The Pathways to Achieve Green Economy and the Process of Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract: In the sphere of development conversations, the last several decades have seen an ever-expanding lexicon of

concepts ornamented with the adjective "green." Phrases such as "green economy," "green growth," and "green deal" have evolved, ushering in a new age of focus on the complex interaction between the economy and the biosphere, with a special emphasis on the function of the Earth's luxuriant plant life. This fundamental transition, commonly referred to as the "greening" of development plans and policies, crosses borders,

spanning numerous territorial systems and economic sectors.

1 INTRODUCTION

In the sphere of development conversations, the last several decades have seen an ever-expanding lexicon of concepts ornamented with the adjective "green." Phrases such as "green economy," "green growth," and "green deal" have evolved, ushering in a new age of focus on the complex interaction between the economy and the biosphere, with a special emphasis on the function of the Earth's luxuriant plant life. This fundamental transition, commonly referred to as the "greening" of development plans and policies, crosses borders, spanning numerous territorial systems and economic sectors. It has emerged as a popular issue of debate, particularly in international politics, as we deal with how to translate the abstract concept of sustainable and balanced growth into tangible reality.

In the course of these conversations, the idea of a "New Green Deal" has resonated on a national, European, and international level, signifying a shared desire to balance our economic goals with environmental conservation. The astonishing process of photosynthesis that takes place under the emerald canopy of leaves serves as the fundamental source of

inspiration for the numerous components of the green economy. Here, water, sunshine, and chlorophyll work together magically to create a variety of natural compounds that people may use, process, and refine to create a wide range of goods for use in daily life or to fuel greater industrialization. Natural alchemy, the process of transforming the components of the environment and solar radiation into materials for use in manufacturing and consumption, is a renewable and repeatable process that has long supported human civilizations. But, it finds itself at a turning point as a result of the growing dangers presented by our industrial creativity, especially since the start of the Industrial Revolution. Natural enchantment, the process of transforming the components of the environment and solar radiation into materials for use in manufacturing and consumption, is a renewable and repeatable process that has long supported human civilizations. But it finds itself at a turning point as a result of the growing dangers presented by our industrial creativity, especially since the start of the Industrial Revolution. We are going to take a trip down the verdant hallways of our history, present, and future, where our yearning for harmony with

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nature calls us, as we dig into this investigation of the "greening" of development and its complicated ramifications. The term "green" has become a powerful symbol in economic discourse, drawing attention to the critical need to protect the natural environment in our economic undertakings. The objective of this research is to analyse how the "green economy" has evolved and how it interacts with other concepts, intending to shed light on the significant consequences of the creation of policies and the practical handling of socioeconomic problems. Its educational fabric takes us through three distinct tiers: the first being the introduction of eco-centric economic processes as a modern occurrence; the second being the elaborate definitions of "green economy" and "green growth"; and the third being the directives for putting these paradigm shifts into practice.

2 THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The study also reveals a wealth of metrics and measurements that shed light on the illusive field of green growth and the green economy while establishing crucial links with the overall principles of sustainable development. At last, in a revelation of profound wisdom, it presents the European Green Deal, the most recent masterwork in the environmental symphony. Utilizing a diverse range of sources, this essay deconstructs the complex web of "green economy," "green growth," and "green deal" concerning "sustainable development goals." (Pearce, Markandya, & Barbier, 1989). It coordinates a methodical array of many activities, from the institutional to the political and governmental. This research project aims to close the gap between theory and reality, providing a new angle on the quest for sustainability.

Evolution of green economic process by green initiatives:

Our relationship with nature has been vital to human history. For agriculture and subsistence, we have utilized natural elements (Jänicke, 2012). But as urbanization and industrialization grew, so did our use of nature, which resulted in environmental deterioration. The rise of free markets and the Industrial Revolution made this problem worse. Sustainable development first appeared in the 1960s as a result of growing environmental concerns (Georgeson, Maslin, & Poessinouw, 2017). This idea developed into the "green economy," which

prioritizes the environment, and eco-development. "Green growth" and "green governance" are two related concepts that have gained popularity. It is crucial to preserve the environment and implement "greening" initiatives that touch on politics, society, and the economy due to the depletion of natural resources and the challenges posed by climate change (Chou, 2021).

