UNVEILNG A GREEN ECONOMY IN MYANMAR

WWF's Green Economy Programme in Myanmar 2018-2021

A GREEN ECONOMY IN MYANMAR
WHERE WE ARE

The foundations for a green economy – that will support people, nature and economic development in Myanmar - have been laid. WWF has played an instrumental role in highlighting natural capital values through Myanmar's first natural capital assessment, identifying green economy investments through the development of Myanmar's Green Economy Policy Framework, and developing initial policies for sustainable economic development in Myanmar. WWF is now positioned to raise green economy to the next stage, at the policy level as well as in our priority landscapes.

Our vision is to see the true values of Myanmar's nature acknowledged and reflected in government policies, commercial investments, and smallholder development - resulting in sustainable development that 'bends the curve' for biodiversity, forests, rivers, and mangroves, and makes Myanmar a more climate resilient country. We want to see a future where Myanmar's intact forests are conserved and degraded areas are restored, where wildlife increase in numbers, and where people's livelihoods are better and their benefits from nature secured.

With WWF's support, Myanmar has taken initial steps towards a green economy that values nature and supports people.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

First national assessment of Myanmar's Natural Capital

Power Sector vision and renewable energy potential assessment shows renewable energy opportunity

Government commits to a sustainable rubber supply chain with a zero-deforestation approach

National Environmental Policy framed around the value of natural capital

Government's Green Economy Policy Framework, developed with WWF's support, provides guidance on green investments

Our approach is to work with government, civil society and the private sector to help assess and recognize the value of nature and the benefits that it provides to people, and to promote policies, investments and conservation measures that enhance this value.

To reach our vision for success we need additional funding to support this important work. From small beginnings and a period of political uncertainty we have come a long way in advancing a green economy in Myanmar, and we must now build on this progress.

WWF'S GREEN ECONOMY APPROACH

DEMONSTRATING LINKS BETWEEN NATURE, PEOPLE, AND THE ECONOMY

A fundamental problem with development around the world is a lack of understanding of the true value of nature, the benefits it provides, and the costs associated with environmental degradation. Consequently, natural resources are being rapidly depleted to drive unsustainable economic growth. Traditionally a country's development success has been measured almost solely in economic terms. Nature, and the benefits it provides have not been included. But nature and the economy are co-dependent and entwined. When nature is accurately valued, protected, and enhanced, it underpins a thriving economy that supports people and nature.

It is possible to conserve nature while benefitting from economic development. This is the balance that WWF's work on Green Economy in Myanmar is striving towards.

Our mission is to conserve Myanmar's natural capital — its forests, rivers, land and biodiversity, by increasing the understanding of and sustaining the value of nature and the benefits it provides to people and the economy. Both public and private investments should contribute to enhancing nature's ability to protect people from climate change, provide benefits such as clean water, food and energy, and provide habitat for Myanmar's incredible biodiversity.

Our approach builds on a combination of top-down influence (advocacy at policy level), and bottom-up development (working with important stakeholders in our landscapes). This approach allows us to achieve system changes that will support conservation efforts on the ground, while at the same time demonstrate how natural capital information can be used directly in our priority landscapes, how regional and ethnic actors can drive a green economy at the field level, and how changes in agriculture (rubber), energy, and infrastructure sectors can lead to more sustainable outcomes on the ground.

Nat cap mapping and accounting

Land use planning

NATURAL CAPITAL

GEPF, EMF, ESG

KNU economic policy

GREEN INVESTMENTS

Policy and master plan

Dawei road, solar villages, rubber

RUBBER, ENERGY, MANUFACTURING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Myanmar can become one of the region's leading green economies.

THE FUTURE

OF THE GREEN ECONOMY PROGRAMME IN MYANMAR

With the support of government, private sector, civil society, and international partners, Myanmar can become one of the region's leading green economies. It has already shown considerably more foresight than many more-advanced economies. It can be a country where the true value of nature is fully represented in the implementation of its development policies and actions. And where incentives, support and best practice create a magnet for sustainable investment – especially in sectors such as renewable energy, infrastructure, manufacturing and rubber, which are high impact and high growth sectors.

