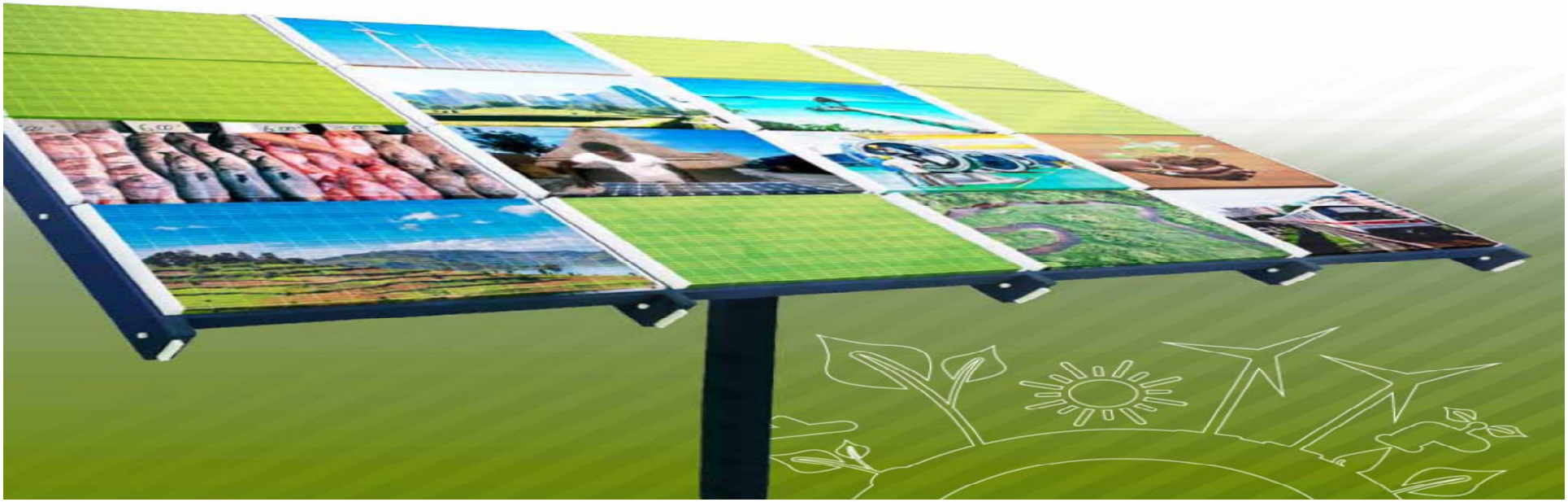
Towards a GREEN economy

Suggestions and Questions for

Green and social? Social and green? Exploring the links of the welfare state / green state debate in Costa Rica

by Markus Lederer



Green and social? Social and green?

1. Provides an excellent overview of the literature, and highlights some interesting areas of the green and Social debate.

2. The discussion of why an Environmental Kuznets Curve is not strictly true. (losses forever)

3. why the poor can also be green is a welcome contribution to our own discourse. (synergies of social and green)

4. The argument that welfare is dependent on greenness very much in line with what UNEP advocates – that sustainable management of resources and investment/growth of green sectors ensure for long-term viability of the economy. IMF (Good economy is good ecology).

5. It will benefit from attempting to answer the vary valid and interesting questions it raises.

Green and social? Social and green?

Specific comments:

1. The opening paragraph should mention that alongside extreme poverty reduction, we have also seen growing **inequality** within countries.

2. The focus on state-led intervention for reconciling development and sustainability is not, as mentioned by the paper, a **outdated approach**. State is and can play role in catalysing policy and investment reforms for a country-wide change of development patterns.

3. Need more convincing arguments / evidance on why **“ecological moderanization” is “a highly elitist undertaking”** and why reformation of current state practices is doubtful.

Green and social? Social and green?

1. The concept of a ***developmental state*** is an interesting one, and the characteristics of such a state are useful to us in UNEP when thinking about the likely outcomes/ uptake of our work, and the government ultimate ability to transform the country's economy. A deeper analysis of the **country characteristics that would facilitate/enable a state-led transition** to a green economy would be a very interesting area to explore further.