"Greening the economy" means moving away from conventional industrial growth and toward sustainable development. The conceptual hierarchy, reveals the interdependence of the green economy and its alignment with other structures for sustainable development (Ten Brink, 2011). These ideas came together during the global financial crisis of 2008-2011 (AtKisson & AtKisson, 2013; Kahle & Gurel-Atay, 2013; Megwai, Njie, & Richards, 2016; Ryszawska, 2013; Szyja, 2015) and are still very important today. The green economy attracted political interest throughout the crisis. To advance the green economy, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) suggested "green stimulus packages" in 2008 (Kahle & Gurel-Atay, 2013). This idea spread throughout many countries as a recovery plan. It is crucial to preserve the environment and implement "greening" initiatives that touch on politics, society, and the economy (Chou, 2021).

UNEP launched the Green Economy Initiative in 2008, concluding in the 2009 'Global Green New Deal' report. By 2020, the notion of the green economy had matured into a guiding force, tackling economic recovery, poverty reduction, and climate change. This revolutionary journey gathered traction, establishing the green economy as a driver for longterm growth by 2019. It emerged as a resilient beacon in 2020, integrated into governments' recovery programs. The year 2021 was a watershed moment, but it was in 2011-2012 that the green economy concept took off, including several worldwide institutions and national teams. Since 2013, practice and implementation in measurement has gained traction across the fields of politics, economics, and society (Bak & Cheba, 2020; Megwai et al., 2016; OECD, 2011; Rajasekar, 2013; Union, 2011). In the context of this exciting time, the UN endorsed the green economy concept with great force, citing it as a viable way to address issues like food security, economic recovery, deterioration of the environment, and threats like climate change, water and energy scarcity, and environmental degradation. The publication of UNEP's seminal 2011 Green Economy Report permanently defined the green economy and sparked the development of similar definitions supported by several international

organizations and research groups. Assessments in the areas of politics, society, and the economy have acquired traction (Bąk & Cheba, 2020; Chou, 2021; Megwai et al., 2016; OECD, 2011; Rajasekar, 2013; Union, 2011). This development demonstrated the green economy concept's lasting significance and revolutionary potential. Numerous worldwide organizations and national groups, such as the European Union, the OECD, the World Bank, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN World

Conferences, and specialist institutions devoted to green economic concepts, all contributed to this enthusiasm. Additionally, national organizations actively investigated and researched the idea of the "green economy," which led to the creation of methods for evaluating results and tracking advancements. Table 1 provides a summary of the main concepts and ideas that have evolved chronologically in the green economy.

Table 1: Global events of economic advancements.

Years	Milestones		
1972	A "Landmark Declaration" highlights the unique importance of our planet at the UN Conference on the Human Environment.		
1987	The World Commission on Environment and Development (WECD) presents a document aristocra "Our Common Future," prefiguring a modern era of environmental consciousness		
1989	The understanding "Blueprint for a Green Economy," Report 1, charts a path in the direction of sustainable economic practices.		
1991	Constructing upon this foundation, "Blueprint for a Green Economy," Report 2, refines the tactics for establishing an ecologically sensitive economy.		
1992	The Rio Earth Summit, also known as the "UN Conference on Environment and Development" (UNCED), adopts "Agenda 21," a comprehensive roadmap for global sustainability.		
1994	"Blueprint for a Green Economy," Report 3, contributes to the emerging roadmap of environmentally responsible economic activities.		
1997	To review and evaluate the implementation of "Agenda 21" at Rio + 5, the UN General Assembly meets, reinforcing the international community's commitment to sustainability.		
2000	Initiating a new phase of global collaboration towards a sustainable future, the UN Millennium Summit brings with augur the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).		
2002	The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) commemorates Rio + 10, ten years after the Rio Earth Summit, by looking back at the achievements and establishing new objectives.		
2008	UNEP heralded a new age of environmentally sensitive economics with the establishment of the Green Economy Initiative (GEI) and the ground-breaking Global Green New Deal (GGND).		
2009	An important turning point in the worldwide battle against climate change was the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.		
2010	In Nusa Due, the UNEP Global Ministerial Environmental Forum unveils "A Strategy for Smart and Sustainable and Inclusive Growth," bringing environmental responsibility and economic advancement together.		
2011	Significant publications started to surface, such as the UNEP Green Economy Report, the OECD's "Towards Green Growth," and the UNEP and ILO's "Green Jobs," all of which advance the conversation on inclusive, sustainable growth.		
2012	Nations come together in Rio + 20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), to map out a path for a more sustainable future. Numerous books offer important insights, such as UN DESA's "A Guidebook to Green Economy" and UNEP's "Measuring Progress Towards a Green Economy."		
2013	In the pursuit of sustainable development, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) represents a significant turning point. In the direction of a uniform approach to green development indicators, the Green Development Knowledge Platform (GGKP) is making progress.		
2014	To assist countries in pursuing environmentally conscious policies, UNEP emphasizes the use of indicators for green economy policymaking.		

