Green and inclusive economy (GIE)

The green and inclusive economy aims sustainable development. "Responds to global economic social and financial crises, by redistributing natural, social and financial capital in order to generate benefits for economic development, social equity and environmental protection. Reflects a change of paradigm, which promotes actions for environmental sustainability and poverty reduction. A green and inclusive economy (EVI) evolves from previous work in green economy. In its basic expression, this economic model is the one that produces efficiently with low carbon emissions and incorporates clean production processes, but at the same time is inclusive in consumption and results; it is based on the principles of sharing circularity, collaboration, solidarity, resilience, opportunity and interdependence. It focuses on the expansion of options and elections for national economies, using specific fiscal policies and social protection programs, with the support of solid institutions oriented specifically to safeguard the social and ecological dimensions. It also recognizes that there are different and various paths towards environmental sustainability."

Green and inclusive economy (GIE)

The Sustainability of the Environment is understood as the long-term availability of natural resources and environmental services and ecosystems to support permanent human well-being. The sustainability includes not only the recognition of the current extraordinary expenses for the concept of protection of the environment, but also the need to maintain sufficient natural capital for meet human needs in the future.

Socioeconomic integration also involves the private sector to support the generation of value chains, access to markets and knowledge. Promotes sustainable inclusive businesses through public-private partnerships, environmentally friendly agricultural production, conservation / management of natural resources and micro-business, for food production and income generation.

Sustainable development should be understood as the result of a process that focuses on the integration, between satisfying human welfare, ensuring economic growth and ensuring continuity of environmental goods and services.

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Sustainable development that meets current needs without compromising capacities of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainable development includes economic sustainability, economic and social sustainability that can be achieved by reasonably managing physical and human capital.

2 (Brundland 1987).
3 (Seymour, Maurer and Quiroga, 2005).
6 (UN 2010b).
» Links between poverty and environment

In “The Future We Want”, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) recognized that “the eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.”

In “Transforming our World”: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, governments called for an end to poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions, to ensure that all human beings can reach their full potential with dignity, equality and living in a healthy environment.

70% of people living in poverty in the world rely totally or partially on natural resources as a way of subsistence. The ecosystem services and other goods linked to natural resources make up between 50% and 90% of the total income sources of rural households living in poverty; at the global level, it is called “GDP of the poor.”

A significant majority of rural women, estimated at 1 billion worldwide, rely on natural resources and agriculture as a way of subsistence, which makes them more vulnerable to the negative impacts of environmental degradation and climate change.

When we talk about the link between poverty and the environment, we refer directly to the sustainability of the livelihoods of people who are living in poverty. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, especially in the southern cone, a large percentage of the Gross Domestic Product comes from the primary sector. Both from the sectors of extensive production and family farming.

In Paraguay:

There are 1,949,272 people living in poverty that represents 28.86% of the population, of which 1,044,509 live in rural areas (EPH2016), so they depend directly on natural resources such as soil, water forests for their survival.

Through the Paraguay 2030 National Development Plan, strategic actions have been incorporated, such as poverty reduction and social development, and transversal topics such as environmental sustainability, which frame public policies at the national level. The national strategy already contemplates work in the economic, social and environmental actions, so the proposal to work towards the construction of a green and inclusive economy becomes feasible.

Implementing the NDP 2030 is an interactive process of integrating the links between poverty and environment, in the preparation of budgets and the policy design processes at the national, sectorial and regional levels. It is a long-term effort involving various government agencies (head of state offices, environmental, financial and planning entities, national and regional entities, political parties, national office for statistics, and the judicial system), and nongovernmental (civil society, academics, businesses and industries, communities, general public and media), and other development entities.

“GDP of the poor” 9


» Benefits of environmental investment

- Generate public income: Through environmental fiscal reforms can generate higher revenues and obtain environmental benefits, rationalizing and improving public income, environmental fees and taxes or introducing new payment systems for environmental goods and services. Both options are increasingly used as mechanisms to help governments generate income, while helping to reduce poverty and achieve environmental objectives.

- Reduce expenditure: Natural resources are an affordable and accessible source of income and basic needs, since they reduce the need to disburse cash to buy other alternatives.

- Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): Environmental investment contributes significantly to compliance with the SDGs.

» Links between poverty and environment

There is a close relationship between poverty and environmental factors. It is reflected in the sustainable use of natural resources, adaptation to climate change, focus putted on reducing poverty and the pursuit of equity, especially for marginalized groups (including women and indigenous peoples) and work towards green and Inclusive growth.

The continuous supply of environmental goods and services, therefore, generates saving to the government, the private sector and individual households.

Relieve and reduce poverty: Because population living in poverty tends to rely much more on environmental goods and services than other sectors of the population and because, they are less able to cope with the effects of degradation, keeping environment in good condition is essential to meet basic needs and reduce poverty in the medium and short term.

A healthy environment also reduces the likelihood of greater economic losses and damages.

Image 1: Ranger of Caazapá National Park explains to the local families the importance of preserving the forest ecosystem.

Image 2: Agroecological farming of passion fruit ( Marxism from a small producer in Caazapá Department, Bay Department).