, which has severely impacted urban and in particular public transport](#). Many cities saw a decrease in conventional commuting activities, accompanied by a large increase in cycling and walking. Similarly, increased online shopping and greater demand for delivery services have put additional pressure on last-mile logistics (e.g. delivery services). While these developments pose serious challenges for municipalities, they also provide policymakers with a [window of opportunity to transform urban traffic systems](#) quickly and radically towards more sustainable solutions.

Implementation

- Montevideo is one of the two Latin American cities (next to Quito, Ecuador) that won this call for local innovators.
- Pilot implementation in Montevideo is led by [MOVÉS](#).
- Pilot implementation will be coordinated at the regional level by the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy and the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative.
- The pilot must include the use of a wide range of instruments, build capacity and demonstrate replicability.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- This is an example of a green recovery project that encourages local ideas and solutions for building integrated mobility solutions for a city's local context.
- The project promotes coordination across sectors, city government, start-ups and academia.
- The programme shows that the Covid-19 crisis does not only represent a challenge but also a window of opportunity to guide investments towards more sustainable traffic solutions.
- Research indicates that public investments into green urban mobility feature among the highest [returns on investment \(ROI\)](#) in terms of job creation – such measures are therefore well suited to combine environmental efforts with economic recovery.

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

Just transition and employment

Ethiopia

Supporting reforestation, creating jobs, and strengthening resilience through [nature-based solutions](#)

Expected outcomes

- Planting 20 billion trees in four years
- Creating 1,500 jobs and improving the livelihoods of 150,000 households
- Enhancing the health of rural women and girls
- Building climate resilience through nature-based solutions to deforestation and ecosystem degradation

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation
- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- National government departments
- UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Local government
- Private companies
- Civil society organisations

Sectors and fields

- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Energy

Overview

In 2019, the Ethiopian Government launched a [Green Legacy Initiative](#) with the aim of addressing the effects of deforestation and climate change in the country. Concerted tree planting efforts are at the heart of the initiative, in cooperation between government ministries (Agriculture, Innovation and Technology), local governments, companies and civil society organisations.

In August 2020, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) partnered with Ethiopia's Water Ministry and Sweden as donor to [kick off a four-year, US\\$3.6 million project](#) on nature-based solutions for water resources infrastructure and community resilience, building on efforts in the context of the Green Legacy Initiative. According to the ECA Executive Secretary, the project

'will support communities to look after the trees to maturity, and to manage them for their own benefit as well as to ensure ecosystem integrity'. The project aims to [create green jobs improving the livelihoods for 150,000 households](#), despite its modest budget. Measures include establishing a factory that makes energy-saving stoves, enabling the planting of fruit and fodder trees and building capacity for maintaining forests.

One of the project's priorities is supporting rural women and girls in order to address gender inequalities and exclusion, an objective that is centrally embedded through projects such as the [Oromia Region Women-Led Green Legacy Initiative](#).

Implementation

- It is estimated that [4 billion trees were planted](#) in the first campaign in 2019. A second campaign took place during the pandemic in June 2020, in the course of which 4.1 billion trees were planted (out of a planned target of 5 billion) [by August 2020](#). The aim was to promote employment and support a green recovery.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- The successes of the Green Legacy Initiative show the significant potential of nature-based solutions. Building on existing initiatives provided a good foundation for scaling as a green stimulus.
- Despite the significant potential, the ECA project has a small budget at just US\$3.6 million over four years, highlighting the need to mobilise more financial support.
- Implementation requires strong coordination as well as stringent monitoring and evaluation.