2. When mentioning that there is an overriding rationale for the poor to protect the environment (due to their **direct dependence** upon it), it would be useful to have some mention of work schemes that have successfully **incentivised the poor** to maintain and restore their surrounding environment while also offering them with a new, decent source of income (eg. eco-tourism). We would also argue that the *functional dependency*/correlation of green statehood and welfare programmes can be evidenced by much more than the poor's nature-dependence.

Green and social? Social and green?

1. We would like to see a greater emphasis on how the welfare and green developments in Costa Rica are **linked.** At the moment the case study provides an excellent, parallel overview but does not deliver much in terms of analysing how one may have been a forerunner to another, and where we can expect to see this symbiotic development in other nations too. The paper leaves the reader with a question of **what lessons does Costa Rica offer to other countries who would like welfare development to be accompanied by a stronger commitment to sustainability –** especially given that it is quite atypical to any other state in the Global South.

Green and social? Social and green?

GE: Growth through Clean Energy

- 77% of the population in LDCs is without access to electricity; 71% of the population in rural regions rely on biomass burning as the only source of energy.

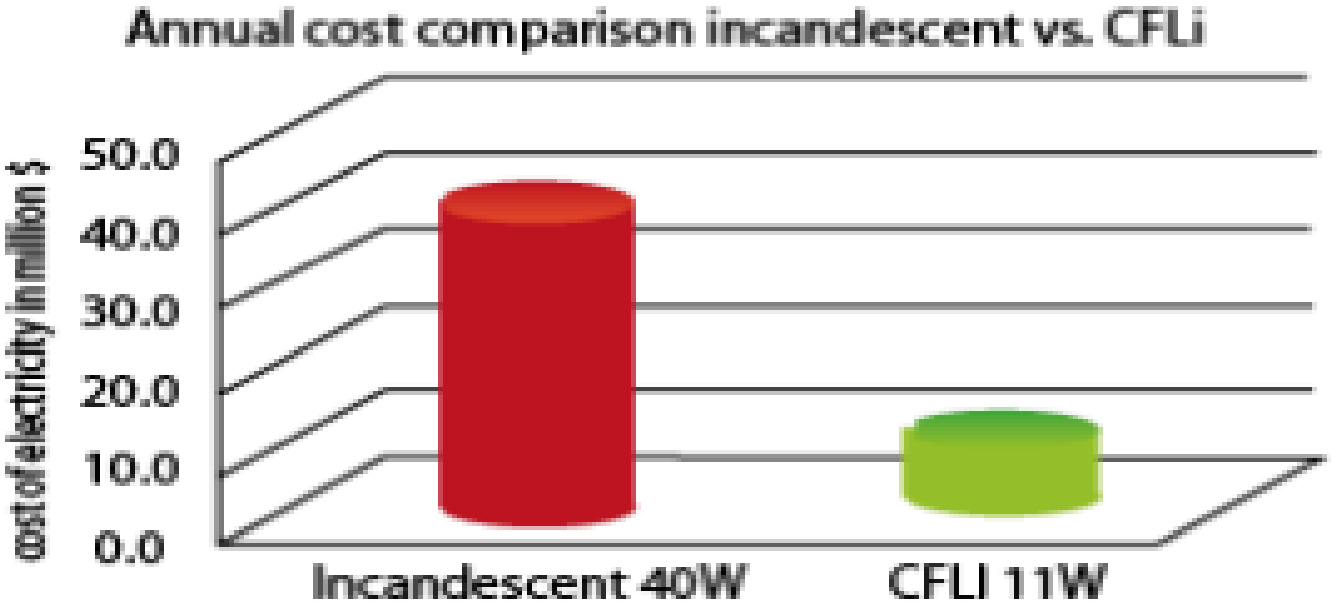
- **Decentralized forms of energy access are proving more effective to bringing energy to the rural poor.**

- **Grameen Shakti Programme in Bangladesh** - installed 320,000 SHSs by 2009, in addition to biogas plants and improved cooking stoves, and aims to install over 1 million SHS by 2015 , while also providing the necessary maintenance, thereby generating local employment.

