



Towards Green Economies – scalable solutions for people and our planet

CONCEPT NOTE

The Green Economy Perspective

Our world faces two epoch defining issues - persistent poverty and environmental degradation. These two issues are so intimately related that on scrutiny they in fact merge into one - both being the inexorable result of adopting a highly lopsided economic system. Over the past couple of centuries, this system has given the appearance of great success, but the weakness of its foundations has now become evident to all. There is growing international concern about the economic roots of environmental destruction and their costs, such as climate change, species loss and ecosystem destruction.

As economies strive to work their way out of the global slowdown, we are presented with a unique opportunity to re-orient the economic compass to initiate change at a scale that matches the extent and rate at which our planet has been ravaged and people impoverished.

The new path, which will take us to a sustainable future that provides wellbeing and fulfilment for all must focus much more on the eliminating poverty and regenerating the environment. This means creating green jobs and sustainable livelihoods, strengthening social capital, empowering citizens, reducing our carbon footprint, reversing the loss of biodiversity and reviving the health of our ecosystems, i.e., creating the **Green Economy**.

An efficient, fair and environmentally sustainable society is the basis of a Green Economy. It is key to lifting millions out of poverty by nurturing and enhancing the productivity of human, natural and financial resources leading to the creation of livelihoods on a large scale.

A Green Economy does not degrade the environment; rather it helps regenerate it in ways that contribute to poverty alleviation in the short run and to sustainable and equitable development in the long run.

Its purpose is to not only produce goods and services that people need and to enhance the purchasing power with which they can buy these but, also to simultaneously secure access to the myriad ecosystem goods and services upon which the poor depend. What is more, it is the surest way to enable our children and their children, decent, meaningful and secure lives.

The **Global Green New Deal** concept, emerging from the current financial crisis, highlights vast, yet previously unnoticed opportunities for investing in sectors that are good for both development and environment, such as conservation, renewable energy and clean transport. These investments can serve the triple purpose of reviving the economy, regenerating the environment and setting development onto a more sustainable path.

The idea of re-orienting the whole economy towards environmental, social and economic sustainability has recently gained momentum. This has been spurred on by growing international concern with the economic roots of environmental destruction and more recently, the need to stimulate growth and prevent large-scale unemployment.



The TARAGram YATRA

TARAGram YATRA is an annual event organised by **Development Alternatives** and its partners to deliberate on germane issues of sustainability. The Yatra – *a journey or pilgrimage that one takes with friends and colleagues to attain higher goals*, brings together top-level practitioners and policy makers from across the world. With a mix of dialogue and field visits, the Yatra provides a platform for exchanging cutting-edge ideas on how to realise a sustainable future. The event provides leads for follow-up on policies and action at the local, national and global levels.

Focus 2010

This year's focus, ***"Towards Green Economies – scalable solutions for people and our planet"***, cuts right to the heart of contemporary public dialogue and resonates through every feature of DA's efforts to promote and facilitate sustainable human development for the poor and the underprivileged.

The **TARAGram YATRA** dialogue promises to be a milestone in a series of global multi-stakeholder consultation processes leading up to Rio+20. The dialogue is being organised by **Development Alternatives** in partnership with the **Green Economy Coalition (GEC)**, the **Ring Alliance of Policy Research Organisations**, the **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** and the **Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML)**. The Yatra will aim to build consensus amongst key stakeholders on prioritised and sequenced issues in the transition to sustainability. It will communicate strategies and solutions that address sustainability challenges to policy audiences on a global platform.

The Yatra's primary focus will be on **Green Investment and Policy Imperatives**. It recognises that creation of a green backbone that can support emerging economies will need large injections of capital, a vital prerequisite for sustainability and scalability. Green investing is not just an ethical issue but also a potentially crucial economic influence. As UNEP and ILO (2008) point out:

"Little progress is being made in generating sufficient investment in those developing countries where the benefits of clean development are most needed and where employment losses from not tackling the environmental crises are likely to be very serious."

Strategic insights emerging from the TARAGram YATRA will address the issue of building our nations' capacities to secure livelihoods and community prosperity while reducing our carbon footprint and improving the health of ecosystems. Its outputs will aim to influence government policy, corporate investment and civil society action that contribute coherently to the identified strategies.

Yatra 2010 recognises that in addition to green investment, the achievement of green growth requires the widespread adoption of green technology, the evolution of green markets and a workforce armed with skills to take up green jobs. Only when these are in tandem can the future of the planet and its peoples be secured.

