



**Government of Botswana  
UNDP - UNEP**



## **Poverty-Environment Initiative**

in cooperation with



**International Institute for Environment and Development  
London, UK**

## **Workshop on Green Economy**

**September 7-8, 2011  
Gaborone, Botswana**

## **WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS**



## Contents

	Page
Preface	ii
Proceedings	
Session 1: Official opening, introduction and key note presentations on Green Economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the preparations for the Rio+20 conference	1
Session 2: Facilitated exchange of ideas and experiences with the concept of green economy, the key issues for Botswana and their relevance to sustainable development within the context of Rio+20	14
Session3: Continued exchange on Green Economy issues of relevance to Botswana and the Rio+20 process and way forward (presentation and facilitated discussion)	17
Annexes	
Annex 1: Workshop programme	22
Annex 2: Welcome remarks	25
Annex 3: Official opening	27
Annex 4: Closing remarks	32
Annex 5: Participants' list	34

## Preface

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (UNDP/UNEP Poverty - Environment Initiative (PEI) and the Ministry of Environment Wildlife and Tourism in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) organised a Workshop on Green Economy on September 7-8, 2011 in Gaborone, Botswana.

The workshop was jointly funded by UNDP-UNEP PEI and IIED and registered over 60 participants. It brought together government officials, civil society organisations, private sector representatives and key resource persons with a variety of interests in pursuing and promoting poverty eradication, pro-poor economic growth, environmental management, and sustainable development.

The main focus of the workshop was on the concept of Green Economy. Next year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, twenty years after the watershed Earth Summit in Rio (1992), world leaders are expected to take stock on achievements and move forward looking at Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, and at the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development as the two main themes of the UNCSD Rio+20 conference (June 4-6, 2012).

Participants discussed the linkages between the economy and such environmental / natural resource management sectors as agriculture, tourism, water and energy on the one hand and the opportunities within the sectors to alleviate poverty through decent green jobs. The meeting put together an initial 10-point vision of what a green economy in Botswana would entail. However, it also discussed the need to interrogate our current development paradigm and consider a shift towards a more people-oriented sustainable and inclusive development pathway.

These and other observations will be put together into an issues paper which will serve as input into Botswana's submission to the UNCSD process and 'road to Rio'; the latter process will culminate in a draft outcome document which will be negotiated by the UN member states, major groups and observers before being tabled in Rio. UNCSD Rio+20 is expected to provide additional guidance and commitment to the pursuance of sustainable development worldwide with a specific focus on the economics of sustainable development, poverty eradication, institutional structures and the metrics of monitoring and evaluation of real implementation.

At a national level, the workshop concluded that it is necessary to scope out the ways in which the country could transition to a green economy, identify kick start win-win options and further elaborate on the opportunities a Green Economy provides for poverty eradication.

Poverty-Environment Initiative,  
Gaborone, Botswana

September 2011

# Workshop on Green Economy

September 7-8, 2011  
Venue: Grand Palm Hotel  
Gaborone

## Workshop Proceedings

*“Rio+20 is not just about environment. It is also about social development. Rio+20 is a summit about people’s lives and livelihoods and it is a summit about action to create more jobs, better jobs and more green jobs”*

UNCSD Under Secretary-General Zha Zukang

*“We need to get the economics right for sustainable development”*

Deputy Secretary MFDP Mr D Gaseitsiwe

**Session 1: Official opening, introduction and key note presentations on Green Economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the preparations for the Rio+20 conference**

**Session Chair: Ms Rapelang Mojaphoko – Deputy Permanent Secretary (EA) - MEWT**

On welcoming the participants to the workshop, the chair of the session briefly explained that the workshop was organized in order to start the debate on the Green Economy in Botswana. She highlighted that there is a need for an understanding of the concept and what it would mean for Botswana as a country.

### **Welcome and introductions**

**Mr Disikalala Gaseitsiwe – Deputy Secretary Socio- Economic Policy (MFDP)**

The Deputy Secretary for Socio-economic Policy within the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) welcomed the guests and participants to the workshop. He noted that MFDP believed it important to hold the workshop as it would help the Ministry to appreciate the concept, prepare it for the discussions in the run-up to the Rio+20 conference and assist the Ministry in ‘getting the economics right’ for sustainable development. He emphasized the importance of moving from looking at sustainable development only through an environment ‘lens’ to also including an economic one. On wishing the participants fruitful deliberations, the DS urged the workshop participants to address the following issues that are of concern to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP):

1. Sustainable development has remained a challenge over the last two decades, how can we encourage new thinking and move beyond the environment focus and create cross-sector linkages and responsibilities which will deliver on the three pillars of sustainable development?

2. How can a Green Economy, in this world of global economic competition, provide us, in a Middle Income Country (MIC) like Botswana, with opportunities for investment and employment creation (green jobs) and, perhaps more importantly, with opportunities to improve livelihoods and lift people out of poverty?
3. What opportunities exist for the private sector and how can we encourage the business community to invest in a Green Economy?

### **Workshop objectives**

***Ruud Jansen, Chief Technical Advisor- UNDP / UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI), MFD***

The CTA to the PEI also welcomed the participants and outlined four objectives of the workshop as follows:

1. raise awareness and build capacity on the concept of green economy, and the different ways in which it is understood (e.g. as green stimulus to the existing economy, as alleviating environmental problems of economic activity, and/or as greening the purpose of the economy);
2. discuss the relevance, opportunities and challenges of the concept within the context of the Botswana economy, poverty eradication and pro-poor / inclusive growth, and Government's current development paradigm and pathway;
3. scope the potentially desirable components of a green economy in the Botswana context, the main blocks in the way, and the pre-requisites and broad transitions needed including the NSSD experience and prospects, as well as other processes and tools that could be used to support the transition to green economy; and
4. identify and discuss other issues at both national and international level which would need to be further addressed within the context of the Rio+20 preparations and negotiations of the output document, and make recommendations for action and follow-up.

### **Official opening**

***Honourable Kitso Mokaila – Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism***

The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT) Mr Samuel Rathedi, officially opened the workshop on the behalf of the Minister of MEWT, Mr Kitso Mokaila.

He gave a brief background on the sustainable development debates dating back to the June 1972 United Nations Conference on Human Environment which took place in Stockholm, Sweden and the subsequent Summits on Sustainable Development including the Earth Summit of 1992 which produced the Rio Plan of Action, also commonly referred to as Agenda 21, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) of 2002 which resulted in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. He noted that, over time, the discourse of sustainable development has changed from a focus on trade-offs between economics and the environmental goals, to a recognition of the importance of synergy between the two disciplines, to an emphasis on the social pillar. He pointed to this as a reminder that while economic progress often fosters social progress, the link is not automatic; and that ultimately, economic development is a means to improving human wellbeing.

The challenges for achieving a socially-just, environmentally sustainable and poverty eradicating economic development have, however, been significant, and phenomena such as climate change and biodiversity loss make the problem even more complicated. He pointed to the current global patterns of consumption and production as exerting heavy stresses on many ecosystems and critical life supporting systems. While globalization is further increasing the efficacy of networks for international trade, investment and production networks thus bringing tremendous benefits for people in both the

developed and developing countries, extreme poverty persists in many parts of the world, despite the fact that gross domestic product (GDP) has increased by roughly 60% globally since 1992.

The PS pointed out that it is against this background that the concept of green economy has been coined and that despite the lack of a universally-agreed definition or understanding of the concept, the developed countries have forged ahead and highlighted green economy as one of the cornerstones of their foreign policy objectives.

He noted the aims of the Green Economy as follows:

- Regulating consumption behaviour by building a unified economic and financial framework comprising economic policies that are environmentally friendly.
- Investing in alternative growth strategies leading to formulation and adoption of new domestic and international policies, programmes and strategies in order to transform toward new dynamic green activities.
- Requiring new methods of measuring the wealth of individual countries - which will inadvertently lead to a shift from the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an indicator of countries' standard of living to include, among others, environmental health of a given country.
- Implementing a Green investments/clean investments strategy. The strategy entails a reallocation of investments toward green activities. It emphasizes "getting prices right" which includes removing subsidies, valuing natural resources and imposing appropriate taxes on those activities that harm the environment or environmental "bads".
- Investing in new equipment and new technology and restrictions on outdated technologies that increase environmental pollution. Accordingly, technological revolution will require capacity building, new skills and training for adaptation.

