Harnessing innovations, technologies and management of Africa’s natural resources: Strategic approaches and opportunities

Green Economy and Natural Resources Section
Special Initiatives Division

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Outline

1. Background
2. Strategic focus and approaches
3. Priority areas of policy research and knowledge generation
4. Furthering GENRS’ work - risks and opportunities
5. The road ahead
1. Background

GENRS- established in 2013 within SI D– ECA restructuring

Objective:

To contribute to the body of knowledge and enhance understanding on the implications of the inclusive green economy paradigm for Africa’s transformational agenda

Intent:

Informing the formulation and implementation of policies to achieve a green transformation and realize optimal benefits from Africa’s natural resources and related sectors
Background...

GENRS conceptualization of IGE draws broadly on the “Future We Want”
Outcomes in all three dimensions of sustainable development

- Sustained economic growth
- Improved human well-being and social equity
- Enhanced natural resource-use efficiency, and ecosystems resilience
2. Strategic focus and approaches

- Contextualized within Africa’s structural transformation agenda

- Approaches:
  - Step-wise approach- promoting IGG in key sectors of the economy- draw good practices and lessons
  - Leveraging the catalyzing and stabilizing role of enablers
  - Promoting integrated policy approaches
  - Generating and disseminating knowledge products and capacity building
3. Priority areas of work

- Examining the implications of the transition for Africa’s transformation
- Leveraging opportunities for inclusive green growth - in key sectors
- Analyzing enablers of the transition in the context of Africa
- Promoting planning tools and methodologies to support integrated policy making and assessments
- Fostering natural resource use efficiency
4. Furthering GENRS’ work - Risks

- Inadequate understanding of the concept
  - Relatively new concept- pace of appreciation and buy-in

- Political economy of the green economy
  - Not only a technical issue of design and implementation but also a political choice- level of engagement

- Capacity issues
  - Institutional and technical capacity challenges, and financial and human resource implications
Furthering GENRS’ work - opportunities

- **ECA’s mandate on inclusive green economy**-
  - clear mandate at global and regional levels
  - Commitments by member States and partnerships-
    - Regional platforms - AGEP
  - **ECA’s strategic focus** -
    - linking inclusive green economy and structural transformation
- **Emerging opportunities for engagement**-
  - supporting the development and implementation of policies
- **Research, knowledge generation and knowledge platforms** -
  - **ECA’s focus on policy relevant research**

*United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*
5. The road ahead

- Support consolidation and innovation in policy design and implementation
  - Deepen policy research and evidence
  - Deepen engagement with member States
  - Enhance integrated analysis

- Strengthen/promote partnerships and coordination
  - Identify actors, comparative advantages, value addition, common goals and strategies- coordination and collaboration

- Facilitate knowledge networking and exchange, and capacity building
  - Support learning and knowledge dissemination
Thank You