

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

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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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# ACRONYMS

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<b>AFD</b>	Agence Française de Développement [French Development Agency]
<b>ADEME</b>	Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maitrise de l'Energie [Environment and Energy Management Agency]
<b>AIE</b>	Agence Internationale de l'Energie [International Energy Agency]
<b>ANASAP</b>	Agence Nationale de l'Assainissement et de la Salubrité Publique [National Agency for Sanitation and Public Health]
<b>ARSE</b>	Autorité de Réglementation du Secteur de l'Electricité [Authority for the Regulation of the Electricity Sector]
<b>BAD</b>	Banque Africaine de Développement [African Development Bank]
<b>BID</b>	Banque Interaméricaine de Développement [Inter-American Development Bank, IADB]
<b>BOAD</b>	Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement [West-African Development Bank]
<b>BOT</b>	Build, Operate, Transfer
<b>CCNUCC</b>	Convention Cadre des Nations Unies sur le Changement Climatique [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC]
<b>CEB</b>	Compagnie Electrique du Bénin [Electrical Company of Benin]
<b>CEET</b>	Compagnie d'Energie Electrique du Togo [Electric Energy Company of Togo]
<b>CHF</b>	Collectif Haïti de France [Haiti Community of France]
<b>COP</b>	Conference Of the Parties
<b>COFIL</b>	Comité de Pilotage [Steering Committee]
<b>EDF</b>	Electricité de France [Electricity of France]
<b>EDH</b>	Electricité d'Haïti [Electricity of Haiti]
<b>ENR</b>	Energie renouvelable [Renewable energy]
<b>ERAV</b>	Electricity Regulatory Authority of Vietnam
<b>EUDiF</b>	EU Global Diaspora Facility
<b>EVN</b>	Electricity of Vietnam
<b>FORIM</b>	Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations [Forum of Migration-Based International Solidarity Organisations]
<b>GDS</b>	Gestion des déchets solides [Solid Waste Management]
<b>GDE</b>	General Directorate of Energy
<b>GES</b>	Gaz à effet de serre [Greenhouse gas]
<b>GIZ</b>	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit [Society for International Cooperation]
<b>Gret</b>	Groupe de Recherche et d'Echange Technologique [Research and Technological Exchange Group]
<b>GW</b>	GigaWatt
<b>I4CE</b>	Institute for Climate Economics
<b>ICMPD</b>	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
<b>IDE</b>	Investissements directs étrangers [Foreign Direct Investment, FDI]
<b>IFDD</b>	Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable [Sustainable Development Institute of French-speaking Countries]

<b>IIED</b>	International Institute for Environment and Development
<b>IRENA</b>	Agence Internationale pour les Energies Renouvelables [International Renewable Energy Agency]
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency
<b>MHAVE</b>	Ministère des Haitiens Vivants à l'Étranger [Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad]
<b>MOIT</b>	Ministry of Industry and Trade
<b>MTPTC</b>	Ministère de travaux publics, transports et communication [Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication]
<b>MW</b>	MegaWatt
<b>MWc</b>	MegaWatt crête [Megawatt peak, MWp]
<b>MWh</b>	MegaWatt heure [Megawatt hours, MWh]
<b>OCDE</b>	Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economique [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD]
<b>ODD</b>	Objectif de Développement Durable [Sustainable Development Goal, SDG]
<b>OIF</b>	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie [International Organisation of La Francophonie]
<b>OIM</b>	Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations [International Organization for Migration, IOM]
<b>OIT</b>	Organisation Internationale du Travail [International Labour Organization, ILO]
<b>OMRH</b>	Office de Management des Ressources Humaines [Management and Human Resources Office]
<b>OSC</b>	Organisation de la société civile [Civil society organisation]
<b>OSIM</b>	Organisation de Solidarité Internationale issue de l'Immigration [Migration-Based International Solidarity Organisation]
<b>PIB</b>	Produit Intérieur Brut [Gross Domestic Product, GDP]
<b>PAFHA</b>	Plateforme d'Association Franco-Haïtienne [Franco-Haitian Association Platform]
<b>PNUE</b>	Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement [United Nations Environment Program, UNEP]
<b>PRA OSIM</b>	Projet d'Appui aux Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issue de l'Immigration [Support Project for Migration-Based International Solidarity Organisations]
<b>SYCTOM</b>	Syndicat mixte central de traitement des ordures ménagères [Joint authority household waste treatment centre]
<b>UGVF</b>	Union Générale des Vietnamiens en France [General Union of Vietnamese in France]

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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.