The PS cautioned against the imposition of conditionalities on developing countries for aid, debt rescheduling or debt relief and noted that the real dilemma facing nations now is for developed countries to shrink their environmental or carbon footprints as fast and as far as possible while sustaining human development achievements. Similarly, developing countries must continue to raise their peoples' living standards and at the same time contain increases in their environmental footprints, recognizing that poverty eradication remains a priority. He emphasised that Rio+20 will bring an additional perspective to the sustainable development agenda and hopefully will secure a renewed political commitment under the proposed themes. He furthermore noted that green economy does not substitute sustainable development, but rather complements it. Therefore an acceptable output from Rio+20 should present ample flexibility and space to define individual paths towards sustainable development based on different national circumstances and priorities.

The PS noted that Botswana is embarking on a process of preparing a National Strategy for Sustainable Development alongside preparations for Rio+20 and pointed out that the two processes should be mutually enforcing and build synergies towards a blueprint for a sustainable future. In conclusion, the PS expressed his expectations that the landmark workshop would benefit from the work of IIED and would outline the likely impact to Botswana transitioning into a green economy and strengthen Botswana's contribution in the international debate.

## Technical Presentations

### Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development in Botswana

**Steve Monna – Director Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)**

The Director of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Mr. Steve Monna outlined the DEAs efforts to prepare Botswana's National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) and discussed what it would require in order for it to be effective. He noted several milestones in Botswana in pursuing the goal of sustainable development:

- National Development Plans (NDPs) and District Development Plans (DDPs) that have dedicated environmental chapters starting with NDP 7 to date;
- The 1990 Policy on Natural Resource Conservation & Development;
- The 1998 National Conservation Strategy Action Plan;
- Botswana's subscription to Agenda 21 with its 27 principles;
- Botswana's obligations arising out of the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), WSSD, JPOI, and the MDGs.

Mr. Monna noted that the NDP 10 provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the sustainability paradigm to become a reality as it will serve as the vehicle to the attainment of the Botswana's Vision 2016 aspirations, and should thus take full recognition of the role of natural resource in providing for current generations and for posterity. He highlighted that the environment and development paradigm should be seen as a strategic concept that links the population, economy, natural and financial resources in the context of socio-economic development for the long-term, to ensure inter and intra-generational equity. Mr. Monna noted that long-term planning for sustainable development should extend beyond the time horizon of the NDP 10, to consider issues of a long-term nature, and should be based on the following pillars:

- Human resource development;
- Sustainable use of natural resources;
- Sustainable economic and financial growth and diversification; and
- A democratic dispensation and good governance which includes good environmental governance, environmental rights and responsibilities.

According to Mr. Monna, a National Strategy on Sustainable Development (NSSD) provides the way towards a sustainable future. He said that this comprises a coordinated set of participatory and continuously improving processes of analysis, debate (environment & development dialogue), capacity strengthening, planning and investment, which integrates the economic, social and environmental objectives of society, seeking the trade-offs where this is not possible. He noted that this has to be based on a set of principles, which encompass a set of desirable processes and outcomes, which taken together, are likely to help ensure success of strategies for sustainable development. Mr. Monna emphasized that the NSSD requires individual local ownership, effective participation at all levels, and high-level commitment. He concluded that an NSSD points towards convergence and coherence between different planning frameworks, integrated analysis and capacity development and ended by asking the workshop participants to consider what all this means in practice.



## Exploring Green Economy Potentials and Implications

**Steve Bass – International Institute for Environment and Development, London**

Steve Bass from IIED outlined the main components of the concept of a Green Economy (GE), discussing the different ways through which it is being approached, the different demands regarding the concept emerging from developing countries and what its implications are for economic policy. He highlighted that rapid growth of economic activity is eroding natural capital, but that this growth does not include the majority of the world's poor. He noted that while the economy is a top concern for all the countries, the current economic model is not serving the poor or the planet. Mr Bass described the GE as a *means* of achieving sustainable development – getting the economic signals right for Sustainable Development, or as defined by the Green Coalition, “a *fair and resilient* economy, which provides a better quality of life for all, achieved within the *ecological limits* of one planet”. He outlined three approaches to the GE as follows:

1. **FINANCE:** stimulating growth by green investment/technology:
  - G20 2008 finance stimulus. Suits rich countries, big hi-tech business;
  - *But still aimed at GDP/income growth, not wider needs.*
2. **REGULATION:** alleviating the environmental and social problems of growth through green regulations and standards:
  - Many Sustainable Development initiatives over the years. Suits many countries;
  - *But still not mainstream, and problem-focused, not on opportunities.*
3. **VALUES DEBATE:** towards human/ecosystem wellbeing by redefining the purpose of growth and participation in it:
  - Ethical, political and research work ‘beyond GDP’, limits of growth;
  - *But at the margins of major decision-making.*

Mr Bass gave perspectives on the GE from other parts of the world such as India, Brazil, Mali and the Caribbean and summarised them as follows:

1. **Sustainable development** remains the goal – GE must help it, not replace it;
2. **Ecosystem regeneration and resilience** are critical – GE must accelerate investment and economic incentives;
3. **Poverty elimination and jobs** are top needs – GE must empower unrecognised actors;
4. **Economic governance** needs overhauling – with better participation and environmental accountability;
5. ***But GE could be a bad idea – if it led to green conditionality, protectionism, greenwash, elite gains only, low returns or poverty traps...***

He outlined the elements of a green economy as follows:

1. **Investing in natural capital** – recognising and improving its economic/social potentials;
2. **Investing in people** – green economy skills, inclusive growth, eliminating poverty;
3. **Greening high-impact sectors** – food, housing, transport, energy, infrastructure – redirecting innovation & incentives;
4. **Influencing financial flows** – monetising environmental values and future benefits;
5. **Improving (economic) governance** – new measures, targets, rewards, accountability.

Mr Bass argued that if pursued at a global level, the GE can pay off. Green investment of 2% global GDP could:

- Generate growth 2011-2050 as high/higher than Business As Usual;
- Avoid much climate change, environment damage, water scarcity;
- Produce at least as many jobs as ‘brown economy’;



- = \$1.3T p.a., equivalent to 10% of total global investment, or 2x current fossil fuel subsidies;
- 50% globally in renewable energy and 25% in natural resources (UNEP GE report 2011).

However, he emphasised that these are global estimates, and that national green economies will differ and should be defined locally. Pursuing a GE would have implications for the economic policies of each country and changes would have to be made to the way things are done. This would involve a shift in the 'mind sets' of people, how economic growth is pursued and how nature is perceived and used. It is a governance challenge. He suggested the following desirable outcomes from economic governance within the GE context:

1. **Improve the economic case for environment** = higher natural resource revenues, attract (carbon) finance, cost-saving 'green infra', payments for ecosystem services;
2. **Move beyond GDP** = include the environment the system of national accounts;
3. **Empower unrecognised actors** who help in greening economies;
4. **Better accountability of economic actors** – triple bottom line;
5. **More bottom-up decision-making structures** – recognising that elites benefit from the status quo while a majority don't;
6. **Fiscal, competition, regulatory policy to 'tilt the playing field'** towards sustainable practice by business and consumers;
7. **Public budgeting, expenditure and procurement that** stimulate GE activity and capacity development, and avoid natural resource depletion;
8. **Build on National Sustainable Development Strategies** or other integrated initiatives – and share the leadership.

For Botswana, the following question might be important as the GE debate continues:

1. How could incentives be shifted towards a GE?
  - What are the top three bad practices to stop?
  - What are the top three potentials to explore?
2. How can poor people participate in a GE?
3. Is evidence good enough for decisions?
4. Regional/international implications (Rio 2012);
5. Who should lead a GE and how?