Outputs

The primary outputs of TARAGram YATRA 2010 will be:

- A clearer and wider understanding of Green Economy issues and solutions
- A Declaration of key messages emerging from the event
- A concise document on critical green economy issues and practical solutions for the public and media
- Thematic documents on green jobs, green investments, and adaptation for livelihood security relevant to practitioners and policy makers
- An interactive website that enables stakeholders to
 - disseminate knowledge products and case studies
 - take follow-up action



Structure

TARAGram YATRA 2010 will take place at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi and at the DA Group Resource Centre at TARAGram, Bundelkhand in Central India over five days, consisting of:

- Inaugural session in New Delhi - half day
- Working sessions at TARAGram and field visits - three days
- Plenary and Valedictory sessions in New Delhi - one day

The sessions at TARAGram will concentrate on "discussion and design" of path breaking approaches; those at New Delhi will focus more on wider "consultation and communication" with a national and global audience.

Participants

The Yatra will include participants from national, state and local governments, businesses and financial institutions, academic and research organisations, civil society and international agencies. The broad mix of interests and expertise is designed to encourage generation of new ideas and innovative solutions, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience.





TARAGram YATRA 2010 will unfold as follows:

Friday, 17 September 2010 (New Delhi)

Inaugural Session

Keynote Address by Dr. Ashok Khosla

Chairman, Development Alternatives,
President, International Union for Conservation of Nature and
President, Club of Rome

Overview Presentations

- Immediate global challenges of poverty reduction and environmental regeneration
- Low carbon pathways to create sustainable livelihoods on a global scale

Panel discussion and audience interaction

Saturday, 18 - Monday, 20 September 2010 (Orchha, Madhya Pradesh)

TARAGram YATRA 2010

A journey into Bundelkhand, the rural heartland of India, combining first hand exposure to the challenges of poverty and environmental degradation with real life stories of change and cutting-edge discourse on alternative pathways to sustainable development

Introductory Session

Overview

Working Sessions

I Green Growth: Priority Sectors for Large Scale Impact

Sectoral Overviews highlighting global trends, major gaps, best practice, key influencing factors and high potential opportunities in

- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Construction
- Water Management
- Waste Recycling
- Sustainable Agriculture

Walk through TARAGram

Field visits to habitat, energy, water, information services and local institution building initiatives



II Building Blocks for Green Growth

Presentations with systemic analyses highlighting global trends, stress points, path-breaking initiatives and scalable models in the development of

- Technology
- Skills
- Institutions, and
- Markets

Thematic presentation and panel discussion on Green Jobs

III Strategic Imperatives and Practical Solutions

Group work on priority goals, key capacity building tasks and immediate actions at the global level in BRIC nations and in Least Developed Countries to promote sustainable technologies, education and vocational training, social empowerment and green business models

**Thematic presentation and panel discussion on
Adaptation for Livelihood Security**

IV Stimulating Inclusive Growth: Green Investment as a Key Driver

Presentations on the macro-environment for Green Investment highlighting existing mechanisms, major opportunities and principal barriers.

Discussion on breakthrough initiatives to support green entrepreneurship and game-changing possibilities for investment in high potential sectors

V Agenda for Stakeholder Action: Policy as a Key Enabler

Group work on policy orientation required to create enabling frameworks for green growth and new mandates for the state, private sector, financial institutions and civil society

Drafting of the TARAGram Declaration 2010

Tuesday, 21 September 2010 (New Delhi)

TARAGram YATRA 2010 Revealed

Plenary Session I : Yatra 2010 Revealed

Plenary Session II : Green Investment for Inclusive Growth

Plenary Session III : Policy Imperatives for Greening of Economies

Call for Action : Valedictory Session

Presentation of the "TARAGram Declaration 2010"

Address by Chief Guest

Passing the baton to Youth for Change

Student Projects on "Women and Climate Change in Bundelkhand" and other displays



The Organisers

Development Alternatives

Established in 1982, Development Alternatives innovates and delivers eco-solutions for poverty reductions and environment regeneration. It also influences and spearheads major policy changes that look at sustainable development issues and empowerment of the marginalised.

Website: www.devalt.org

Organising Partners

The Green Economy Coalition (GEC)

The Green Economy Coalition was founded in March 2009 in Switzerland and consists of members from the environment, development, business, labour and consumer sectors. It is hosted by IIED. Their focus is on the policy changes needed to transform the global economy into one that is clean, green and equitable.

Website: www.greeneconomycoalition.org

The RING Alliance for Policy Research Institutions

The Ring is an alliance of 13 policy research organisations promoting sustainable development through research, dissemination and policy advocacy. Founded in 1991, the goal of the Ring is to improve policy processes, and to increase the regional and local impact of organisations working on sustainable development issues.

Website: www.ring-alliance.org

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

IIED is an independent international research organisation working with some of the world's most vulnerable people to ensure that they have a say in policy arenas. Their mission is to build a fairer, more sustainable world, using evidence, action and influence in partnership with others.

Website: www.iied.org

The Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML)

NMML established in the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 - 1964) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture of the Government of India. Located in the majestic Teen Murti House, the official residence of the first Prime Minister of India, it has four major constituents namely, a Memorial Museum, a Library on modern India, a Centre for Contemporary Studies and a Planetarium.

Website: www.nehrumemorial.com

For further information, registration and sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

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