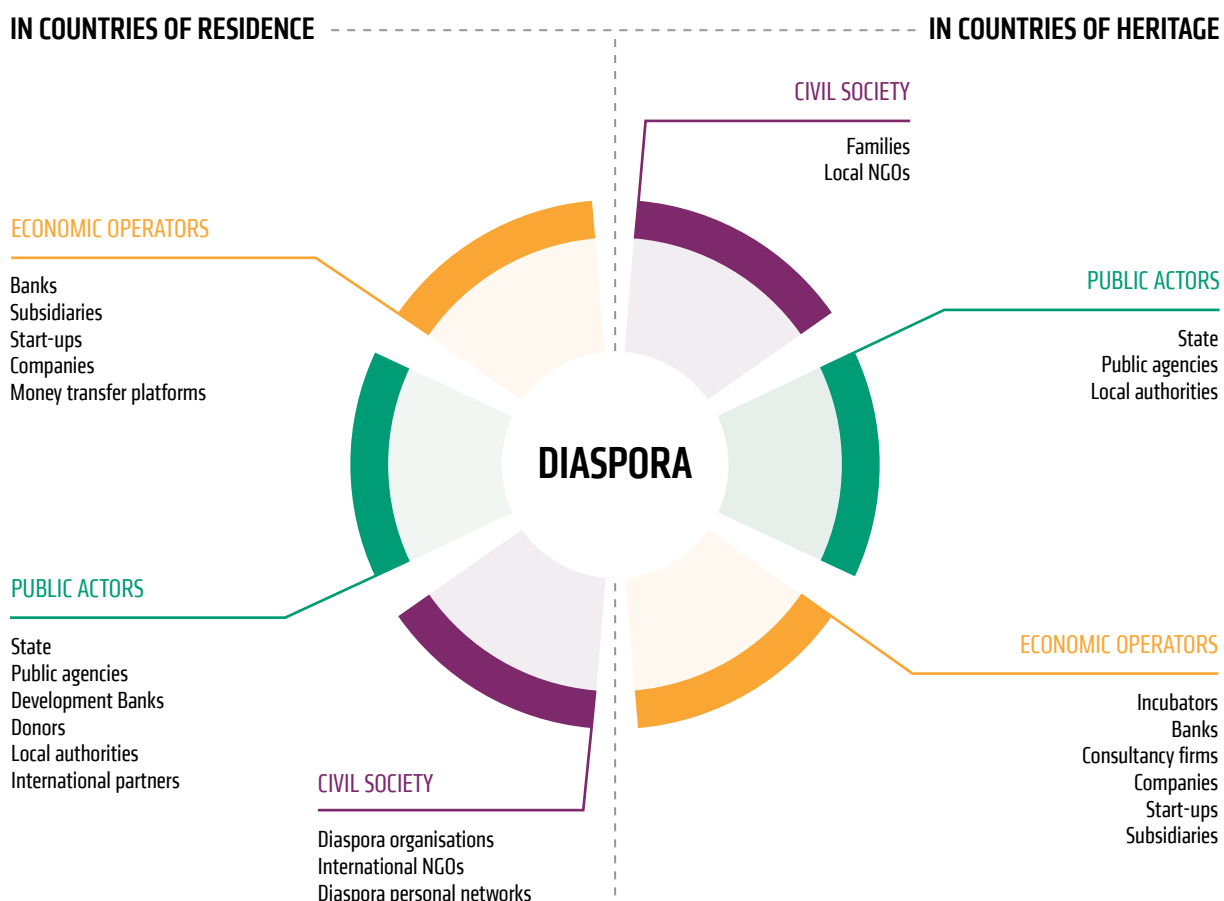
In order to stimulate collaboration and facilitate and upscale sustainable green development initiatives involving the diaspora, the following prerequisites have been identified:

- 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

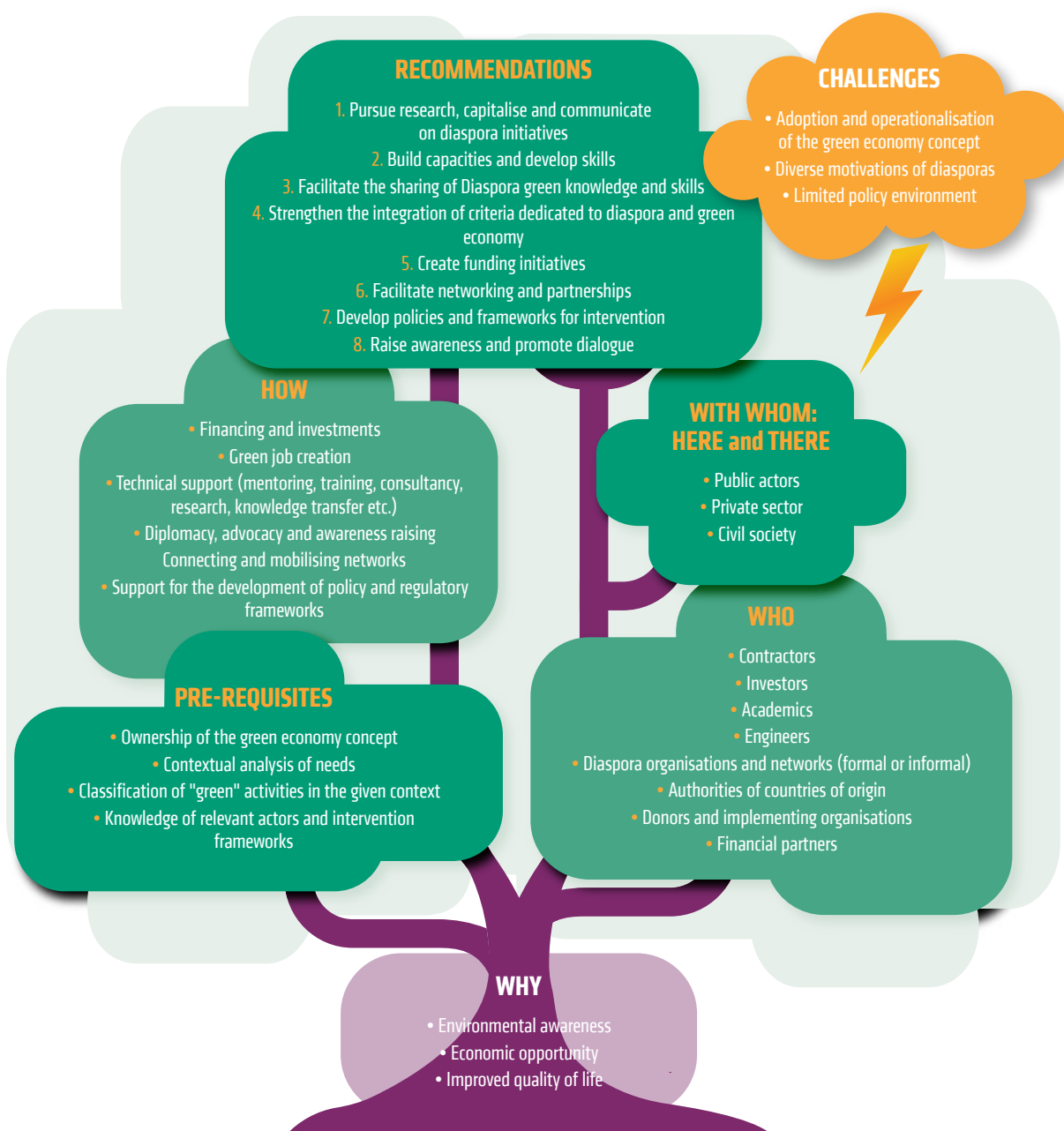
The study makes a series of recommendations to facilitate and strengthen diaspora engagement in the green economy:

- 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



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

# INTRODUCTION

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In tandem with increased awareness of the ecological limits of our planet, the green economy concept was developed in the 1990s and then put on the international agenda at the Earth Summit (Rio+20) in 2012. The governments agreed to treat the **green economy** as a component part of sustainable development, defining the green economy as “an economy which leads to improvement of human well-being and social equity while reducing in a significant way environmental risks and the penury of resources”. In 2015, these advances led to the inclusion of the green economy in the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** of the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Accordingly, SDG 8.4 aims to “*Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production, and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead*”.