## Discussion

First there was the concept of sustainable development; then the challenge of climate change. Now GE has emerged as another idea, but there has not been communication on what progress is being achieved with regards to these and other concepts and challenges and development approaches that have been introduced over time. How is Botswana's environmental performance being monitored? - is there a system in place? Some participants wondered what GE means in the context of Botswana. Others noted a potential confusion with other concepts such as '*blue economy*'. Some participants asked how the current debate builds on or is different from the 1992 Rio debates. It was noted that Botswana needs to clarify for itself how it is going balance economic activities with environmental concerns, and adopt indicators to monitor progress - because natural resources will remain an important part of economic activity and growth for the foreseeable future. Civil; society participants expressed appreciation of comments on the role of communities and noted that there is a need for them to benefit from the debate and action towards achieving the GE. It was also noted that there needs to be recognition of the role of indigenous knowledge in contributing to the GE. Some noted that the development paradigm that Botswana has followed since 1996 has been problematic, and it

is time for Botswana to recognize international commitments that lead to a dignified life, human rights and reduced poverty. Civil society participants also expressed their appreciation of being invited to attend the workshop because the issues discussed were essentially what civil society organisations stand for.

In response to these comments, Mr Bass noted at the 1972 UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm) and the 1992 Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro), the focus was on environment. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, discussions began to address social issues with the realisation that society is at the heart of sustainable development and that everybody needs to play a role in securing progress. Now the Rio+20 summit in 2012 will emphasise the economic dimension and how we need to see the economy in a different way if we are to achieve growth without depleting ecological resources. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has emphasized the rate at which biodiversity is being lost through irresponsible growth. We need to get the economics right for the environment and sustainable development in the context of the current financial crises - responsible investments are needed. The economy still dominates and it is currently disconnected from the environment.

It was noted that Botswana currently does not have performance standards, but through the NSSD it is expected that there will be a system where different sectors will be able to account for their environmental performance. For instance, Botswana already has water accounts systems in place, and this should be applicable to other aspects of the environment. The chairperson noted that the reason for having the workshop was indeed to bring different stakeholders and experts together so they could share their perspectives on how Botswana can arrive at achieving a green economy; and that it is expected that one of the outputs of the workshop would be a position paper that will guide Botswana's discussions in RIO+20. Participants were urged to think about how to ensure that ALL economic development leads to poverty reduction, human rights and environmental justice, highlighting that if we have social and environmental indicators in place, and there is a shift away from GDP measurement standards, then perhaps we can arrive at an economy that produces social and environmental goods.

### **Toward a Sustainable Future - Botswana Clean Energy Economy** **Mpule Kwelagobe – Global Sustainability Manager, New York**

Ms. Kwelagobe started by emphasizing the need for Botswana to develop a comprehensive action plan

to improve its medium-to-long-term capacity to address climate change and respond to critical global and national environmental, security and economic challenges while achieving economic diversification, rapid economic growth and the creation of sustained employment opportunities. She defined the GE, which she termed the 'clean economy' as: *"economic activity—measured in terms of establishments and the jobs associated with them—that produces goods and services with an environmental benefit or adds value to such products using skills or technologies that are uniquely applied to those products"*. In her view, the Clean Economy responds to critical global and national environmental, security and economic challenges, including:

- Rising temperature;
- Negative development;
- Population growth and human welfare;
- Water security;
- Food security.

She argued that a clean economy promotes pro-poor growth through building up natural capital, on which the livelihoods of the poor depends. In a green investment scenario, a percentage of GDP is allocated to greening the energy, manufacturing, transportation, building, waste, agriculture and

water sectors. In this way, both the MDGs and Botswana's Vision 2016 would be achieved. However, an enabling environment would have to be created that promotes business and entrepreneurial development and empowers citizens to pursue green initiatives. Ms. Kwelagobe pointed out the following sectors as opportunities to pursue clean economic activities:

- Tourism;
- Agriculture;
- Green buildings;
- Manufacturing;
- Renewable energy;
- Socially responsible investments;
- Transportation.

She gave the example of the tourism sector which is already a successful economic activity in Botswana. Greening this sector and increasing the involvement of local communities, especially the poor, in the tourism value chain can contribute to the development of local economy and poverty reduction. There is increasing evidence that more sustainable tourism in rural areas can lead to more positive poverty-reducing effects. She highlighted that the clean energy economy generates jobs across five categories:

1. Renewable energy;
2. Energy & resource efficiency;
3. Environmentally friendly production;
4. Conservation and pollution mitigation; and
5. Education and compliance.

Ms. Kwelagobe acknowledged that coal will remain an important source for generating electricity well into the future. So it is likely that end-of-pipe mitigation technologies and carbon capture and sequestration systems (CCSs) will emerge as critical aspects of its use.

Ms. Kwelagobe emphasized the role of government in creating an environment for a GE, noting that before a truly vibrant private-sector growth and scale-up can occur in the clean economy, there must be in place a clear, supportive, and stable policy outline that fosters demand and structures a vibrant domestic market, ensures the availability of adequate finance and promotes innovation. She particularly stressed that the private sector should be empowered to play a leading role in the shift towards greener and cleaner alternatives, but that the success of the private sector in delivering the clean economy will depend on the existence of well structured markets, a favorable investment climate, and a rich stock of cutting-edge technology—all matters shaped to a varying extent by government. She emphasized the importance of investing in research and development (R&D) to support the growth of industry. She suggested the creation of a Clean Economy Authority - a public/private partnership initiative to lead the development of a clean economy.

## **Discussion**

Participants commented that, the tourism sector was often cited as a good example of promoting GE, with potential to scale up visitor numbers. But the government budgeting system needs to start looking beyond the dollar figures and integrate other aspects of a holistic economy, e.g. by including other parameters such as energy use, water use, waste production, etc. Concern was expressed about the quality of participation in the tourism sector, and that information is lacking or inaccessible to others, resulting in lack of innovation in the sector. More scientific research and good data is therefore needed to inform decision-making. Others agreed that there needs to be a dedicated authority to drive and champion the GE initiative, otherwise there will be little progress.

## UNEP Green Economy Initiative

**Cecilia Njenga, - United Nations Environment Programme, RSA**

Ms Njenga defined the GE as one that results in increased human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. She highlighted jobs as one of the important outcomes of pursuing a GE and noted that the GE stimulates growth that exceeds 'business as usual' over time, with the following sectors high on the list of potential drivers for employment:

- **Agriculture** - over the next decade, shifting to sustainable agriculture could increase global employment by as much as 4%;
- **Forests** - forest conservation and reforestation could boost formal employment in this sector by 20% by 2050;
- **Transport** - improved energy efficiency across all transport modes combined with modal shift would increase employment by about 10% above business-as-usual by 2050;
- **Energy** - expansion of renewables and investments in energy efficiency could generate employment that is 20% higher than business as usual by 2050.

Ms. Njenga highlighted the challenges that face Africa today, noting that even though economic growth has been rapid, it has not been inclusive and unemployment and underemployment remain particularly high.

She therefore argued Africa should follow three pathways:

- Expanding investments to enhance natural capital;
- Greening industrialization;
- Creating the policy enabling conditions.

There must, however, be enabling conditions in place to take advantage of opportunities that exist in sectors such as clean energy production and organic agriculture that Africa has the potential to lead in. She argued that *innovative and imaginative public policies* will be vital to generate enabling conditions that, in turn, can unleash markets and direct private sector investments into a GE transition. These include:

- *Sound regulatory frameworks*, a prioritizing of government spending and procurement in areas that stimulate green economic sectors and limits on spending that deplete natural capital;
- *Removing subsidies* could save 1-2% of global GDP a year, open fiscal space and makes room for public and private investment for a green economy transition;
- *Taxation and smart market mechanisms* that shift consumer spending and promote green innovation;
- Public investments in *capacity building and training*, alongside a strengthening of international governance.

In the context of Rio+20, Ms. Njenga informed the workshop participants that UNEP is playing a key role in providing technical support and advisory services to countries seeking to make a transition to a GE and that the Africa Regional Preparatory Process is as follows:

- Regional preparatory meeting : 20-25 October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (expert and ministerial segments);
- Preparatory Committee involving ECA, AfDB, AUC, UNEP and other UN agencies;
- All inputs for Rio+20 are to be submitted to the conference secretariat by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011;

- African Union Summit in Malabo directed a common African position and representation at the Rio conference.

