

# Mozambique emerges as a Green Economy at Rio+20

21<sup>st</sup> of June 2012, Rio de Janeiro

## GREEN ECONOMY FOR INER-GENERATIONAL EQUITY

Against the backdrop of a weak Rio+20 declaration, recognizing the fundamental value of Natural Capital, Mozambique emerged as a courageous leader for the transition to a sustainable, efficient and equitable future.

H.E. Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique officially launched the country's Green Economy Roadmap on the 21st of June during a High Level Side Event at the Rio Conventions Pavilion in Rio de Janeiro during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as Rio+20. H.E. President of the Republic stated that this "is the future that we Mozambicans want," referring to the vision laid out in the Roadmap. This will allow Mozambique to become "an inclusive, middle-income country by 2030, based on the protection, restoration and rational use of natural capital and ecosystem services, to guarantee inclusive and efficient sustainable development, within planetary limits". The President emphasized that working together "to save the earth and its biodiversity is an imperative. It is an ethical duty, a moral obligation."

H.E. Alcinda Antonio de Abreu, Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs thanked "WWF and the African Development Bank for their financial and technical support, which concretely demonstrates their commitment to move forward together with us through to 2030, to realize our dream for a greener, ever-more beautiful and prosperous country".

During a Natural Capital Partnerships side event held at Rio+20 on the 19th of June, H.E. Aiuba Cuereneia, Minister for Planning and Development emphasized that the transition to a Green Economy requires that both "new and renewable resources be exploited sustainably and according to the best available practices". The Minister equally highlighted the vital

importance of ensuring the integration of "natural capital accounting in planning processes" for the Green Economy model to become effective.

Representatives from countries all over the world came together at Rio+20, to discuss how to avert further destruction of environmental resources and ensure equitable sustainable development. The Conference took place in the context of increasingly dangerous global threats such as rising human population, from 1 billion in 1900 to over 7 billion in 2012, degradation of over 60% of the world's ecosystems, climate change, and human natural resource consumption levels 50% higher than the earth can replenish. These combined factors have resulted in deepening public ecological debt. In the words of Pavan Sukhdev, Founder-CEO of GIST Advisory and earlier Special Adviser and Head of UNEP's Green Economy Initiative, "we are now consuming nature's capital, not its interest". Effectively we are fast consuming the last remaining assets in our natural capital savings accounts.

The prevalent economic model is threatening our ecological provisioning and support infrastructure, the basis of our human economies. According to Sukhdev, the unaccounted costs to society of "business as usual", are an estimated US\$ 4 Trillion, or 7% of GDP, every year.

Recognizing the need to transform our economies to become more sustainable and equitable, in April 2012 the Government of Mozambique stepped forward to host a sub-regional conference on Green Economy in collaboration with the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania. The experiences exchanged and momentum gained from the conference led the three countries to announce their intention to move towards a Green Economy on the 19th of June during a Natural Capital Partnerships Side Event held at Rio+20 in



"This is the future that we Mozambicans want"

*H.E. Armando Emilio Guebuza,  
President of the Republic of  
Mozambique*

### KEY SPEAKERS



H.E. Armando Emilio Guebuza,  
President of the  
Republic of  
Mozambique



H.E. Alcinda Antonio de Abreu,  
Minister for the  
Coordination of  
Environmental  
Affairs



Dr. Donald Kaberuka,  
President of the  
African  
Development Bank



Jim Leape,  
Director General,  
WWF



Photo credits: Mr. Joel Sheakoski

the Rio Conventions Pavilion. During the side event, H.E. Terezya Huvisa, Minister of State in the Vice President's Office of the Environment in Tanzania, stated that her Government looks forward to developing their national Green Economy Roadmap in the immediate future.

After the Maputo sub-regional Green Economy Conference, the Government of Mozambique, lead by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry for Planning and Development, concentrated efforts to prepare a national Green Economy Roadmap. The Roadmap was approved by the Council of Ministers on the 6th of June 2012.

