

# MOBILISING THE DIASPORA FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION: WAYS TO ENGAGE IN THE ENERGY AND WASTE SECTORS

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Gret is an international development NGO under French law, which was established in 1976 to combat poverty and inequality by providing sustainable and innovative responses for inclusive development, actively considering the fight against climate change. As of 2019, Gret is active in 28 countries, with 14 permanent representations, mainly in Asia and Africa. Gret works collaboratively on a variety of issues that together contribute to the development of the Global South, particularly in the energy and waste sectors.

If you have any questions, please contact: [gret@gret.org](mailto:gret@gret.org)

## IN COLLABORATION WITH

### **FORIM: Elizabeth Flores (Chargée de mission), Benoit Mayaux (Chargé de plaidoyer)**

FORIM (Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations) is a French platform which unites networks, federations and groups of the International Solidarity Organisations for Immigration Issues (OSIM) involved in integration actions “here” and development actions in countries of heritage. FORIM represents about 1000 member associations working in sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean. Created in March 2002, it testifies to the desire of its members to join forces with all components of French civil society in order to promote the integration of people from international migrant backgrounds, strengthen exchanges between France and the countries of origin of migrants and contribute to the development of their region of origin.

If you have any questions, please contact: [forim@forim.net](mailto:forim@forim.net)

## COORDINATION AND SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY

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The European Union Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF), implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Brussels, was established in 2019 to consolidate efforts in diaspora engagement for development. It seeks to bridge the existing gaps between policy development and research, test concrete modes of engagement and create a laboratory of innovative ideas and policies based on needs and priorities.

If you have any questions, please contact [EU-diaspora@icmpd.org](mailto:EU-diaspora@icmpd.org)

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The European Union (EU) aims to become the world's leading green power through its climate and environmental objectives. Given the interdependence of ecosystems, the transition to green growth requires a similar level of ambition at the international level. Therefore, supporting green growth in the EU's partner countries – in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.4 – is an essential component of the EU's external action.

In this endeavour, the EU can support and engage with the diaspora, a recognised partner in the implementation of the SDGs and with great potential for green growth.

In order to inform such collaborations a ground-breaking exploratory study has been conducted in the framework of the European Union Global Diaspora Facility in partnership with FORIM and Gret. The study aims to better understand diaspora commitment to the green economy and to propose concrete recommendations to make the most of the partnership potential. Three countries (Haiti, Togo and Vietnam) and two sectors (energy and waste) were explored in-depth, allowing the authors to reflect on practices and generate recommendations based on concrete experiences.

The study highlights initiatives that demonstrate the varied contributions diaspora make in this field from entrepreneurship, to technical and financial support, to advocacy and more besides...

Nevertheless, in many ways the green economy remains an underexplored area of diaspora engagement, due to:

- Its complexity and scope, especially in terms of implementing operational projects in different socio-economic contexts;
- The multitude determining factors in the motivation of diasporas;
- Intervention frameworks (awareness, business climate, regulation...) that often limit the potential.