## Discussion

There were concerns that there was not enough/visible representation of the private sector at the workshop, noting that, as decision-makers, shareholders need to be targeted as an audience in order to know the extent to which they understand how to green their businesses. One of the private sector participants agreed that there needs to be awareness-raising in the private sector, but noted that most businesses understand that even though environmentally-responsible investments and production processes can be costly in the short term, they pay off in the long term. Another concern was raised about the sustainability of 'emerging' concepts such as Green Economy beyond Rio+20. It was questioned whether there is support for civil society organisations to participate in Rio+20. Another concern was raised about targets set at the global level, which might be too steep for the developing world to achieve, noting that in Botswana there is no indication yet on the kind of targets/standards and indicators that might be put in place. It was therefore asked what the picture is at the global level, and for other countries. What are the capacity constraints (institutional, governance)—are there systems in place to enable this to happen?

Reactions to these comments were that there is support beyond Rio+20 to increase capacity and change thinking towards the GE paradigm because there is a realisation that current models have not addressed the concerns that were raised at the UN Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. There is also support for civil society organisations, and UNEP is working with universities. The current targets are that there should be a reallocation of 2% of GDP towards 10 important sectors with the goal of greening them, but these need to be identified at the national level, within the context of national development plans and vision. The 2% was seen as a political feasible and reasonable target. It was also noted that the UNEP Green Economy Report (2011) was written by many stakeholders from across the world and that it is not a negotiated outcome of Rio, but something that can be pursued right away - it is about sharing best practice standards.

## **Innovative Poverty Eradication Solutions: Waste Management, Job creation and Tourism Enhancement - A perspective from the private sector**

***Martin Dube – Regional Manager Collect-A-Can, Gaborone***

Mr Dube gave a presentation on the potentials for green solutions in waste management and recycling. He pointed out that there is very little waste recycling in Gaborone. Gaborone throws away 6,000 tonnes of waste every month, but only 1.35% of this is recycled. There is potential for more recycling to be done if the policy environment is enabling and the financing opportunities are availed. If the private sector is properly engaged and incentivised by government, there is room for creation of initiatives that reduce poverty. Currently, mostly women are involved in recycling and waste management. This presents an opportunity for income generation for the poor that has a multiplier effect. There needs to be tough standards set by government and incentives for innovation need to be created. In concluding, Mr Dube reiterated that changing to a green economy is not going to be easy, but can be done, if we think outside the box.

The session chair thanked the private sector for a fresh perspective and also reiterated that there needs to be concerted support to the private sector.

**Session 2: facilitated exchange of ideas and experiences with the concept of green economy, the key issues for Botswana and their relevance to sustainable development within the context of Rio+20**

**Session Chair: Ms Alice Mogwe** – Director, DITSHWANELO – The Botswana Centre for Human Rights

**Green Economy and the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)**

**Ruud Jansen** – *Chief Technical Advisor, Poverty Environment Initiative, MFDP*

Mr Jansen outlined Botswana's Poverty and Environment Initiative, a UNDP-UNEP programme on mainstreaming of Poverty - Environment linkages. Implementation started in 2010 and the current phase will run until the end of 2012. Mr Jansen highlighted the following as key poverty-environment issues in Botswana, noting that one of four strategic priorities is to recognise the deep link between ecosystem degradation and the persistence of rural poverty:

- Land and Rangeland Degradation;
- Community Based Natural Resource Management;
- Climate change and sustainable development;
- Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and sustainable utilization;
- Energy and water resources management.

The objective of the PEI is to mainstream poverty environment issues into development planning through the following:

- Studies, reviews, assessments, research;
- Publications, policy briefs, dialogues;
- Capacity building;
- Technical support to Government (methodologies, tools and techniques, concept papers etc);
- Partnering with civil society, local and international development partners (IIED, World Bank) and private sector.

He noted that there are strong linkages between PEI, GE and sustainable development, and a need to focus on the issues that involve a lot of people in the economy. Obvious examples are poor agriculture and access to energy in rural Botswana. Mainstreaming the environment and poverty reduction would include:

- Making the value of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems visible;
- Contextualising the linkages between poverty and environment:
  - Sustainable livelihoods / agro-biodiversity;
  - Ecosystem goods and services / climate change;
  - Employment / green economy / sustainable development;
- Mainstreaming into policy and development planning;
- Supporting implementation of selected activities;

Mr Jansen outlined the following GE/poverty-environment issues in the context of Botswana:

- a. Agriculture (conservation / sustainable agriculture);
- b. Tourism (community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), eco-tourism, eco-certification);
- c. Renewable energy (energy security, independent power production, buy-in tariffs);
- d. Green infrastructure (GoB procurement);

- e. National Environmental Fund;
- f. National Strategy for Sustainable Development and Green Economy;
- g. Governance, investment and budgeting;
- h. Communication.

In concluding Mr Jansen reiterated that achieving a GE in Botswana would require an interrogation of the current economic model and a paradigm shift to an economic model that:

- Promotes equity and dignity;
- Is inclusive, pro-poor and rights-based;
- Promotes people-centred development and balanced growth.

### **Facilitated plenary and group discussions**

***Barry Dalal – Clayton, International Institute for Environment and Development***

In plenary through brainstorming, participants identified a range of key issues under three headings:

- Experience in Botswana – elements of building a GE that exist and can be scaled up
- Problems, blockages, constraints to making the transition to GE
- Potentials and opportunities that can be built on

The range of issues was clustered into four themes which were then discussed by four separate working groups:

1. Natural resources, ecotourism, CBNRM
2. Political/financial support for green alternatives
3. Energy (solar, rural electrification)
4. Recycling and Re-use

### **Group discussions and feedback session**

#### **1. Natural resources/eco-tourism, CBNRM**

CBNRM and eco-tourism were seen as a success story in the sense that it is well established in Botswana and has the potential to involve a large number of rural communities in income-generating activities that also protect ecosystems. The current eco-tourism strategy also encourages the tourism industry to undertake corporate social responsibility initiatives that benefit communities and the environment. A number of tourism concessions are reserved specifically for community use and real partnerships are being established - unlike in the past when most partnership agreements resembled a barter system where communities only received money for leasing their land. An opportunity is presented by the new National Environment Fund as this could be used to encourage community ventures to tap into local resources in non-wildlife areas.

*Kgetsi Ya Tsie* (KYT) Trust was given as an example of a successful community based organisation which does not rely on wildlife resources as it markets “*phane*” and “*morula*” fruit products (sweets, oils and lotions). The Chobe Enclave Community Trust (CECT) was mentioned as a Trust which built houses and shops (in remote area where shopping difficult), bought tractors to help with ploughing and helped with food security. Government needs to provide training and capacity building to communities and organisations to venture into CBNRM as it has the potential to increase rural incomes and contribute towards poverty eradication.



## **2. Political/financial support for green alternatives**

The working group identified a number of challenges:

- The failure of the economic diversification drive, which will be made worse by future economic recessions.
- The youth and the disadvantaged are also not included in the important debates about economic development and there are difficulties in getting financial support for green investments. This also discouraged foreign investments as there is no evident political support for the environment and it is also difficult to sell the financial potentials of 'going green' to the political leadership.
- The institutional arrangements for a Green Economy are inadequate.

There are a number of opportunities:

- Poverty eradication [but not jobs under current regime] has high political support.
- Parliamentary committees (e.g. the Climate Change and Environment and Agriculture Committees) are very active and open to initiatives.
- Botswana is also on the Rio+20 Bureau and this presents an opportunity to create a political environment to support sustainable development and green economy initiatives.
- The Environmental Management Act will be a useful tool for driving high-level government, private sector and civil society partnerships towards responsible environmental management.