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

Just transition and employment

India

Creating employment and supporting biodiversity protection through [national economic stimulus programs](#)

Expected outcomes

- Creating employment, including for tribal communities and Adivasi people
- Supporting the afforestation of land, promoting ecosystems and biodiversity

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation

Key actors involved

- National government
- Federal states
- Tribal groups
- Funding from private companies

Sectors and fields

- Forestry
- Wetland restoration
- Local employment

Overview

As part of its *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat* stimulus-oriented reform campaign, India [announced in May 2020](#) that it would encourage the simultaneous fostering of biodiversity, job-creation and tribal community support by allocating over US\$800 million from its Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds to employing tribal and Adivasi people (collective term for tribes of the Indian subcontinent) for plantation work, forest management and wildlife protection management. This move aims to [reduce unemployment in rural and tribal populations](#) while avoiding market-based financing of stimulus activities, as it unlocks existing, idle public funds.

The [CAMPA Act](#) was passed in 2016, building upon the [Forest \[Conservation\] Act from 1980](#), which requires that, when land is deforested, an equivalent area has to be afforested. While the responsibility for carrying out compensatory afforestation lies with

the state (or union territory) government, the funds are collected from the user agency (usually a private entity) responsible for deforestation – providing a revenue stream for the projects. [Federal states](#) are set to employ CAMPA funds principally towards afforestation and plantation activities and also towards forest management, conservation and renewal. For example, the [state of Uttarakhand](#) announced in October 2020 that it would mobilise these funds to employ 10,000 people in forestry work.

Another green recovery initiative in India aims to [extend the country's wetland conservation programme](#) under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) from 100 wetlands to a network of 1,000 wetlands, ensuring planning at landscape-level focusing on ecological connectivity and ecological valuation of networks of wetlands.

Implementation

- Concern has been raised in the past that afforestation under CAMPA has [promoted monocultures rather than biodiversity](#). However, some recent projects have ensured a higher level of biodiversity, such as [Dhubri's biodiversity park](#), which is set to have one thousand plant species.
- Some civil society organisations, environmental groups and [tribal representatives](#) have questioned the very principle of forest land diversion and compensatory afforestation, and have criticised CAMPA's implementation mechanisms (through state forest departments), as well as poor planning and execution. However, CAMPA remains an important funding instrument for forests in India.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- A [study by PWC](#) suggests CAMPA has the ability to create immediate and short-term employment for indigenous forest-dependent communities (a large proportion of whom belong to different local tribes) and migrant workers who have been forced to return to their villages owing to the Covid-19 crisis.
- Projects should ensure a high diversity of plants and wildlife and avoid monocultures.
- Better representation of tribal representatives is needed in decision making. The [World Resources Institute](#) highlights the need to consider the complex people-environment relationships that govern land restoration projects, taking into consideration the Indian caste system and how it affects decision making.

Jamaica

Supporting [blue economy](#) measures for a green economic recovery



Expected outcomes

- Supporting sustainable and resilient fisheries through digitalisation and tracking
- Restoring mangrove ecosystems
- Securing and creating employment opportunities

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation

Key actors involved

- National government
- Artisanal fisheries
- University of the West Indies
- International partners: World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

Sectors and fields

- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Ecosystem restoration

Overview

With more than 80% of Jamaica's GDP generated in coastal areas, a focus on blue economy measures has been central for the country's recovery efforts from the pandemic. The Government has taken a multi-sector approach to recovery for industries that depend on the blue economy, with initiatives for the natural environment, fisheries, tourism and shipping.

One of these initiatives, the ['Blue Carbon Restoration in southern Clarendon, Jamaica' project](#) seeks to restore more than 1,000 hectares of degraded mangrove forest. The project is implemented by the University of the West Indies and funded with US\$2.45 million by IADB. In another initiative as part of Jamaica's initial rapid response to the impacts of Covid-19, a [one-time grant](#) was awarded to artisanal fishers to provide income support. [Jamaica has made long-standing efforts](#) to restore its fish stocks, but the registration of artisanal fishers has proven a challenge. To get a better understanding of small-scale fishing and to facilitate the

sector's transition to digital information and tracking, that grant was made subject to two main conditions: registration of boats and mandatory GPS trackers.