In its response to the 2030 Agenda, the European Union (EU) in 2017 adopted the **New European Consensus on Development**. This consensus reflects the key themes of the 2030 Agenda and is organised around the five “P”s: People, **Planet**, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. To implement this and in order to achieve the SDGs, the consensus explicitly recognises the diaspora as a major actor, because of its varied capital, whether economic, social, cultural, political or human.

In addition, the EU aims at becoming the first green power globally. This is witnessed by its ambitious objectives in the area of green growth included in the **Green Deal** which aims at being carbon-neutral by 2050<sup>1</sup>, as well as the leading role played by the EU in climate negotiations and efforts internationally. In February 2022, the ministers for foreign affairs of the EU meeting in the Council approved the **conclusions on the results of the last Conference of the Parties on climate (COP 26)**, emphasising that, in the framework of a common approach by Team Europe, the EU and its Member States will cooperate with partners world-wide to accelerate the implementation of actions and initiatives decided upon at the COP 26, including mobilising the private sector and reorienting global financial flows towards sustainable and green investments.

At the crossroads of these environmental and developmental priorities, it is important to understand better and to catalyse the possible areas of collaboration with the diaspora in favour of the green economy in the partner countries of the EU. What roles and what added values can the diasporas contribute to the green economy? What are their aspirations? What opportunities are being offered to them? What challenges are they faced with? What levers can they use to facilitate their actions?

The transition to green growth implies having recourse to new technologies and practices. Because of their varied transnational capital, the diaspora players can provide practical solutions, innovations, knowledge transfer, investments and advocacy.

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1 The Green Deal is a response to the commitments made in the context of the Paris Agreement on climate in 2015. It offers a framework for strategic and transversal initiatives to provide the EU with an efficient and competitive economy which respects the environment. It was presented by the European Commission in December 2019 and then given the form of a packet of implementation proposals in July 2021. For more information: [Delivering the European Green Deal | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

All conclusions must be qualified, however, given that there are a multitude of personal and collective determinants for the commitment of the diaspora to the green economy, linked in particular to mastery of the technical terms and frameworks, motivations, generational differences and characteristics of the diaspora communities, as well as the social, economic and political conditions of the countries of origin.

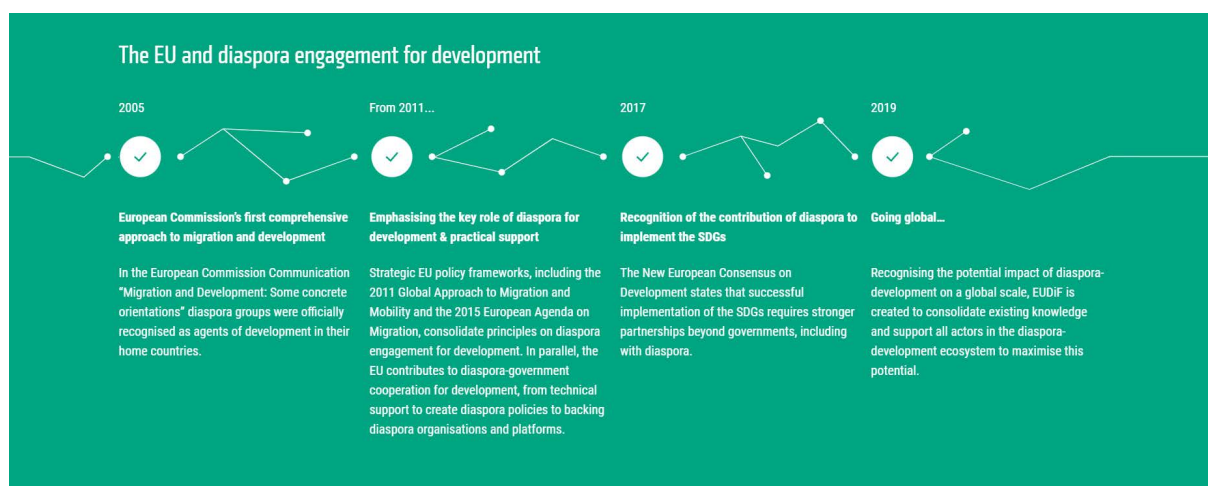
# 1. FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