A number of solutions to envisaged challenges were suggested:

- Making a strong, well thought-out political case to the leadership and providing evidence on poverty and the environment and the economic impacts of natural resources.
- Networking at the political level in order to sell the green economy philosophy - as it is more an operational issue.
- Change must start by government procurement, which will then bring in outside investors and build confidence.
- The National Strategy on Sustainable Development (NSSD) needs to be passed by Cabinet as THE policy (but linked to the budget and government behaviour, machinery and accountability as well as to a cross-cut environment test for the NDP)
- The high-level Office of the President should place environment at the heart of government machinery (e.g. a GE or SD authority or independent office, maybe linked to Environment Management Act), and stress the importance of environmental accountability in all ministries.
- There is need for both an internal and external strategy on the Green Economy.
- There is also a need to involve the political leadership outside Cabinet, in the rural areas and in local authorities at district levels.
- The private sector is being engaged through the processes of developing an NSSD that is currently being coordinated by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

## **3. Energy (solar, rural electrification) and technology**

Not every part of the country has access to the electricity grid. Where there is access, it is not always affordable to all households. There has been a mismatch where grid energy receiving large subsidies and no financial support to alternative sources of energy. There is a good economic case to invest in solar energy and promote a green energy sector. There are successful examples where solar energy is being used in Botswana. These kinds of initiative need to be supported and rolled out on a big scale. It needs to be determined how to do this efficiently since there will be still be a reliance on fossil fuel to produce solar energy. Solar energy remains costly to produce (Photo-Voltaic panels). It is necessary to

understand the costs and benefits of alternatives. For instance, CFL bulbs are energy efficient, but contain mercury. There will be problems in handling these bulbs once they are no longer in use. Botswana has not moved beyond pilot projects on alternative energy. The government needs to lead the process of change towards greener alternatives through smart/green procurement for buildings and set standards to encourage new designs and energy efficiency measures.

### **Recycling and re-use**

There needs to be an understanding and appreciation of the economics of managing waste- there should be cost-recovery mechanisms. The bulk of the waste in Botswana is sent to landfills as incineration is considered costly. However, there are success stories such as in the metal recycling sector. A good example is *Collect-a-Can* which is promoting separation of waste at source in schools (paper, plastic, cans). But questions need to be asked about the economies of scale, e.g. does it make sense to separate at source or at a transfer station or at the landfill? The costs and benefits should be looked at holistically, because a significant factor in waste management is transportation. Separation at source could be a step towards a long-term sustainable zero-waste approach.

*Water conservation* is another area where there is some success, but also room for improvement. An example was given that many private schools have invested in waste-water recycling systems and these are used for watering gardens/landscape and ablutions (e.g. Cresta-lodge, Phakalane Golf Estate) and the hospitality industry seems to be leading in this.

There is a great need to raise awareness, especially among the youth at schools. There is a currently a pilot project to integrate recycling and awareness-raising into the primary schooling system, and rolling it out into schools and the curriculum. There needs to be laws, regulations and incentives to encourage recycling. The main challenge in Botswana is that the government is the biggest polluter, and the only hope is bringing government to account. There needs to be a culture and institutionalisation of cost-benefit analysis, and economic planners should be made aware of the role and importance of the environment (ie targeted in environmental mainstreaming). Chemical management in Botswana is bad, and the risks to both human health and the environment are ignored or not known. Some of the most dangerous chemicals are in government-funded schools. The current dilemma of how to collect the plastic levy from retailers is a good example of how law and policy issues can stand in the way of progress. Even though the plastic levy was a good initiative, there are no benefits to the economy and the environment as the proceeds are collected as profit by retailers.

The following additional opportunities were identified within the recycling and re-use sector:

- 1998 Waste Management Act - reform the institutional structures such that the polluters are made accountable;
- Raise awareness among the public, especially schools;
- Biogas production from Botswana's large livestock industry;
- Coordination between private sector and government;
- Carbon-credits- huge opportunity for generating income;
- Rainwater/ storm-water harvesting to recharge of aquifers.

### **Session 3: Continued exchange on Green Economy issues of relevance to Botswana and the Rio+20 process and way forward (presentation and facilitated discussion)**

**Session Chair: Mr. Steve Monna** – Director Department of Environmental Affairs

Mr Monna welcomed the participants back to the workshop and hoped they had reflected on issues discussed the day before. He announced that the first activity would be a short presentation of the anticipated workshop outputs by Mr Jansen.

#### **Clarification of the workshop goals and outputs**

**Mr Ruud Jansen, CTA Poverty – Environment Initiative (PEI) Botswana (MFDP)**

Mr Jansen explained that the planned outputs of the workshop are:

1. A workshop summary report to be disseminated within 2 weeks to all participants.
2. An Issues Paper around the GE to feed into the Rio+20 on how Botswana could position itself within the Rio process.
3. A Policy Brief- on GE and Poverty to be used for awareness raising and education activities

#### **Overview and further discussions on Green Economy issues**

**Steve Bass / Barry Dalal-Clayton, IIED**

Mr Steve Bass gave an overview of the issues discussed the day before and reiterated key message made by key speakers including:

- The Ministry of Environment recognises that the GE does not replace sustainable development but complements it;
- The Ministry of Finance pointed out that the GE is about 'getting the economics right' for the environment;
- Ms. Kwelagobe thinks the green economy or clean economy is a new basis for competitiveness;
- Deputy PS of Environment pointed out that is not a question of 'IF' Green Economy but 'HOW' Green Economy.

He noted that these key message set the tone for the rest of the conversation about how the GE should be pro-poor, empower women, aim at reducing poverty, etc. He highlighted that it was good that Botswana is a member of the Bureau for the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 because this is a good opportunity to get the country's view included. But there will be other regional fora to continue the conversation. He pointed out that the decentralisation and the diversification strategies could be good opportunities to get the GE debate going in Botswana. He also noted the following constraints, opportunities and institutional issues that the participants should think about.

#### **Constraints**

- Financial vehicles to cover the costs of introducing the GE;
- Fragmentation, lack of standards, rights for women and girls;
- Scale and remoteness - are these problems for production?

#### **Opportunities**

- National Environment Fund- what would that be for? Can it cover some of the costs for going green?
- NSSD- on paper good, but perhaps needs strengthening somehow and include GE focus;

- Sectors- those that promote poor producers are perhaps best placed to be supported.

#### *Institutional issues*

- Engagement that includes civil society and the private sector is needed;
- Involvement of Cabinet;
- Some kind of national driver for this (National Authority?)
- Fair, ecological, long time frame- the youth are best placed to engage in this as the generation of tomorrow;
- Finance- credit rating, clean record, stock exchange, international investments and the role of government in this (green procurement?)
- Regional dimension- landlocked country (opportunity and challenges?)

#### **Discussion**

Concerns were raised that the needs to be high-level political will and support for progress to be made. As part of the democratic dispensation, there needs to be political representation and accountability within parliament. It was reiterated that GE is good for the overall economy, but there has never really been a framework from the experts and concerned agencies to guide the leaderships in decision-making. The impending Environmental Management Act will legislate sectoral reporting on environmental performance, but perhaps the NSSD also needs to put standards in place to balance the economic, social and environmental sectors and show how Botswana is greening different sectors. The suggestion of setting up a Green Economy Authority was raised again as a potentially good way to drive environmental research, reporting and accounting. Questions were asked on the role of the youth in the debate, and whether they are being given the right education to become responsible citizens who can drive the Green Economy. It was commented that too much reliance should not be placed on the government to initiate activities. Rather, government should be encouraged to fill in the gaps and create a legal and institutional framework to support the Green Economy.

**Session Chair: Ms. Portia Segomelo** – Deputy Director Department of Environmental Affairs

#### **Way forward – discussion on actions required and preparations for Rio+20**

**Steve Bass / Barry Dalal-Clayton, IIED**

The participants were asked to deliberate in plenary on the following issues/questions:

- **How to describe the GE for Botswana?** What are the criteria for success? What are the elements, principles or measures that should be applied?
- **Regional dimension of GE.** It is clear that there are external dimensions, no economy is isolated, and Botswana in particular is landlocked and therefore dependent on other countries for a number of things, this could be an opportunity or a challenge
  - What regional factors is Botswana dependent on?
  - What regional opportunities are then on which to build a GE?
  - Are there gaps in the evidence to support the GE case? – How to tackle these?

**Engagement and a strategy for influencing** - who is it necessary to talk to about GE (stakeholders not participating in the workshop)? How to go about it?