Green and social? Social and green?

Massive potential with energy saving

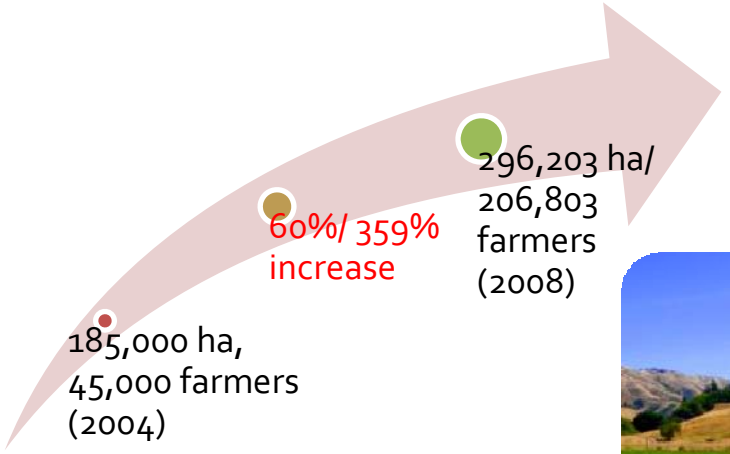
- In a country such as Senegal, a 100% replacement of installed incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent lamps at an estimated cost of $ 52 million, could deliver annual energy savings of 73% and cost savings of nearly US$ 30 million



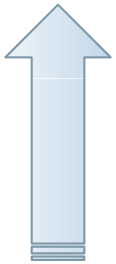
Source: enlighten

UNEP

Seizing new trade opportunities



48-68% less emissions and carbon sequestration



US$ 22.8 mil (2007/8)
US$ 6.2 mil (2004/5)
US$ 3.7 mil (2003/4)

The case of Uganda

The global market:
97% of buyers in OECD countries;
80% of producers in Africa, Asia and Latin America

2010: $59 billion >
2015: $105 billion

UNEP

Fisheries

- **Demand for certified fish products** (such as eco-label products) has been gaining momentum
- **Sustainable procurement policies** of large international food firms are likely to further drive demand
- **Processing:** developing countries yet to exploit **additional gains** with product certification:
  - Particular growth areas in the market for frozen organic fish and sustainable aquaculture
- **Tourism**: recreational fishing, whale watching, scuba diving, etc.

Marine Stewardship Council
Certified sustainable seafood

Aquaculture Stewardship Council

Forests

- Developing Countries Trade and Export opportunities in the forest industry include:
  - **certified timber**
  - recycled timber
  - **non-timber forest products (NTFPs):** food items, pharmaceutical ingredients and cosmetic products, etc.
  - forest tourism
- Currently, **demand outstrips supply**

Tourism

- Tourism generates large export revenues for developing countries and is a key driver of growth for the world economy (tourists account for greater than 9% of global GDP, estimated 1 bn. tourists in 2012)
  - **small changes towards greening (e.g. more efficient water and energy use) can have large impacts**
- Investment in **sustainable tourism** generates significant financial returns as tourist choices demonstrate a **preference for companies that implement best practices in their environmental management**
- **Eco-tourism**, which 83% of developing countries rely upon as a major export, is the **fastest growing sub-sector** of the tourism industry

Rabobank Group

- The **Rabo Sustainable Agriculture Guarantee Fund (SAGF)** has been initiated by Rabobank International in response to a call for Public Private Partnerships.

- The SAGF aims to enhance the access of selected small- and medium-sized producers of **sustainable agricultural products** in developing countries to working capital credit (**pre-export trade finance**) on the basis of commercial and sustainable terms.

- The core objective of the SAGF is financial sector deepening, which is defined as 'increasing access to financial services for those who previously had restricted or no access'.