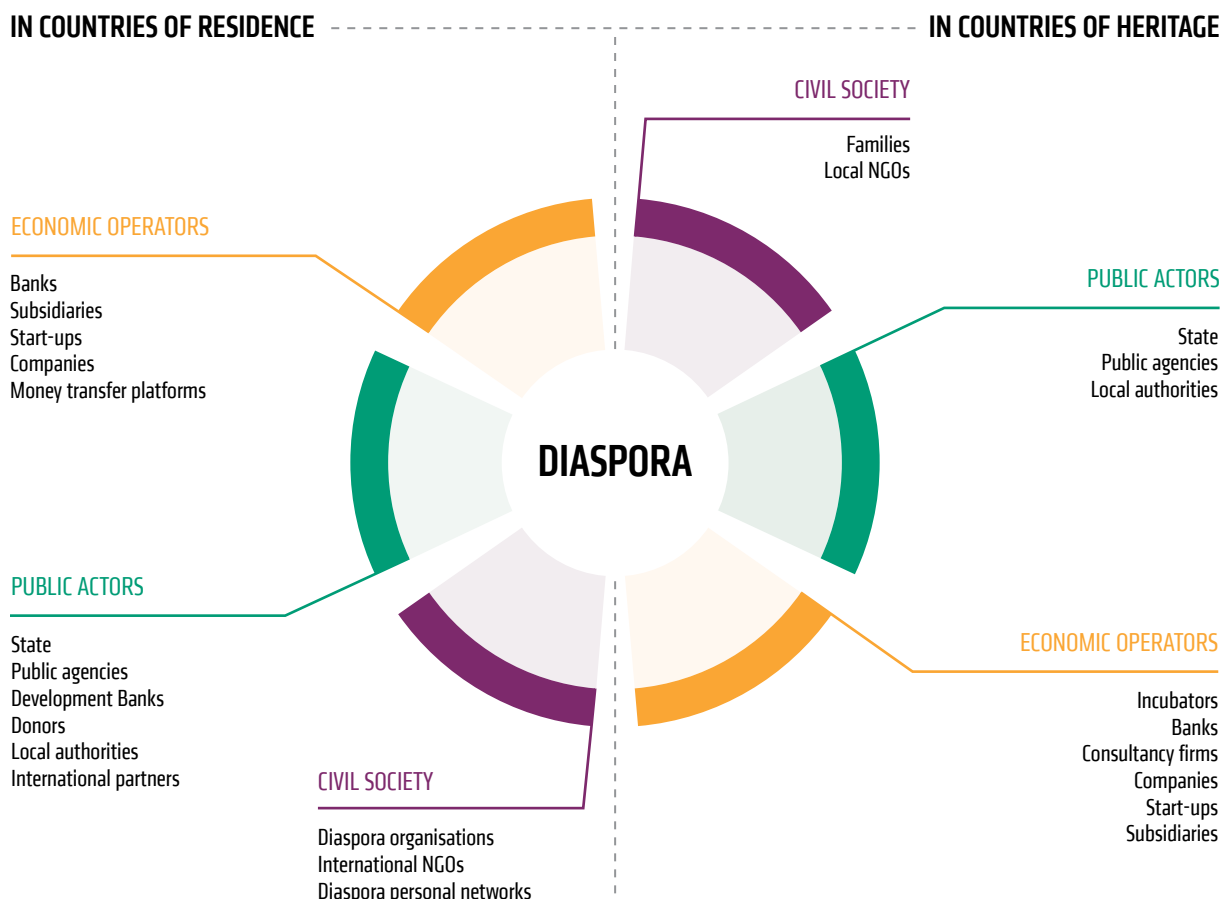
In order to stimulate collaboration and facilitate and upscale sustainable green development initiatives involving the diaspora, the following prerequisites have been identified:

- Encourage diaspora interest and ownership in the concept of green economy with an emphasis on the need to tailor related initiatives to the context, to avoid risks such as “greenwashing”
- In-depth analysis of the different stakeholders (including diaspora associations, public agencies, diaspora entrepreneurs and local associations) and their needs so as to tailor green economy projects and potential diaspora input to the realities on the ground and modalities of diaspora engagement;
- Clear understanding of the contexts and frameworks of intervention in order to identify opportunities;

- Creation of flexible and open dialogue between networks involved in the green economy and diaspora networks to exchange experiences and create synergies.

The implementation of these recommendations and engagement of the diaspora in the green economy relies on a diversity of stakeholders – in both home and host countries – from three spheres: public, the private and civil society.

## ACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT IN THE GREEN ECONOMY



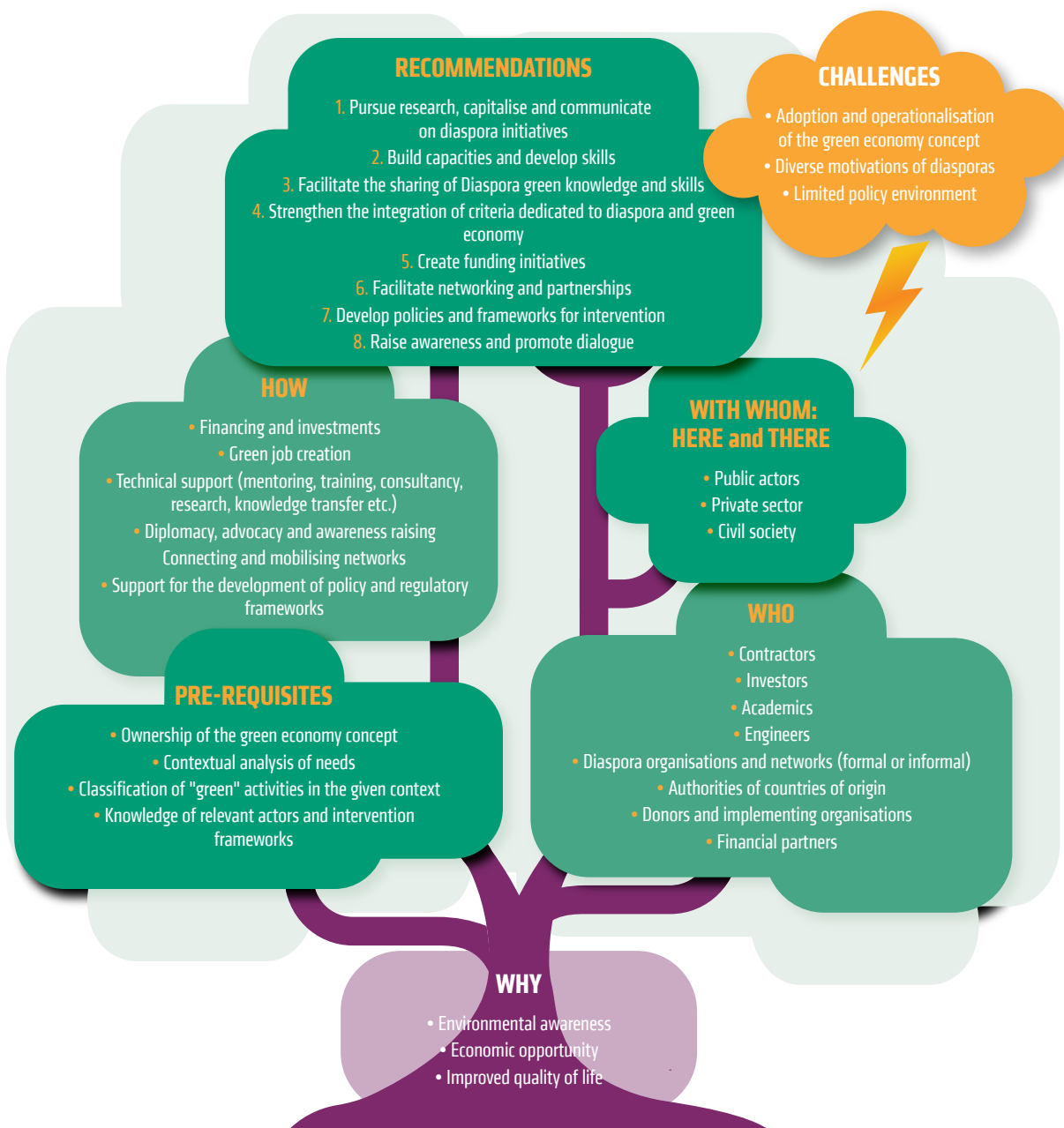
## RECOMMENDATIONS

The study makes a series of recommendations to facilitate and strengthen diaspora engagement in the green economy:

- Raise awareness between diaspora and green economy actors to foster exchange of experiences and create synergies
- Pursue research, capitalise and communicate on diaspora initiatives in order to make these a source of learning and improve practices
- Strengthen the capacity of the diaspora and other stakeholders to better understand the challenges of the green economy, develop “green” skills, set up and implement green technical projects;

- Facilitate the sharing of green knowledge and skills among the diaspora, particularly through mentoring
- Strengthen the integration of parameters related to diaspora and green economy into donor policies and projects
- Diversify and open up sources of financing for the green economy;
- Develop and strengthen legal frameworks for diaspora engagement in the green economy
- Position diaspora actors in the framework of various partnership arrangements.

## MOBILISING THE DIASPORA FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION



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