### **(i) Describing the Green Economy in Botswana**

The following keywords and phrases were identified as ingredients of a Green Economy

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <i>Linkages</i>  | 14. <i>'Botho'-humanity, respect, humility, courtesy, community, dignity, cultured</i> |
| 2. <i>Empowerment</i>   | 15. <i>'Eco'-efficiency</i>  |
| 3. <i>Synthesis</i>   | 16. <i>(Self)-confidence in the local private sector, indigenous</i>                   |
| 4. <i>Coordination</i>  | 17. <i>Green, responsible and ethical procurement</i>                                  |
| 5. <i>Synergy</i>   | 18. <i>Socially-responsible investments</i>  |
| 6. <i>Networking</i>  | 19. <i>Sustainable investment</i>  |
| 7. <i>Political will / enabling environment, conducive environment</i>        | 20. <i>Competitive</i>   |
| 8. <i>Private sector-led growth</i>   | 21. <i>Diversification</i>   |
| 9. <i>Partnerships</i>  | 22. <i>Accountability</i>  |
| 10. <i>Inclusive</i>  | 23. <i>Adaptive, flexible and responsive</i>   |
| 11. <i>Incentives for investment</i>  | 24. <i>Regional focus/integration (trade, natural resources, transboundary)</i>        |
| 12. <i>Institutions (laws, rights, standards, policies, responsibilities)</i> | 25. <i>Well-being (decent jobs, justice, social equity)</i>                            |
| 13. <i>Integration</i>  |  |

These were distilled into the following 10 key messages at the end of the discussion:

#### **What is a GE for Botswana?**

1. **Botswana's competitiveness** is improved through a preferential focus on diverse, productive and sustainable operations
2. **Stakeholders are well-networked** so that information flows improve, innovation increases, and partnerships form to achieve shared goals
3. **Citizens and poor people in particular are empowered** and thrive in the economy through decent jobs and livelihoods
4. **Government incentivises** a GE through enabling conditions, setting high standards across the sectors, and runs its own operations in a consistent (green and ethical) manner
5. **Botswana private sector leads growth**, takes initiative and transforms itself to become more efficient and inclusive; domestic investment is mobilised, and responsible foreign investment is attracted, towards *green* infrastructure, goods and services
6. **Major issues are properly mainstreamed** like environment and poverty reduction and there is strong leadership to move to action
7. **Resilience** is improved through planning that takes a more integrated, coherent and future / outward looking approach
8. **Accountability** of all stakeholders is improved, through transparent information on resource stocks, flows and damages and a robust legal framework
9. **Built on solid knowledge, scientific and cultural principles** including indigenous knowledge and *Botho* (humanity, respect, courtesy, community, dignity, cultured)
10. **Internationally secure and responsible** – cognisant of, and contributes to, Botswana's dependence on and role in the region and the world

The above could be used to generate principles or desirable criteria for success. They can help with defining elements, principles and measures that can be built on and perhaps offered to Vision 2016 onwards and also to shape the institutional framework.

### ***(ii) Green Economy needs at the regional level***

Botswana is a landlocked country and cannot function separately from its neighbours. South Africa is a regional hegemon and competitor. The country should therefore exploit its competitive advantage. Issues to consider include:

- What are the regional issues/aspects that we need to take into account while crafting the GE?
- What are the opportunities they present in shaping the GE?

### **Discussion**

1. **Trade:** Goods and services, most of Botswana's products are imported from South Africa. SADC is removing trade barriers. This is an opportunity (market). South Africa is also a *potentially* big market for Botswana,
  - a. Francistown is the most centrally-located city in the SADC region, and there is potential to develop it as a regional trade hub.
  - b. Botswana could supply solar energy to the region - the infrastructure has already been laid out. Currently 70% of the country's energy is sourced from South Africa.
  - c. Regional trade agreements should be taken into consideration and what opportunities these presents for Botswana for regional investment.
  - d. Botswana shares regional resources (water, wildlife/national parks) with other countries. A regional tourism strategy could be developed along with other countries to make southern Africa a tourism hub.
  - e. The SADC region should be presented as a united front in trade negotiations and agreements.
  - f. Organic produce can be produced at the regional level for export to the world (EU, Middle East etc.)
    - i. The beef industry is a good example
    - ii. The Kalahari Ecosystem and its products could have a market
2. **Scientific research** and training in green innovation (e.g. CISR in SA) and also tap into the regional knowledge base and expertise that already exists (existing *Centres of Excellence*) to promote regional scientific research and innovation.
3. **Geographical location** of Botswana should be seen as an opportunity, despite being landlocked:
  - a. E.g. cross-border transport network/Trans-Kalahari Highway (impacts, opportunities for tourism, trade, transport infrastructure development—costs?).
  - b. Railway network?- access to ports through alternative routes.
  - c. Wildlife and wilderness tourism- Trans-frontier Parks, the tourism industry has not fully exploited the advantages that are available locally and in the region. Currently South Africa sells parts of the region as South African (e.g. Victoria Falls, Okavango Delta).
  - d. Botswana has a number of new International airports (Francistown, Maun and Gaborone) providing an opportunity to tap into the millions of tourists who travel to/through Southern Africa (*Are you travelling to South Africa or Southern Africa, come through Botswana!*).

- e. The SADC tourism potential is large and needs to be presented as an opportunity for growing CBNRM in the region.
  - f. Cultural traits of the Southern African people and their unique qualities could be marketed internationally as one (e.g. language).
4. **Botswana's political and economic stability**
    - a. Botswana could model itself as a regional financial and investment hub.
    - b. The Stock Exchange in Botswana is well placed to drive this.
  5. **Harmonisation** of regional guidelines, laws, standards and legislature/policies for the different sectors (water, tourism, trade) to take advantage of the competitive advantage of Botswana and the SADC region.

***(iii) Who do we need to talk to about building the Green Economy?***

*How can they get involved and what could they offer, what barriers do they present?*

This need to be done through an effective, consultative process. Consultations will be undertaken at Ministerial level and later at different levels. Botswana's position paper for Rio+20 will form the basis for a discussion at the regional level.

1. Government and private sector authorities:
  - a. Parliament.
  - b. Banking and financing institutions.
  - c. Ministry of Local Government.
  - d. Local authorities and administration.
2. Private sector-(e.g. BOCCIM, the banks, The Competition Authority-well placed to drive the green economy). They need to be more meaningfully engaged.
3. Ministry of Education - to take the message to schools through awareness-raising campaigns and school curricula- '*Lore lo ojwa lo sale metsi*'.
4. Ministry of Trade.
5. Media.
6. Intergovernmental organisations (e.g. UNEP).
7. Non-governmental organization (BOCONGO, Botswana Council of Churches, Hindu Organisation etc.).
8. Tourism industry.
9. Transport industry (aviation, road).

**Botswana message to Rio+20**

***Steve Bass / Barry Dalal-Clayton , IIED***

The workshop agreed on a number of next steps to help Botswana develop its contribution to the Rio+20 process:

1. Prepare a *summary proceedings report* on the outcome of workshop;
2. Set-up a small, *ad-hoc working group* to take the discussion forward (multidisciplinary)- Coordinated by MFDP and MEWT
  - The Terms of Reference for the Working Group should include:
    - i. Define the elements of an issues paper (Botswana position/priorities);



- ii. Undertake consultations with the stakeholders that have been identified and define the mechanisms of consultation. The concept paper will form the basis for the discussions;
  - iii. Produce a fully-fledged document by next year (NSSD or GE framework paper/position paper) – to be refined/revised on a forward rolling basis.
3. *Define the Institutional framework for Sustainable Development.* There was a discussion on a possible authority. In addition, there is a need to think about what the current institutional landscape looks like and whether it is in a position to drive the discussion forward. The following questions should be considered:
- What will the institutional frameworks look like and what will it do?
  - What framework would be well suited to drive the GE forward?
  - What aspects of the GE can only be done by a new institution?
  - What is required to reform existing institutions?

Two further points of information were made:

- A useful website on green economy is hosted at [www.greeneconomycoalition.org](http://www.greeneconomycoalition.org)
- Currently there is international debate on the institutional framework for environmental management at the global level. It is important that Botswana has a similar debate domestically.