2015	An ambitious set of goals for global sustainability, "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" presents the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2016	By measuring inclusive green growth at the national level, the Green Growth Knowledge Platform aims to further our comprehension of sustainable development.
2017	While PAGE (Partnership for Action on Green Economy) concentrates on the implementation of green economy progress assessment, the OECD introduces Green Growth Indicators.
2019	The European Commission presents its ambitious New European Green Deal Strategy, laying the groundwork for a Europe that is more ecologically conscious and sustainable.

The European Union's contribution to the development of sustainable development gained momentum in the run-up to the 2012 Rio + 20 summit when it defined the green economy as "an economy that is low-carbon, resource-efficient, and promotes economic growth, job creation, and the elimination of poverty while investing in and protecting the natural capital necessary for the sustained existence of our planet." It embodies social inclusion, resource efficiency, and low-carbon behaviors (Martin et al., 2012; Pięta, 2019). The Europe 2020 Strategy, which emphasized the significance of greening the economy and putting sustainable development at its center, encompassing the economy, surroundings, and social aspects, further solidified the European Commission's commitment to the green economy.

Describing Green Economy, Green Growth, and Low-Carbon Development:

The reduction of environmental dangers, the management of biodiversity, and the pursuit of societal integration and economic efficiency are all essential components of the green economy. Realizing this idea, which inevitably fosters economic efficiency and growth, depends critically on investments to minimize harmful emissions and the propagation of pro-ecological habits. The idea of "green growth," which rose to popularity during the 2008–2011 global financial crisis, is associated with the green economy. Incorporating green aspects into the economy and combining short-term interventions with a long-term sustainable prosperity commitment constitute green growth, which provides an alternative strategy for economic recovery (Van Der Ploeg & Withagen, 2013). As we continue our discussion, Table 2 provides detailed definitions of the terms "green growth," "green economy," and "low-carbon economy."

Table 2: The evolution of sustainable development.

Type	Organization	Meaning
Green Economy	UNEP (2011)	The definition of the green economy is one that significantly lowers environmental dangers and ecological scarcities while enhancing social fairness and human well-being.
	UNCTAD (2011)	Believes that the green economy will play a key role in achieving sustainable development, which is defined as increased human wellbeing, decreased inequality, and the avoidance of major environmental dangers and shortages for coming generations.
	International Chamber of Commerce's Green Economy Task Force	Highlights the relationship that exists between environmental sustainability and economic growth, which promotes advancement and social development.
	EEA (2013)	Defines the green economy as a harmonious system of economic, social, and environmental advances and regulations that enable society to make effective use of its resources. This strategy protects the natural systems that support human life while improving human well-being on an inclusive basis.
Green Growth	OECD (2011)	Defines "green growth" as the deliberate pursuit of economic expansion and development while making sure that natural resources continue to be reliable sources of necessary resources and environmental services that support ongoing growth and the creation of new economic opportunities.