## A. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

As a global platform for learning and catalyst for actions to involve the diaspora in development, the European Union Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF), implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), generates studies on strategic social themes.

Launched in 2019, EUDiF reflects the political priorities of the EU with regard to the involvement of the diaspora in development. It is the first global platform aiming at consolidating efforts in this sector, using a holistic approach which is inclusive and impactful and based on research, dialogue, strengthening of capacities and mobilising the expertise of the diaspora.

FIGURE 1 : EVOLUTION OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE EU AND THE DIASPORA TO DEVELOPMENT (ICMPD)



Making the link between the social and central priorities in the development policies of the EU, the contribution of the diaspora to green growth was placed at the heart of the first **Future Forum** organised by EUDiF in June 2021. Since then, EUDiF has provided technical support to on-the-ground projects aimed at deploying the human capital of the diaspora in order to develop education in climate change, agro-business and sustainable tourism initiatives.

As a complement to these operational efforts, and to make up for the shortfall in information and data, this novel study has been produced to promote and guide collaboration projects with the diaspora in favour of the green economy in EU partner countries. It has been carried out in partnership with the Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM) and the Groupe de Recherche et d'Echange Technologique (GRET) [Group for Research and Technology Exchanges].

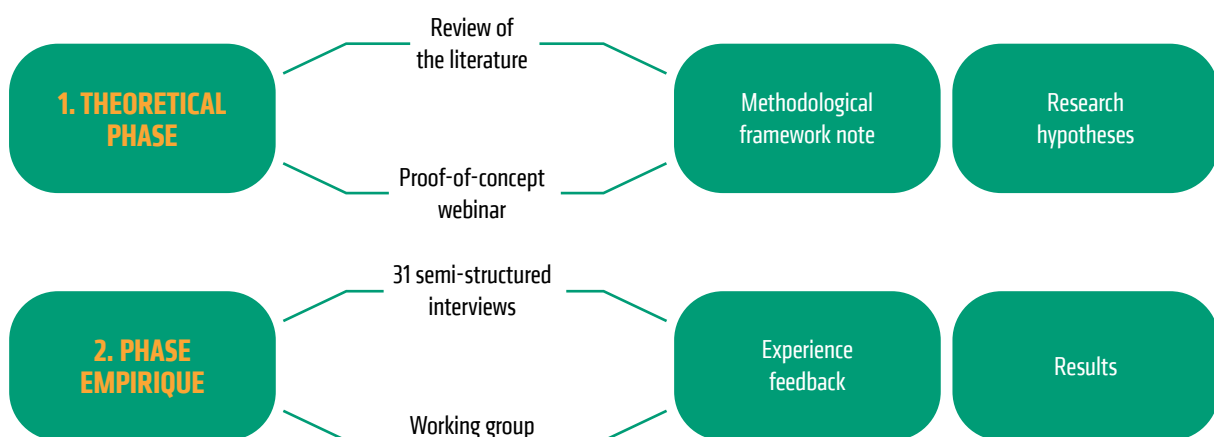
The objectives and key questions of this research are of twofold:

1. **Have a better understanding of the issues, practices, opportunities and challenges** – To do this, the study examines the links between the involvement of the diaspora and the green economy through targeted thematic and geographical insights. It explores three countries – Togo, Vietnam and Haiti – and two sectors of the green economy – renewable energy and sustainable waste management, questioning:
  - What are the **motivations and interests** of the diaspora in investing in, promoting and supporting transitions to the green economy?
  - To what extent and in what way does the diaspora **take ownership** of the issues of the green economy according to the contexts within which they develop?
  - What are the **roles, contributions and intervention modalities** for the diaspora and partners to undertake, support, facilitate or accompany activities linked to the green economy?
  