#### **Closing remarks**

**Mr Disikalala Gaseitsiwe, Deputy Secretary Socio-Economic Policy (MFDP)**

In closing the workshop, the DSSEP Mr Gaseitsiwe revisited the three issues that the MFDP requested the participants to address at the beginning of the workshop. These include:

- Sustainable Development and the notion of a Green Economy - as not just a matter of environmental mainstreaming but a societal responsibility which we should pursue to become more pro-poor, more inclusive in our development pathways, and more people-centred in our planning and development approach.
- How Botswana, as a Middle Income Country, can benefit from positioning itself within a competitive global economy, and address our poverty agenda. This is a more complex matter that requires more debate and engagement of the private sector to lead the initiative and for government to create an enabling environment.
- What opportunities exist for the private sector? This also needs more deliberation and discussion at the High Level Consultative Council.

The DPS commended the workshop for going beyond the above issues to identify key sectors which could shape a GE and also for discussing GE within the context of economic diversification, green decent jobs and with a view to address Botswana's poverty agenda. He was pleased that the workshop had laid the groundwork for preparing a first draft vision of what a Green Economy in a specific Botswana context might look like, and identifying the regional and international settings and opportunities that Botswana could exploit. He noted that this forward looking tenet in the discussions is very important to the Ministry of Finance as it looks to enable growth opportunities which are "*socially desirable, environmentally sound and make good business sense*".

He also highlighted that the issues addressed during the discussion sessions will certainly help Botswana in determining what to take to Rio+20 and what Rio should deliver on for Botswana.

Perhaps more importantly though, the discussions made it very clear that moving towards a Green Economy provides various win-win opportunities, with or without Rio.

The DPS thanked the facilitators from IIED, Mr Steve Bass and Dr Barry Dalal-Clayton for a job well done. He furthermore thanked all the presenters for their interesting presentations and all participants for thinking innovatively, outside the box, and being forward looking to pursue a better Botswana for all.

# Workshop on Green Economy

September 7-8, 2011  
Venue: Grand Palm Hotel  
Gaborone

Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)  
MFDP-MEWT-UNDP-UNEP

in collaboration with

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED),  
London, UK

## Workshop Programme

### Introduction

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (UNDP/UNEP Poverty - Environment Initiative (PEI) and the Ministry of Environment Wildlife and Tourism in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) will hold a Workshop on Green Economy in Gaborone on September 7-8, 2011. The workshop will involve 40-50 participants, bringing together government officials, civil society organisations, private sector representatives and key resource persons who are stakeholders in pursuing and promoting poverty eradication, pro-poor / inclusive economic growth, environmental management, and sustainable development pathways.

The **objectives of the workshop** are to:

- raise *awareness* and *build capacity* on the concept of green economy, and the different ways in which it is understood (e.g. as green *stimulus* to the existing economy, as alleviating environmental *problems* of economic activity, and/or as greening the *purpose* of the economy);
- discuss the relevance, opportunities and challenges of the concept within the context of the Botswana economy, poverty eradication and pro-poor / inclusive growth, and Government's current development paradigm and pathway;
- scope the potentially desirable components of a green economy in the Botswana context, the main blocks in the way, and the pre-requisites and broad transitions needed including the NSSD experience and prospects, as well as other processes and tools that could be used to support the transition to green economy; and
- identify and discuss other issues at both national and international level which would need to be further addressed within the context of the Rio+20 preparations and negotiations of the output document, and make recommendations for action and follow-up.

## Day 1

**Morning:** Official opening, introduction and key note presentations on Green Economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the preparations for the Rio+20 Summit

**Session Chair:** **Ms. Rapelang Mojaphoko** – Deputy Permanent Secretary (EA) - MEWT

- 08:00            Arrival and registration (with coffee / tea)
- 08:20            Welcome and introductions  
**Disikalala Gaseitsiwe – Deputy Secretary – Socio- Economic Policy (MFDP)**
- 08:30            Official opening  
**Hononourable Kitso Mokaila – Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism**
- 08:45            Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development in Botswana  
**Steve Monna – Director Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)**
- 09:15            Green Economy  
**Steve Bass – International Institute for Environment and Development, London**  
(a) Different ways green Economy is being approached  
(b) Main components of green economy  
(c) The different demands from developing countries  
(d) Basic implications for economic policy
- 10:00            Coffee / tea**
- 10:30            Discussion
- 11:30            Toward a Sustainable Future - Botswana Clean Energy Economy  
**Mpule Kwelagobe – Global Sustainability Manager, New York**
- 12:00            UNEP Green Economy Initiative  
**Cecilia Njenga, - United Nations Environment Programme, RSA**  
(a) Main findings from the green economy report  
(b) UNEP work in Africa on Green economy  
(c) Expectations on how GE will be handled in Rio+20
- 12:30            A perspective from the private sector  
**Martin Dube – Manager Collect-a-can, Gaborone**
- 13:00            Lunch**

**Afternoon:** facilitated exchange of ideas and experiences with the concept of green economy, the key issues for Botswana and their relevance to sustainable development within the context of Rio+20

**Session Chair:** **Ms. Alice Mogwe** – Director, DITSHWANELO – The Botswana Centre for Human Rights

- 14:00            Green Economy and the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)  
**Ruud Jansen – Chief Technical Advisor, Poverty Environment Initiative, MFDP**

14:30 Facilitated plenary and group discussions  
**Barry Dalal – Clayton, International Institute for Environment and Development**  
(a) Relevance, practicalities of Green Economy in Botswana – Plenary  
(b) Botswana's existing building blocks for Green Economy - Working Groups  
(c) Barriers for Economy in Botswana – Working Groups  
(d) Opportunities for making progress towards green economy in Botswana – Working Groups

**15:30 Coffee / tea**

16:00 Continued plenary and group discussions - conclusions

16:30 End of day one

## **Day 2**

**Morning:** Continued exchange on Green Economy issues of relevance to Botswana and the Rio+20 process and way forward (presentation and facilitated discussion)

**Session Chair: Mr. Steve Monna** – Director Department of Environmental Affairs

08:00 Arrival coffee / tea

08:30 Overview / summary of Day 1 and further discussions on Green Economy issues of relevance to Botswana incl. key elements of a Green Economy  
**Steve Bass / Barry Dalal-Clayton - IIED**

**10:00 Coffee /tea**

**Session Chair: Ms. Portia Segomelo** – Deputy Director Department of Environmental Affairs

10:30 Way forward – discussion on actions required and preparations for Rio+20  
(a) Green Economy needs at regional / international level  
(b) Botswana – issues for Rio+20  
**Steve Bass / Barry Dalal-Clayton - IIED**

12:45 Closing remarks  
**Disikalala Gaseitsiwe – Deputy Secretary SEP MFDP**

**13:00 Lunch and end of workshop**

**WELCOME REMARKS BY MR DISIKALALA GASEITSIWE, DEPUTY SECRETARY SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY SECTION, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AT THE GREEN ECONOMY WORKSHOP, SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2011, GRAND PALM HOTEL, GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

[Salutations]

Welcome to the Green Economy Workshop co-hosted by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the Ministry of Environment Wildlife and Tourism, and the UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development based in London.

Today and tomorrow we will be discussing the concept of Green Economy. As you may be aware, *Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication* is one of the themes of the Conference of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) next year June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

At the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) we deemed it fit to arrange this workshop as it would help us appreciate the concept, prepare us for the discussions in the run-up to the Rio+20 conference and assist us in 'getting the economics right' for sustainable development. It is the latter aspect of looking at sustainable development 'through an economic lens' which we hope to discuss in the next two days.

We at MFDP would be particularly interested if you in your deliberations could address the following issues:

1. Sustainable development has remained a challenge over the last two decades, how can we encourage new thinking and move beyond the environment focus and create cross-sector linkages and responsibilities which will deliver on the three pillars of sustainable development?
2. How can a Green Economy, in this world of global economic competition, provide us, in a Middle Income Country (MIC) like Botswana, with opportunities for investment and employment creation (green jobs) and, perhaps more importantly, with opportunities to improve livelihoods and lift people out of poverty?

And lastly,

3. Which opportunities exist for the private sector and how can we encourage the business community to invest in a Green Economy?

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen, with these few words I once more welcome you to the Green Economy workshop and wish you fruitful deliberations.

THANK YOU.

[PULA]





SPEECH BY:

HONOURABLE ONKOKAME KITSO MOKAILA MINISTER  
OF ENVIRONMENT,  
WILDLIFE & TOURISM

“Green Economy workshop”

7-8 September 2011

Director of Ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all!

