

The Green Growth Platform:

Inspiring a **Green**
Approach to
Development



UONGOZI Institute

Institute of African Leadership for
Sustainable Development



Background

Economic growth is essential for Africa's development, but, to be sustainable and inclusive, this growth must not compromise human well-being, social equity or the environment.

In Tanzania, and in Africa generally, there is growing awareness that the economy and environment cannot be viewed and treated as two separate domains in policy and practice. Rather, both are intrinsic to human existence and will need to be managed in parallel.

A new approach to economic growth is necessary that integrates human welfare and environmental sustainability by decoupling growth from social inequity and the over-exploitation of natural resources.

Increasingly, green growth is being seen as the new approach for sustainable future growth in Africa.



What is Green Growth?

- Green growth refers to economic development and job creation that is either compatible with, or driven by, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved efficiencies in the use of natural resources, and the protection of ecosystems.
- Green growth is about understanding the environmental and social implications of development, harnessing opportunities and linkages in service provision, expanding and strengthening value chains, reducing social disparities, meeting day-to-day demands, and alleviating poverty.
- Green growth actively resists the consequences of unsustainable human activities and promotes sustainable alternatives, both nationally and internationally.



Pursuing a Green Growth Strategy

Ecosystems cut across administrative and other societal boundaries. Therefore, pursuing a green growth strategy requires the active involvement of all sectors of society. This requires sufficient social capital.

A multi-stakeholder approach is needed that mobilizes leaders in the government, the private sector and civil society. Key stakeholders must buy into the green growth vision and strategy, and must understand their responsibilities towards implementation.

To promote a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities of green growth and to build capacities to take action, the UONGOZI Institute established the Green Growth Platform.



Centre: The patron of the Green Growth Platform, H.E. Mohamed Gharib Bilal at the inaugural GGP meeting. Left: Professor Joseph Semboja, CEO of UONGOZI Institute. Right: Hon. Dr. Christine Ishengoma, Regional Commissioner for Iringa at the launch of the GGP on 8 May, 2012

The Green Growth Platform

The Green Growth Platform (GGP) is a proactive tool for building long-term social capital. By facilitating dialogue and relations among groups and individuals across the different sectors of society, the GGP will help to build the social capital to make green growth possible.

The GGP will bring together representatives from different sectors of society—civil servants, politicians, non-government organizations, the private sector and the media. Participants in GGP events will gain knowledge and information on the possibilities of different sectors to contribute to sustainable development and will be able to forge new cross-sectoral contacts with persons who share common goals and face similar challenges.

The GGP will encourage participants to meet as individuals rather than as representatives of their particular institutions or organizations. Through a diverse range of interactive activities, participants will be encouraged to open their minds to innovative solutions to green growth challenges.



Participants of the first Decision Makers Forest Academy during their visit to the Matembwe Tree Growers' Association (UWAMIMA) plantations.

The GGP will work to increase decision makers' and opinion leaders' understanding of issues related to green growth and its potential for societal development ¹. Stakeholders will be supported to make informed decisions that: i) promote economic growth that is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive; and ii) encourage adaption of current socio-economic activities to environmental changes. In doing so, the GGP will promote indigenous solutions to social and environmental challenges, and the development and use of socially-inclusive technologies and practices.

¹ GGP events will focus on three thematic areas:

- Sustainable infrastructure, for example, through improving access to renewable/low-carbon energy and energy efficiency, developing sustainable transport systems, and planning sustainable settlements and cities.
- Efficient/sustainable management of natural assets, including land (agriculture, forests, and other land uses), water resources, minerals, biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Resilient livelihoods, which emphasises efforts to help avoid the loss of lives, productive assets and incomes through climate change.

Commitment from the grassroots level to the continent

Over the short and medium terms, the GGP will work at local and national levels. The GGP is committed to key decision makers and opinion leaders throughout Tanzania. Sustained efforts will be required to demonstrate sensitivity and awareness of the issues of sustainable development at the grassroots level so as to build the traction and reputation to elevate the GGP to become a regionally and continentally significant forum.

Over the long-term, we envisage the GGP will be the flagship platform for promoting green growth in Africa, one that not only encourages networking and dialogue among leaders across Africa but also provides a forum for showcasing potential solutions and successful interventions for achieving sustainable, socially-inclusive growth.

We would like to hear from you

Please contact us for further information on our programmes, to register for our information service on leadership for sustainable development, and to obtain more detail on our Green Growth Platform.

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