2. **To stimulate and strengthen partnerships** – The study sets out operational recommendations for principal players, over the short, medium and long terms. These include:
  - What **frameworks** (political, regulatory, financial) and partnerships already exist or could be put in place, to **stimulate, accelerate, scale up and replicate** the action of the diaspora in the green economy.
  - How the involvement of the diaspora in the green economy should **be followed and measured**.
  - How good practices and information on the commitment of the diaspora to the green economy should **be generated, shared and debated**.

## B. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on the definition of the term “diaspora” used by EUDiF, according to which the diaspora “comprises immigrants and descendants of immigrants who actively maintain links with their countries of origin and wish to contribute to their development”.

The study, conducted between May 2021 and March 2022, was organised in two phases<sup>2</sup> :



2 The interview guide and list of interviews are given in the annexes.

A Steering Committee (Copil) accompanied this research. This Copil was set up to ensure the strategic follow-up of the study. It met regularly during the implementation of this research exercise and consisted of:

- Eva Ah-Kow – SYCTOM [Île-de-France waste management agency]
- Noémie Doh Linh – Support officer OPAP / Union Générale des Vietnamiens en France (UGVF) [General Union of the Vietnamese in France]
- Samuel Legendre - Expert
- Denise Pierre – Award-winner of the Climate Generation Programme / Haiti
- Kag Sanoussi – Expert

The role of this Copil was to direct and validate the research questions and take part in the identification of respondents for the interviews.

This study is exploratory and is based within a defined perimeter, thematically and geographically. It therefore constitutes a first step, making recommendations and opening discussions in order to continue work both on the ground and at research level.

The research targeted the diaspora of the selected countries (Haiti, Togo, Vietnam) based in Europe, France in particular. It should be emphasised, however, that for Haiti and Vietnam, this represents only a small part of the diaspora in general.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, some people contacted in the course of the study did not feel it was “legitimate” for them to talk of the links between the diaspora the green economy. There were players therefore who did not wish to respond or who specified that without doubt their responses did not represent a general position or an expert viewpoint. This reticence illustrates the fact that the subject is still not well explored, including by the stakeholders concerned. It was also particularly difficult to find respondents among the authorities of the three countries concerned, and despite our efforts we were unable to conduct an interview with a representative of Vietnam.

## C. COUNTRY SELECTION

Faced with a global challenge requiring responses in a defined context, in this research it was decided to examine a spectrum of contexts and potentials by focusing in a comparative way on Vietnam, Haiti and Togo.




The choice of target countries was made on the basis of the following criteria:

- The region;
- The profiles of the diaspora, including the existence of networks of diaspora associations and the principal involvement procedures of the diaspora;
- The remittance rates in terms of GDP;
- The institutional environment and governmental frameworks promoting the involvement of the diaspora;
- The environmental performance and integration of green growth in the development strategy.

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3 For Haiti, France is the 4<sup>th</sup> country of destination in the world (81,854 individuals) and the 1<sup>st</sup> in Europe; for Togo, France is the 5<sup>th</sup> country of destination in the world (26,164 individuals) and the 1<sup>st</sup> in Europe; for Vietnam, France is the 5<sup>th</sup> country of destination in the world (138,552 individuals) and the 1<sup>st</sup> in Europe.