Individual citizens and local communities, especially those most vulnerable to climate change and economic shocks, face serious challenges to gain adequate access to water, energy, food and their fair share of profits from the use of public goods. In recognition of these facts, the Green Economy model promotes equitable, efficient and sustainable exploitation of natural resources for all citizens – for both today and tomorrow's children. Unlike the predominant global economic model, the Green Economy approach can bolster equitable economic green growth, promoting access to dignified green employment, while protecting and restoring our lands, forests and fisheries.

The President of the Republic of Mozambique officially launched the Green Economy Roadmap at Rio+20 in the presence of senior members from the Government including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Planning and Development, Agriculture, and Mineral Resources. Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank and Jim Leape, Director General of WWF, participated in the launch ceremony and announced their commitment to support Mozambique for implementation of the Roadmap. Other senior dignitaries at the event included delegates from the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia, and senior representatives from the African Development Bank, WWF, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Global Environmental Facility.

During the launch event, H.E. Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs of Mozambique also recognised the importance of the collaboration with Kenya and Tanzania on the sub-regional initiative to promote the Green Economy. Working across political and administrative boundaries is a prerequisite for success of the Green Economy model.

The Master of Ceremonies for the launch event, Antonio Saide, Director of New and Renewable Energy of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Mozambique, highlighted three pillars central to Mozambique's Green Economy success, namely sustainable infrastructure; sustainable and efficient use of natural capital; and livelihoods resilience and adaptive capacity.

Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank, lauded the President of the Republic's outstanding leadership and visionary thinking, noting Mozambique has joined the ranks of countries that are "redefining the growth process from an African perspective". Jim Leape, Director General of WWF, also applauded the President of the Republic's leadership and noted that commitment to integrate natural capital into national planning and policy was exactly the kind of result expected of Rio+20.

The Green Economy Roadmap envisages the integration of natural capital planning and adaptation of national accounts to ensure Sustainable GDP within the Government's next Five-Year Plan, from 2015 to 2020. Natural capital mapping, characterization and quantification, along with many other technical and human resource capacity building investments will be undertaken to facilitate the transition to the Green Economy model.

The Ministries of Planning and Development, Finance and Environment are fundamental to the transition to a Green Economy. Only by collaborating together can natural capital be comprehensively integrated in national planning and national accounts. It is not an issue to be addressed by the environmental sector alone. The challenge involves all actors in the economy, especially those that define the economic rules, performance measurement indicators and planning procedures.

The Roadmap clearly specifies that the implementation process should be participatory and inclusive. A first step in this regard, planned for the remainder of 2012, is the establishment of a Green Economy consultative platform. The consultative platform will be composed of private sector, civil-society, Government, donors, research institutions and UN agencies to guarantee participative decision-making to guide the design of a Green Economy Implementation Framework and Green Growth Plan from District, Provincial to National levels. In the same context the Roadmap specifies that public awareness raising must precede and support all consultation processes.

Article 74 of the Rio+20 Declaration, The Future we Want, recognises that countries adopting Green Economy should be supported. The African Development Bank and WWF demonstrated their commitment as partners to support Mozambique as it embarks on the implementation of its Green Economy Roadmap – additional partners, technical and financial, will be fundamental for success.

To maintain momentum, the upcoming Summit of the African Union in Addis Ababa from 9-16 July 2012, under the theme of 'Boosting Inter-African Trade', presents a unique window of opportunity to adapt and drive the Green Economy transition forward at a continental level, while responding to national priorities and interests.

In the words of Sukhdev "you cannot manage what you do not measure". We know that planetary limits have been exceeded and thus significant changes to current economic systems are needed. A Green Economy model must replace unsustainable "business as usual", ensuring that companies reduce and eliminate damaging environmental practices, putting public benefits before private profits. Finally the transition to a Green Economy must be equitable: the world needs new and increased investments while honouring existing sustainable development commitments, fair conditions for competition, and new inclusive green growth regulations that secure intergenerational equity for all. Decisively, H.E. President of the Republic of Mozambique eloquently noted that to achieve inter-generationally equitable sustainable development, green growth must become the "common currency of international politics" and that in this global endeavour "no country can succeed alone".

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