	World Bank (2012)	Presents green growth as a plan to combat climate catastrophe and	
		continue economic growth and job creation, both of which are essential	
		for reducing poverty in the face of growing resource restrictions.	
	UN ESCAP (2012)	Green growth is clean, efficient growth that takes into consideration	
		natural dangers, the role that environmental management and natural	
		capital play in preventing physical disasters, and the reduction of	
		pollution and environmental damage.	
Low carbon	FGG (2011)	Focuses on climate-resilient development and low-carbon	
development		development as a strategy that emphasizes reducing the use of fossil	
		fuels as the engine for development.	

Table 3: Exploring Varied Perspectives: Traits of Green Economy and Green Growth across Organizational Reports.

Organization/ Authors	Title	Key Definition	Measurement	Strengths Limitations
European Commission	Europe 2020: a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" (2010)	Identifies the green economy as a vital element of equitable, sustainable, and wise growth.	uses indicators at the national and EU levels for measuring focuses on sustainability and inclusion	Might not cover all aspects of the green economy.
OECD	"Towards green growth" (2011)	Places flexible and resource-efficient economic policy at the centre of green growth.	Creates 30 green growth indicators for the OECD draws attention to dynamic and resource-efficient economies.	conveys a great sense of confidence over the prospects for green growth
UNEP	"Towards a green economy" (2011)	Claims that shifting to a green economy may be lucrative by striking a balance between environmental preservation and economic growth.	Suggests indicators for knowledgeable decision-making and policy proposal	It calls into question the traditional use of GDP for appraisal. There are no unique ideas, and the emphasis is on mainstream sustainability.
HM Government	Enabling the transition to a green economy" (2011)	Defines the benefits of the green economy to the UK economy, with an emphasis on foreign market prospects.	Demands government information on climate change and resource threats.	Consistent with compelling economic reasons for climate action. Does not handle social issues or regulations properly.
World Bank	"Inclusive green growth" (2012)	Supports inclusive green growth as the road to long-term development, pushing for green policies to have an impact on GDP.	"Incorporates environmental factors into GDP measurement"	Recognizes the significance of combining environmental and economic considerations. Limits viewpoints by not exploring alternate solutions.
GGKP (Global Green Growth Knowledge Partnership)	Moving towards a common approach on green growth indicators" (2013)	Aims to establish a common approach for green growth indicators, highlighting their commonality.	Focuses on communication needs rather than monitoring	Adopts OECD headline metrics and thinks about wealth accounting. It is possible to neglect various definitions of green growth and focus just on natural assets as inputs to production.

Scholars from many academic institutions have made substantial contributions to our knowledge of green growth and the green economy, going beyond the definitions offered by international organizations. Cato et al. stressed the significance of evaluating economic growth in terms of total well-being and quality of the environment in addition to GDP expansion (Cato, 2009; Jackson & Victor, 2011). They emphasized how difficult it is to create development policies that take into account all of the

interrelated factors in this situation. The global green economy demands significant structural changes, including adjustments to resource usage, manufacturing techniques, consumer behaviour, and environmental protection policies, in addition to GDP growth via green stimulus (Schmalensee, 2012).

The notions of green growth and the green economy acquired significant importance in the context of the swift changes observed in many developing countries as well as in Central and Eastern Europe at the beginning of the 20th and 21st centuries (Pelling, O'Brien, & Matyas, 2015). In addition to overhauling social and economic structures, transformation entails modifying them to satisfy the objectives of sustainable development environmental sustainability. Green transformation is the process of reorganizing current systems in creative ways that are based on sustainable development principles. These systems include economic structures, governance structures, and stakeholder roles. From a practical standpoint, the green economy consists of several components, such as eco-friendly investments, sustainable sectors, ecofriendly goods, eco-friendly taxation, eco-friendly employment, and eco-conscious consumers (Szyja, 2015). All of these elements work together to lessen environmental impact, preserve resources, and promote social and economic development. Many different players, including companies, individuals, governments, and international organizations, are accountable for putting a green economy into action. As seen in Table 3, these ideas might not provide universally applicable answers and might even have some built-in flaws, but they nevertheless offer a vital route toward a future marked by unique and revolutionary ideas that are more ecologically conscious and sustainableClaims that shifting to a green economy may be lucrative by striking a balance between environmental preservation and economic growth. Suggests indicators for knowledgeable decision-making and policy proposal It calls into question the traditional use of GDP for appraisal. There are no unique ideas, and the emphasis is on mainstream sustainability.