For long-term support for the blue economy, national government and international partners have joined forces. While the National Fisheries Authority [provides seed funding for projects](#) to diversify fisheries production, e.g. by introducing value-added products and targeting export markets, a [US\\$4.8 million five-year World Bank-funded initiative](#) was launched in July 2020 in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAFA): the *'Promoting Community-based Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector Project'*. The initiative will support investment and diversification in fisheries-based alternatives, development of policies and regulation, and building awareness on more climate and disaster resilient practices. Planning efforts already started in 2016, showing how green recovery measures can build on previous and ongoing projects.

Implementation

- 5,000 fishers are being given [vouchers valued at US\\$15,000](#) to purchase fish mesh wire or equivalent fishing gear.
- Aquaculture farmers are receiving vouchers for fish feed and farming equipment.
- The mangrove restoration project is expected [to be completed by 2026](#).
- Preparatory studies for the project by MICAFA and the World Bank started in 2016 and provided the following outputs: socio-economic analysis of the fisheries sector; livelihoods diversification options for community-based fisheries; an environmental management framework for the project; and a fisheries sector policy analysis.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- Focusing green recovery efforts on key economic sectors offers the opportunity to develop an integrated range of short- and long-term measures.
- One-off grants can be a viable instrument to combine immediate livelihood support with a transition to more sustainable resource management practices.
- Progress towards longer-term sustainable blue economy practices can be supported through multi-year funding and programmes.
- Cooperation with development partners augments ongoing government efforts to support the blue economy in the recovery phase.

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

Pakistan

Generating employment through reforestation and biodiversity activities

Expected outcomes

- Plant 20 million trees, with benefits for ecosystems and cleaner air, focusing on climate resilient trees
- Support over 60,000 jobs, with focus on youth and day workers

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation

Key actors involved

- National government
- World Bank

Sectors and fields

- Biodiversity
- Youth employment

Overview

In 2018, the Pakistani Government launched its 10 Billion Trees Tsunami afforestation campaign, which seeks to conserve around 650,000 [hectares of forests by bolstering plantation, setting up nurseries, through natural forests and promoting honey, fruits and olive plantation in Pakistan](#). In response to the Covid-19-induced economic crisis, the Government [has launched a 'green stimulus'](#) effort through the programme, exempting it from lockdown orders and pledging to inaugurate seven new national parks.

The Government pledged to plant [millions of trees in the course of 2020; creating 63,000 job opportunities](#), specifically for young people and day workers. The [World Bank](#) has supported this effort with a US\$188 million loan. Pakistan is planting trees that need [relatively little water](#), which will help ensure their resilience to future climate impacts and warming.

The initiative has been widely promoted, with high-level political support. For instance, [Prime Minister Imran Khan](#) launched the largest tree plantation drive in Pakistan's history, commemorating 9 August as 'Tiger Force Day' to plant 3.5 million trees in one day.

Implementation

- The [Government is in the first phase](#) of planting 3.25 billion trees at a cost of PKR 105 billion (US\$650 million).
- [63,000 people](#) are reportedly currently employed in the programme.
- [Labourers report](#) earning less than the minimum wage in Pakistan.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- Nature-based solutions are labour-intensive and can promote employment through the Covid-19 crisis and beyond it.
- Strategic alignment with long-term policies and investment strategies is important: to ensure lasting benefits for employment, tree planting initiatives of this kind need to be embedded into programmes for conservation management.
- High-level political support and backing from international funders can help elevate the status of nature-based projects.
- A key issue moving forward will be implementing fairer labour practices.