**FIGURE 2: CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF TARGET COUNTRIES**

Target country	Region	Profile of the diaspora and modes of involvement	Remittances as % of GDP	Institutional and strategic environment for the involvement of the diaspora	Key documents	EPI in 2020 (on 100) <sup>4</sup>
<b>Haiti</b> 	Caribbean	Existence of networks. Humanitarian action, entrepreneurship and investment.	21.8% <sup>5</sup>	Limited	National policy on the fight against climate change	27
<b>Togo</b> 	Africa	Being structured. Integration, cultural activities, investment and entrepreneurship.	5.9% <sup>6</sup>	Rich	Law on the promotion of production of electricity from renewable sources	29.5
<b>Vietnam</b> 	Asia	Existence of networks. Integration, cultural and humanitarian activities.	5% <sup>7</sup>	Limited	Resolution no. 55NQ/TW on the orientation of the national energy development of Vietnam up to 2030.  Decision 491/QĐ-TTg on the national strategy for the integrated management of solid waste up to 2025, with a view to 2050.	33.4

4 The Environmental Performance Index (IPE) is produced by the University of Yale for 180 countries on the basis of 32 performance indicators. For more information: [Welcome | Environmental Performance Index \(yale.edu\)](https://www.yale.edu/environmental-performance-index).

5 EUDiF, “Haiti: Mapping of the involvement of the diaspora [on line]”, 2021, Available on: [https://diasporaforddevelopment.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CF\\_Haiti\\_FR-v.3.pdf](https://diasporaforddevelopment.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CF_Haiti_FR-v.3.pdf).

6 EUDiF, “Togo: Mapping of the involvement of the diaspora [on line]”, 2021, Available on: [https://diasporaforddevelopment.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CF\\_Togo\\_FR-v.4.pdf](https://diasporaforddevelopment.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CF_Togo_FR-v.4.pdf).

7 EUDiF, “Vietnam: Mapping of the involvement of the diaspora [on line]”, 2021, Available on: [https://diasporaforddevelopment.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CF\\_Vietnam-v.4.pdf](https://diasporaforddevelopment.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CF_Vietnam-v.4.pdf).

## D. CHOICE OF SECTORS

The green economy comprises a vast field of activities and themes. Two flourishing and emblematic activity sectors are analysed:



The production of renewable energy, linked to SDG 7 – Guarantee access to all reliable, sustainable and modern energy services at an affordable cost, and more specifically Target 7.2 : “Between now and 2030, significantly increase the proportion of renewable energy in the global energy supply mix”;



The collection and processing of waste, linked to SDG 12 – Establish sustainable modes of consumption and production, and more specifically Target 12.5 : “*Between now and 2030, considerably reduce the production of waste through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse*”.

Each in their own way, these two sectors require advanced technical skills and the elaboration of economic models that generate revenue to ensure that infrastructures are maintained and workers' wages are paid. They differ from the “historic” project types supported by the diaspora, of a humanitarian kind or aimed at short-term local development (such as the renovation of buildings, drilling, etc.).



## 2. THE GREEN ECONOMY: STILL SOMETIMES A VAGUE CONCEPT

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### A. GREEN ECONOMY ORIGINS

The link between economy and environment has greatly developed over the last 50 years. In the early 1970s, the environment was seen as a constraint to be taken into consideration with regard to economic development. In 1972, the [zero growth solution](#) was one of the solutions put forward by the Club of Rome to take account of the limited resources of the planet. Fifteen years later, the [Brundtland Report](#) defined for the first time the concept of “sustainable development”. Not long afterwards, the Earth Summit of Rio, in 1992, enshrined the idea of sustainable development, which balances three issues: economic, social and environmental.

The concept of a green economy emerged at the publication of the “Pearce” report, [Blueprint for a Green Economy](#), in 1989. This report presented economic assessment methods and advocated the establishment of incentivising instruments, such as ecological taxes. In the early years of the new millennium the “[Stern](#)” review highlighted the cost of climate action (approximately 1% of global GDP, to mitigate green-house gas emissions and adapt to the consequences) and the cost of inaction (approximately 20% of global GDP, to repair and compensate for the expected effects of climate change). This report relaunched the debate on the approach to the green economy. In response in particular to the economic, social and environmental crisis of 2008, the concept of the green economy was reinforced in the different recovery plans, introduced under the impetus of multilateral institutions in particular.

Accordingly, supported by multilateral organisations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the EU, the green economy was a flagship theme of the Earth Summit Rio+20 in 2012. The environment was no longer presented as a constraint or parameter to be taken into account but as an opportunity.