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Sustainable development heavily relies on the interwoven ideas of green growth and the green economy, which have developed over several decades. Despite their frequent interchangeability, they differ in terms of focus. Green growth, which has numeric foundations in ambitions for development and population expansion, focuses on alleviating poverty and satisfying the growing demand for goods and services. Green growth is defined as seeking economic progress while actively avoiding resource depletion and environmental damage. Organizations such as the World Bank, OECD, GGGI, and UN-ESCAP have championed green growth. According to this perspective, environmental investments serve as accelerators for economic development, protecting and using natural resources like raw materials, electricity, and water to enhance human well-being.

It imagines a world were environmental stewardship and economic progress live peacefully, advancing wealth while preserving essential natural systems. Robust information resources, measurement measures, and evaluation procedures are necessary for effective green growth strategies that facilitate national transitions to sustainability and promote international collaboration (Bak & Cheba, 2020; Rajasekar, 2013). Resource efficiency, pollution reduction, safeguarding the environment, and disaster avoidance are highlighted by the World Bank as essential elements, while GGGI views green growth as a paradigm that goes beyond traditional economic growth and harmonizes economic advancement with social inclusion, poverty alleviation, resilience, and sustainable ecosystem management. This includes biodiversity preservation, climate change mitigation, and universal resource access (Bábosik, 2020). Sustainable development's cornerstone, green growth, is closely related to the idea of the green economy as a whole, which has

developed over many years, especially since the early 1970s. The terms "green economy" and "green growth" are becoming more and more synonymous over time. The reason for this nomenclature mixing is the pursuit of an integrated strategy that unifies the many aspects of sustainable development, which is closely related to both ideas. Variations in focus emerge based on the particular elements prioritized in each domain.

Accelerating Sustainability: Green Economy Principles

Clarifying the notion was the main goal of the definition of the "green economy," but it also made

the creation of practical implementation guidelines and operational plans necessary. Particularly in the run-up to the Rio+20 Conference, a multitude of groups engaged in the definition of the green economy put out a variety of recommendations. The second edition of the Green Economy Handbook, published in 2012, included a comprehensive summary of these suggestions by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) (Kanianska, 2017). Table 4 provides a summary of the most widely accepted green economic tenets and relates them to the core elements of sustainable development.

Table 4: Green Economy Principles.

Types	Green Economy Principles		
Economic Principles	Green economy concepts acknowledge the intrinsic worth of natural capital in the economic arena. They argue for the incorporation of these concepts into models of economic development and growth, highlighting the need to internalize externalities. They also support resource and energy efficiency, as well as the development of respectable jobs, while highlighting the value of job data.		
Environmental Principles	These environmental principles are concerned with the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. They advocate for investments in and long-term stewardship of natural capital. They attempt to achieve worldwide environmental sustainability goals while acknowledging planetary boundaries and ecological restrictions.		
Social Principles	The social components of the green economy's tenets seek to yield observable advantages, such as the alleviation of poverty and the enhancement of livelihoods, protection from harm, and access to necessities. Social inclusion, democratic government, accountability, openness, and stability are among their top priorities. These ideas also emphasize the significance of fairness and equity inside and between nations as well as between generations.		