International cooperation and financing

Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

Global

Supporting countries in the implementation of ambitious NDCs and in their alignment with national green recovery agendas

Expected outcomes

- Supporting developing countries in implementing ambitious NDC plans that promote a green recovery
- Enhanced global cooperation and solidarity to promote a green recovery, with social co-benefits
- NAMA Support Projects demonstrate that climate finance can effectively catalyse transformational change in countries, including implementation of NDCs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon-neutral development

Measure to support

- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- NAMA Facility
- German and UK governments

Sectors and fields

- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Waste
- Transport
- Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use

Overview

At the New York Climate Week 2020, Germany and the United Kingdom announced a special Ambition Initiative under the NAMA Facility (NAMA = Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action), aiming to support the ODA eligible countries in the implementation of enhanced and ambitious NDCs as well as the alignment of these efforts with the national green recovery agendas. More than €174 million in funding has been designated to support climate action. The fund will support developing countries with ambitious mitigation projects to achieve transformation towards carbon neutrality and to allow countries to build forward greener as they recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. Applications for the Ambition Initiative Call will be expected to demonstrate embeddedness in national strategies as well as a clear link to the enhanced and ambitious NDCs and the country's measures to promote green

recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. For countries that are members of the NDC Partnership, alignment with their NDC Implementation or Partnership Plans is expected.

From December 2020, applicants are invited to submit Outlines (project applications) of NAMA Support Projects (NSP) to the Ambition Initiative Call. NSPs consist of a combination of policy and/or regulation reforms and financial mechanisms. Policies should serve to create an enabling environment, whereas regulation and financial mechanisms channel financial flows into investments driving carbon-neutral development pathways. Regulation and financial mechanisms should serve to address potential barriers for investment and leverage public and private support for mitigation activities.

Implementation

- The deadline for electronic submission of projects was 31 May 2021. Tentative funding decisions will be made prior to or at COP26 in Glasgow.
- The NAMA Facility has hosted [online webinars](#) to guide potential applicants to develop Outlines for the Ambition Initiative Call.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- Developing countries that support ambitious climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals – aligned with a green recovery – can gain greater access to international cooperation and financing.
- The Ambition Initiative is an example of international solidarity to support NDC implementation and promote social co-benefits for a green recovery.
- During the Ambition Initiative Call, the NAMA Facility's Technical Support Unit (TSU) will collect written questions regarding the Ambition Initiative Call and publish clarifications and frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the [NAMA Facility website](#) every month.

International cooperation and financing

Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

Nature-based solutions, supporting biodiversity and sustainable agriculture

Global

Financing a green recovery through debt-for-nature swaps

Expected outcomes

- Positive outcomes for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration in debtor countries, increasing adaptation and resilience
- More fiscal space for developing countries to respond to the pandemic and reduce debt burden

Measure to support

- ✓ adaptation

Key actors involved

- International creditors
- Paris Club
- National governments
- Local implementing organisations

Sectors and fields

- Biodiversity
- International finance

Overview

Even before the pandemic, concerns were growing over developing countries' debt, which had [surpassed US\\$8 trillion by the end of 2019](#). The situation has only been aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Debt-for-climate and debt-for-nature swaps are programmes under which a creditor agrees for the debt to be reduced – either by conversion to local currency and/or paid at a lower interest rate or some form of debt write-off – and the money saved is used to invest in climate resilience, GHG emissions mitigation or biodiversity protection initiatives, among others. The [idea gained traction in the 1990s](#) during early calls for debt relief, leading to the mobilisation of US\$1.2 billion for conservation projects.

One recent, pre-pandemic example is a US\$27 million investment in the [Seychelles in 2018](#) for climate resilience, fishery manage-

ment, biodiversity conservation and ecotourism. [Argentina](#) has also implemented a debt-for-environment swap together with the United States, allowing certain debts to be bought back in local currency and reinvested in environmental protection.

Besides immediate Covid-19 response initiatives such as the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), several debtor countries as well as the [UN](#) have been calling for economic recovery support to be aligned with climate and nature objectives, and new proposals such as '[Debt Relief for a Green and Inclusive Recovery](#)' by the Heinrich Böll Foundation and others have been put forward. The [Alliance of Small Island Developing States](#) (AOSIS) as well as the leaders of [Pakistan](#), [Jamaica](#), [Namibia](#) and [Mauritania](#) have all urged the consideration of debt-for-climate and debt-for-nature swaps for their countries' Covid-19 recovery efforts.

