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From Research to Results: Greener Pathways for the SADC Region

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The prevalence of highly mono-cultural economies within the Southern African Development Community (SADC)—over half the countries in the region have fewer than eight sectors accounting for 75 per cent of exports—primarily agrarian or dependent on mineral resources, have shaped the selection process of five (5) priority policy intersections which define the region's social, environmental and economic development:

- Mineral Extractive Development and Investments in Health: Direct Co-Benefits;
- Food Security and Education;
- Water Security and Energy Access;
- Rural Growth and Development anchored in Natural Resource Management; and
- Climate Resilience and Social Protection.

These themes were approved at the first meeting of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) in March 2012. The cross-cutting nature of the themes and in some cases unusual pairings, (e.g. the mineral sector and health, or climate change and social protection), provide opportunities for both parliamentary leadership and learning. Key prevailing structures and trends are also reflected in these proposed themes, which drive the drafting and creative process of the *Green Guide*.

In the follow-up phase, between April and December 2012, the applied research approach to the *Green Guide* called for the identification of opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as relevant good practices in the global South. Opportunities for South-South cooperation have also been highlighted. By extracting lessons for green policies from experiences throughout the global South, the guide is able to build reference points for policy and processes in the SADC region. The diverse representation within the region also allows for the lessons learned from the region, in turn, to be applied to a broader set of countries in the global South.

To avoid over-investment in any one social or economic sector to the detriment of others, the *Green Guide* will also consider how to enhance risk management strategies within decision-making processes and, more generally, within the broader political and developmental processes. Good social sustainability examples already exist in the region. For example:

- Mozambique's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) on job creation in agriculture leading to the reduction of poverty and vulnerability, while promoting inclusive growth;
- Botswana's Labour-Intensive Rural Public Works Programme that prioritises women in programme supervisory roles;
- Zimbabwe's Rural Transport Study that identifies mechanisms to guarantee improvements that will benefit women; and
- Zambia's Micro-Project Utility that enhances participatory methods for women in decision-making processes pertaining to community asset construction.

Building on such multi-sectoral approaches to sustainable development and linking them to opportunities to grow in a more climate-compatible way will also be a key part of our approach to develop the *Green Guide*.

As the project enters its final phase of national and regional consultations it will be tested through engagement with parliamentarians and other stakeholders. The core themes, particularly those identified through feedback from the TRC as those where the links being made are 'less than obvious' or explicit, are to be explored through proposed meetings in three testing countries:

- Zambia: the relationship between the mineral extractive sector and health;
- South Africa: the water and energy security nexus; and
- Mauritius: linking climate change and social protection.

The matching of themes to countries takes into consideration ongoing policy processes, debates and tensions between various elements of development and economic policy and seeks to build on the foundation of ongoing policy discussions <<http://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/greengrowthregionalworkshops15-18january2013.htm>> on and efforts towards green growth, such as **Ile Durable** of Mauritius <<http://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/Joya%20Bhandhari,%20Mauritius%20Ile%20Durable%20Fund.pdf>> and the **Green Fund** of South Africa <http://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/Olympus%20Manthata_South%20African%20Green%20Fund%20presentation.pdf>.

With the *Green Guide's* significant focus on social and political innovations, SADC parliamentarians will be introduced to case-specific decision-making processes that can help to bridge the gap between idealism and realism in transforming developing economies towards a more inclusive and greener path of growth.

References:

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Notes:

- This Project Note is the final installment of a four-part series outlining the progress of the IPC-IG production of the Green Guide for the SADC Parliamentary Forum.
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