The establishment of operational strategies and cooperative efforts have been necessary for the definition and execution of the green economy. Several groups made recommendations on the tenets of the green economy before the Rio+20 Conference. Compiling these suggestions with sustainable development features, the United Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) organized them in its 2012 Green Economy Handbook (Kanianska, 2017). These values, which cover justice, inclusion, sustainability, and other topics, offer a framework that is adaptable to the needs of green economy initiatives (Bábosik, 2020). A joint UNDESA, UNEP, and research UNDESA and UNCTAD (2011) provided a thorough analysis of the shift to a green economy, highlighting its benefits, drawbacks, and possible hazards concerning the objectives of sustainable development. Difficulties include the idea that the economy should completely replace sustainable development, the way ecologists and economists understand the term "green economy," and the possibility of green protectionist legislation. Natural capital assessment, green skills, income distribution, environmentally friendly consumption and production, regulatory frameworks, and education are important components of the green transition (Growth & Countries, 2011). With practical measures offered at several levels, this transition seeks to replace the current economic model with a green economy that fosters social inclusion, growth, and sustainability (Szyja, 2015). Table 5 illustrates how these paradigms are changing and highlights the ongoing search for appropriate indicators and metrics for green growth and governance despite objections and conflicting definitions.

Table 5: Transforming Stages Green Economy.

Stages Entity Key Actions and Initiatives		Key Actions and Initiatives
Low-carbon economy	Countries	Meeting emission reduction objectives. Setting emission limits for machinery and gadgets. Introduction of the Emission Trading System.
	Enterprises	Putting low-carbon technology in place. Investing in low-carbon machinery and vehicles.
	Society	Purchasing low-carbon automobiles Increasing the proportion of people who utilize public transportation and bicycles
Greening the economy	Countries	Thermal renovation of public buildings. Creation of renewable energy sources. Providing financial support for environmental investments. Subsidies for green automobiles. Employing green public procurement processes.
	Enterprises	Modernizing manufacturing plants. Putting in place environmental management systems. Extending the variety of environmentally friendly items. Making green jobs available.
	Society	Thermal retrofitting of residential structures. Purchasing environmentally friendly goods and services.
Green economy	Countries	Putting green tax policies into action. Increasing the proportion of renewable energy in total energy consumption. Creating environmentally friendly transportation. Using industrial strategy to focus on green sectors. Imposing constraints and controls on trash creation.
5	Enterprises	Getting to zero-emission production. The majority of ecological products and services. Making green jobs available
SCIEN	Society	Implementing green building methods, such as greenhouses Creating micro-electric power plants Installing solar panels.

The research investigates the "greening" of development rhetoric, concentrating on terms such as the green economy, green growth, and the European Green Deal in the context of sustainable development goals. It focuses on how the global financial crisis from 2008 to 2011 influenced the establishment of a green economy and green growth principles, stressing resource efficiency, environmental preservation, and social inclusion. Further, recognizing the value of natural capital, encouraging resource efficiency, maintaining biodiversity, and decreasing poverty are all key aspects of the green economy. These ideas serve as a foundation for green economy projects and policies. The research emphasizes how crucial it is to have strong information sources, measuring measures, and assessment techniques to successfully execute the concepts of green growth and the green economy, which should support sustainable development rather than displace it. All things considered, the research provides a thorough understanding of how these ideas have developed and interacted with one another, highlighting their

importance in building a sustainable and ecologically conscious future.

3 CONCLUSION

The paper explores the revolutionary journey of ideas like the green economy, green growth, and the European Green Deal in the context of the changing development discourse, highlighting their critical significance in accomplishing sustainable development goals. This tour follows the transition throughout time from humanity's fundamental relationship with nature to the current need to strike a balance between economic aspirations and environmental care. This necessity gives rise to the green economy, which encourages resource efficiency, environmental protection, and poverty reduction. The study emphasizes the significant effects of the global financial crisis that occurred between 2008 and 2011, which sparked green economic methods and brought attention to the

pressing need for eco-centric solutions. A recent landmark, the European Green Deal emphasizes the interdependence of economic, social, and environmental goals by coordinating local efforts with global goals. Key findings underscore the importance of flexible principles guiding the green economy, robust measurement metrics, and a holistic approach that complements, rather than replaces, the broader concept of sustainable development. In conclusion, the study offers a comprehensive perspective on the evolution and interplay of these concepts, emphasizing their significance in shaping a sustainable and environmentally responsible future, while highlighting the challenges that necessitate innovative solutions and collaborative efforts.

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