Implementation

- Two important starting points for implementing debt swaps are (1) conducting a [debt sustainability assessment](#) for the country, and (2) [verifying it is financing national and local biodiversity priorities](#), e.g. presented in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and NDCs.
- Developing countries risk lower creditor ratings if they participate in debt restructuring. However, while participation may reduce ratings temporarily, [evidence suggests the focus on debt sustainability rather than immediate access](#) improves ratings in the medium and long term.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- All low- and middle-income countries whose debt is considered unsustainable should be supported to participate in debt restructuring.
- [Swaps should include a significant portion of debt relief](#). Swapping debt without improving fiscal space for countries that are already facing severe budget constraints is ineffective.
- Support can be most effective when the focus is on [strengthening local and national institutions](#) – for example, by channelling the swap through government systems or direct budget support. Inclusive, systemic approaches to debt restructuring increase debtor government ownership.
- The long-term bilateral debt of the [Paris Club members](#) has been proposed as the best possible target for debt swaps because of its potential for expedited dispensation through negotiations. Given that China and commercial/private bondholders have become major creditors in the global debt architecture, it is necessary to reflect on their role and participation needs as well.

International cooperation and financing

Economic, monetary and fiscal tools

Rwanda

Improving sustainable electricity and clean cooking

Expected outcomes

- Improving the availability of clean energy and clean cooking fuels, with benefits of cleaner air and healthier living conditions for more than two million people

Measure to support

- ✓ mitigation

Key actors involved

- National government
- World Bank

Sectors and fields

- Energy
- International finance

Overview

The Rwandan Government [plans](#) to provide universal access to electricity by 2024 and to clean cooking fuels by 2030. To contribute to the achievement of this goal and to a green recovery, the World Bank approved a US\$75 million grant and a further US\$75 million loan for the [Rwanda Energy Access and Quality Improvement Project](#) in September 2020. The World Bank's [Clean Cooking Fund](#) (CCF) provided a US\$10 million clean cooking component, with a further US\$10 million from the World Bank's International Development Association. The largest clean cooking operation in Africa, the project will provide access to clean cooking solutions to more than [two million people](#) in Rwanda.

Rwanda has taken complementary measures to boost clean cooking, with the Ministry of Environment banning the use and supply of charcoal in [Kigali City in May 2020](#) as it steps up efforts to protect the environment by reducing the use of wood fuel.


The mobilised funding will be [used](#) to support the country's ongoing programme of expanding electricity grid connections, as well as to provide grants to lower the costs of off-grid solar home systems. Furthermore, it will increase the availability of clean electricity by restoring capacity at the Ntaruka hydropower project, improving transmission lines and supporting the national smart meter programme.

Implementation

- Funding for the project was approved in September 2020; the project will run until December 2026.
- Rwanda Energy Group [launched a call for clean cooking technologies](#) to encourage manufacturers and vendors to submit their products as candidate technologies for evaluation, to be reviewed on a revolving basis.
- The [World Bank](#) is expanding partnerships to mobilise a growing consensus on the importance of clean cooking and make it a priority at the global and country levels. These partnerships aim to advance technologies, business models and financing mechanisms that enable affordable solutions.

Lessons learned / takeaways so far

- Green recovery projects can be integrated into existing plans for the achievement of long-term sustainable development targets (i.e. to ensure universal access to power), and complemented by regulatory changes (i.e. banning polluting fuels).
- The World Bank [outlines](#) a clear list of performance indicators (such as 1.6 million people having better access to electricity, and 2.2 million people having better access to clean cooking, by 2026), setting a positive benchmark on how to communicate the targets of similar interventions.



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