Rabobank

UNEP

UNEP

GREEN economy

Developing Countries Success Stories

UNEP

BUILDING INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMIES

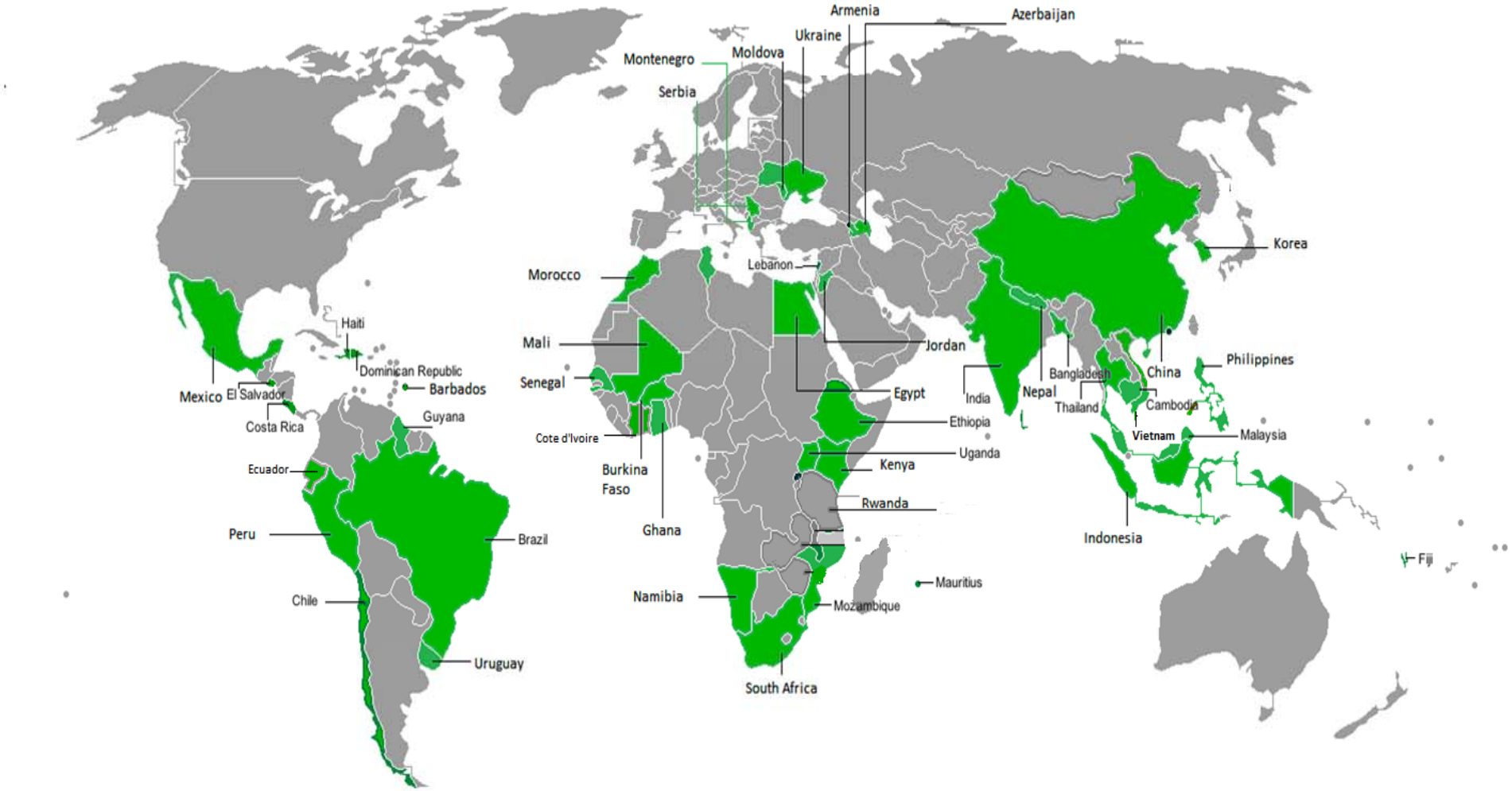
SUCCESS STORIES FROM SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

GREEN economy

Why a Green Economy Matters for the Least Developed Countries

UNEP

UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

UN-OHRLLS

Current Green Economy Engagement