1. International discussions on sustainable development can be traced back to the United Nations Conference on Human Environment which took place in Stockholm, Sweden in June 1972. Subsequently, Summits on sustainable development were held including the Earth Summit of 1992 which produced the Rio Plan of Action, also commonly referred to as Agenda 21, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) of 2002 which resulted in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
2. Twenty years after the Earth Summit, the world continues this debate in the quest to attain sustainable development. The implementation of both Plans of Action has been a challenge, especially for developing countries. A UNDP-OECD publication of 2002 estimated that a low income country would require \$600 billion to implement Rio Plan of Action and its attendant principles.
3. Prior to the Earth Summit the primary discourse was one of trade-offs between economics and the environmental goals. Rio was a major step towards recognizing the importance of synergy between the two disciplines, while the WSSD stressed the social pillar. This was a reminder that while economic progress often fosters social progress, the link is not automatic; and that ultimately, economic development is a means to improving human wellbeing.

Director of ceremonies,

4. It has become apparent that a global economy based on current patterns of consumption and production is indeed exerting heavy stresses on many ecosystems and on critical life supporting systems. Globalization has further increased the efficacy of networks for international trade, investment and production networks thus bringing tremendous benefits for people in both the developed and developing countries. However, extreme poverty persists in many parts of the world, despite the fact that gross domestic product (GDP) has increased by roughly 60% globally since 1992.
5. While the growing prosperity has made it possible for some countries to improve their standard of living and address environmental problems, others have continued to worsen with expanding populations and growing economic activities. Phenomena such as climate change and biodiversity loss continue to be looming global problems.

6. It is against this background that countries in the Western Europe as well as the United States and Canada have coined the concept of green economy. While the concept definition is not universally agreed and understood, the developed countries have forged ahead and highlighted green economy as one of the cornerstones of their foreign policy objectives.
7. Green economy aims at regulating consumption behavior by building a unified economic and financial framework comprising economic policies that are environmentally friendly.
8. Green economy requires countries to invest in an alternative growth strategy leading to formulation and adoption of new domestic and international policies, programmes and strategies in order to transform towards new dynamic green activities. It further requires new methods of measuring the wealth of individual countries - which will inadvertently lead to a shift from the use of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an indicator of countries' standard of living. The envisaged basket of elements to measure national wealth will include, among others, environmental health of a given country.

Green investments/clean investments strategy is central to the successful implementation of the green economy. The strategy entails a reallocation of investments toward green activities. It emphasizes on "*getting prices right*" which includes removing subsidies, valuing natural resources and imposing taxes on those activities that harm the environment or environmental "*bads*". Such activities will be highly taxed in order to support sustainable consumption and production.

9. Green economy will also include investments in new equipment and new technology and restrictions on outdated technologies that increase environmental pollution. Accordingly, technological revolution will require capacity building, new skills and training for adaptation.
10. The current international system reflects a technological and skills gap between the developing and developed countries. As developed countries have always had an upper hand in this area, this gap could be sustained during the transitioning period to green economy. Most developing countries are still far from acquiring technologies and requisite financial resources to implement agreed sustainable development commitments of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

11. Currently, the industrialized countries have control over production and trade of goods and services. The fear that most developing countries have is that green economy will induce subsidies to green production. Imposing new technological standards and categorization of goods will further disadvantage the developing world in the international trading system. The new standards have a potential to promote new forms of protectionism that will adversely impact on the exports of developing countries and worsen terms of trade.
12. It is estimates that developing countries will need at least USD\$1.3 trillion to transform their economies. This figure is however disputed by some analysts who claim that this amount is far too little.
13. However, what is emerging from the international debate is that implementation of green economy should take into consideration the different development levels of countries. A "*one size fits all*" approach would be inappropriate. Therefore green economy should not impose conditionalities on developing countries for aid, debt rescheduling or debt relief. It also paramount that the debates should be accompanied by means of implementation, including financial and technical assistance to developing countries.

Director of Ceremonies,

14. The real dilemma facing nations now is for developed countries to shrink their environmental or carbon footprints as fast and as far as possible while sustaining human development achievements. Similarly, developing countries must continue to raise their peoples' living standards and at the same time contain increases in their environmental footprints, recognizing that poverty eradication remains a priority. This is a shared challenge with a goal of shared prosperity.
15. It is expected that Rio+20 will bring an additional perspective to the sustainable development agenda and secure a renewed political commitment under the proposed themes. It is our understanding that green economy does not substitute sustainable development, but rather a means to achieving the end of sustainable development. Therefore an acceptable output from Rio+20 should present ample flexibility and space to define our paths towards sustainable development based on our national circumstances and priorities.

Director of Ceremonies,

16. Botswana is embarking on a process of preparing a National Strategy on Sustainable Development alongside preparations for Rio+20. It is our hope that

the two processes can be mutually enforcing and synergies be drawn towards a blueprint for a sustainable future.

18. In conclusion, it is my hope that this landmark workshop can benefit from the work of IIED and outline the likely impact on Botswana for transitioning into a green economy. It is envisaged that the outcome of the workshop will strengthen Botswana contribution in the international debate.

I thank you all and wish you fruitful deliberations.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MR DISIKALA GASEITSIWE, DEPUTY SECRETARY SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY SECTION, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AT THE GREEN ECONOMY WORKSHOP, SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2011 GRAND PALM HOTEL, GABORONE, BOTSWANA.**

[Salutations]

Yesterday, when I made a few welcome remarks, I asked you to specifically look at three points which were of interest to the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in addressing various Green Economy issues.

In closing I would like to revisit these points and see whether we managed to address the issues and answered the questions.

However, before I do that I would like to conclude that we certainly did justice to the objectives of the workshop. We raised awareness but went beyond that by identifying key sectors which could shape a Green Economy. We also discussed Green Economy within the context of economic diversification, green decent jobs and with a view to address our poverty agenda.

We scoped desirable components of a Green Economy, in fact we did a first draft Vision of what a Green Economy in a specific Botswana context could look like. This includes the concept of *Botho* which is fundamental to our society, our social agenda and our development pathway as it shapes Government policy and interventions.

The regional and international setting of a Green Economy was debated in terms of positioning Botswana to make use of opportunities. This forward looking tenet in the discussions is very important for us in Finance as we look to enable growth opportunities which are socially desirable, environmentally sound and make good business sense.

The issues which came up during the discussion sessions will certainly help us in determining what we would like to take to Rio+20 and what we would like Rio to deliver on. Perhaps more importantly though, the discussions made it very clear that moving towards a Green Economy provides various win-win opportunities, with or without Rio, if you like.

Director Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is clear to me that we have done justice to the objectives of the workshop; however, let me take two more minutes to reflect on the questions I posed yesterday.

Did we address the issue of Sustainable Development and the fact that it is a multi-sectoral responsibility? I would say “most certainly”. We are in full agreement that Sustainable Development and the notion of a Green Economy is not just a matter of environmental

mainstreaming but that it is a societal responsibility which we should pursue to become more pro-poor, more inclusive in our development pathways, and more people-centred in our planning and development approach.

Did we get guidance on how we as a Middle Income Country can benefit from positioning ourselves within a competitive global economy, and address our poverty agenda? “Partly”, I would say. Partly because this is a complex matter and requires more debate, and because investment and employment creation is not a just a Government matter but should be led by the private sector for which we need to provide an enabling environment. What that enabling environment should look like requires more thought and deliberations. And this also refers to how we can create more decent green jobs for the poor.

And finally, did we look at opportunities for the private sector? Yes, but as I mentioned, we need to interrogate this further together with the private sector and institutions like to BOCCIM and the High Level Consultative Council.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope that you agree with me that this workshop was most enjoyable and successful. It has indeed given us food for thought as well good guidance about what more is required to make a Green Economy in Botswana a reality.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our facilitators from IIED. Steve and Barry, thanks for a job well done! However, let’s not forget ourselves, we also did a good job and we have really given it our best to think innovatively, outside the box, and forward looking to pursue a better Botswana for all.

THANK YOU.

[PULA]



# MFDP/MEWT/UNDP-UNEP PEI GREEN ECONOMY WORKSHOP

7<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

GRAND PALM HOTEL

Gaborone, Botswana

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