Government and ethnic groups need support to create an enabling environment for investments and economic development that enhance and protect natural capital, create jobs, and increase access to green technology and green finance for businesses, villagers, farmers, and entrepreneurs – all to support a green economy in Myanmar.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

This concept note focuses on funding covering the areas of:

- Natural capital
- Green investments
- Sustainable infrastructure

We will build on the foundations laid during the first four years of the green economy programme, with an aim to improve and increase the use of natural capital information, raise green investments, and see sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, energy and manufacturing become more sustainable. Our objectives and desired outcomes are as follows:

NATURAL CAPITAL

NATURAL CAPITAL MAPPING INFORMS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND FRAME KEY POLICIES

ACTIVITIES

National natural capital assessment is updated and expanded to inform development planning at the national level, including infrastructure development, agricultural expansion, and energy planning

Value of natural capital is included in key policies ensuring sustainable investments and a safeguarded environment

Natural assets (forests, water, energy, land, biodiversity) are included in national accounting systems and statistical systems

NATURAL CAPITAL INFORMATION INFORMS LANDSCAPE PLANS AND INVESTMENTS

Generating information about natural capital to inform spatial planning in the landscape and corridor levels

OUTCOMES

•	National land use planning secures areas important for ecosystem services and biodiversity

•	Key development plans and sectoral policies are framed by natural capital values

•	Information about the links between the economy and environment in Myanmar is used as a basis for economic decision making and planning, including budget allocations, ensuring more sustainable public and private investments and spending

•	Land use planning at regional/ state and landscape levels include information on ecosystem services and biodiversity which in turn ensures protection of these areas and species

GREEN INVESTMENTS

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INVESTMENTS IN FORESTS AND FRESHWATER

ACTIVITIES

Develop natural resource management priorities and plans that include regulations that will inform development and investment planning in Myanmar, with a focus on high impact sectors

Support the government in setting up their national Environmental Management Fund to secure sustainable financing for environmental management in Myanmar (design, setup and potential fundraising for transition fund)

Support the government in designing their GEF 7 programme – supporting the protection of important forest areas in Myanmar and ensuring a roll out of the landscape approach

OUTCOMES

• development and investment decisions based on natural capital and social priorities

• an enabling environment that makes Myanmar a haven for sustainable investments

• national fund supporting conservation in Myanmar ensures sustainable public financing

• GEF 7 funds are used to leverage other funding to support conservation in Myanmar and implementation of agreed national policies and plans

ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT ACHIEVEMENT OF AGENDA 2030 AND THE SDG'S AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Impact of investments are measured against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially ecosystem and biodiversity related targets and indicators. It will also be measured against other commitments, such as Myanmar's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) as well as organize data in a way so that impacts and dependencies between the economy and the environment are better understood

GREEN INVESTMENTS SUPPORT A LANDSCAPE APPROACH IN THE DTL

Economic development plan prioritizes sectors that bring economic, social and environmental benefits.

OUTCOMES

• Increased investments into sectors identified in the Green Economy Policy Framework

• Development and investment decisions based on social, environmental and economic benefits

• KNU and Tanintharyi regional government promote investments in line with a green economy approach, and makes these areas attractive for sustainable tourism, energy and rubber investments.

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

IMPROVING NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND DESIGN TO ENSURE FOREST CONSERVATION AND CONNECTIVITY

ACTIVITIES

Information on natural capital and climate change informs plans on infrastructure corridors and planning, protecting critical forest, watershed and biodiversity areas.

Information on natural capital and climate change informs plans on and design of The Belt and Road corridors and, protecting critical forest, watershed and biodiversity areas.

DAWEI ROAD BECOMES A LEADING SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE EXAMPLE

Mitigation measures to manage wildlife and forest impacts from the Dawei road are designed and successfully implemented, securing the critical corridor linking the important transboundary landscape between Myanmar and Thailand.

Note: rubber, energy and manufacturing are already covered through other funding sources

OUTCOMES

•   Areas important for ecosystem services and biodiversity are avoided and protected from infrastructure development and its impacts

•   Areas important for ecosystem services and biodiversity are avoided and protected from the One Belt One Road Initiative

•   Mitigation measures for wildlife and forests implemented in at least three of the important crossing sites.

total funding needed 2018-2021

$2.5 million

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