This milestone would see the publication of numerous reports by the OECD<sup>8</sup> and [UNEP](#), showing the emergence of a new paradigm.

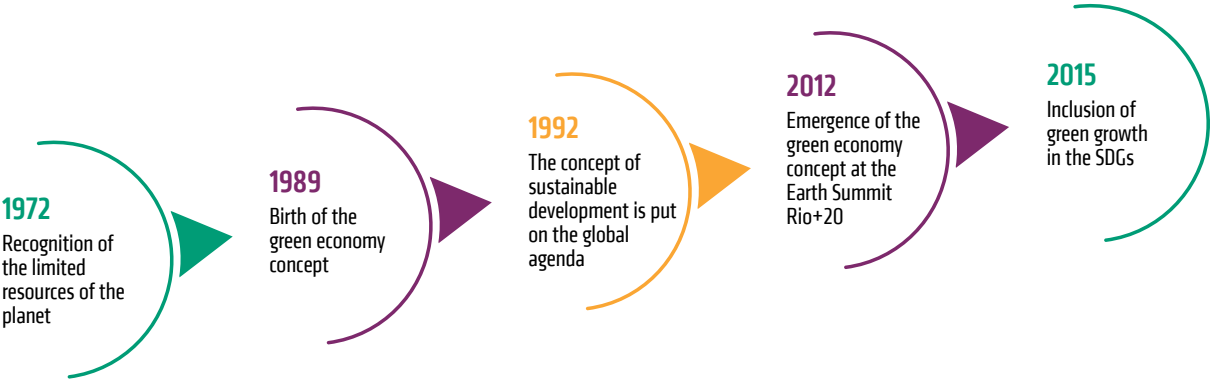
Since 2012, international conferences, such as the Addis Ababa Conference on the funding of development, have reinforced the multilateral anchorage of green economy questions. According to the [Climate Bonds Initiative](#), green finance, particularly through the [Green Bonds](#), reached more than 100 billion dollars in 2020.

Certain countries, such as [Vietnam](#), were quite early in introducing development strategies which included green growth. The EU also has its own strategy in the area, the Green Deal, as mentioned in the introduction.

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8 OECD, “Towards green growth”, OCDE, 2011, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264111332-fr>; OECD, “Tools for green growth”, OECD, 2011, <https://www.oecd.org/fr/croissanceverte/48033481.pdf>.

**FIGURE 3: DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREEN ECONOMY CONCEPT**



## **B. A DEFINITION STILL NOT ENTIRELY EMBRACED BY THE DIASPORA**

There are many definitions of the green economy. In the literature, the UNEP definition of it is usually given:

*“[An economy] that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and scarcities”.*

This definition takes into account the double dimension of the green economy with regard to the environment: i) the limitation of risks and effects on the environment, ii) the enhanced status of environmental services as resources, through revenue-generating activities.

This definition also emphasises the **social and human dimensions**, strongly supported before the Earth Summit “Rio+20” by developing countries. The importance of these dimensions was a feature of most interviews carried out in the context of this study:

*“The green economy means promoting economic mechanisms which will be durable, sustainable [and] inclusive. This makes it possible to rethink the mechanisms of the traditional economy, by including other dimensions, in particular those linked to the environment, but in my opinion wider, particularly social and societal dimensions must also be included.” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

However, as it is the result of an international consensus, it is intrinsically broad and conducive to different interpretations, something which can limit its adoption.

*“The green economy, it’s a play on words. I understand that there was a need to find a consensus on the term to use. [...]. So therefore we will try to talk of green growth. The word sustainable development is a somewhat committed word. Green economy, that’s more doctoral, academic. I think that the definition is played with so as to gain more interest. In my opinion, it is to define productive activities which are compatible with the survival of humanity: climate, depletion of resources.” (Vietnam, member of the diaspora)*

The green economy concept emerged on to the international scene at almost the same time as other related concepts and frameworks: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR, [ISO 26000 standard](#) published in 2010), the [SSGs](#) (adopted 2015), or the issues linked to climate change (in relation to the 2015 [Paris Agreement](#)). This multitude of concepts and frameworks linked to environmental, economic and social issues limits the adoption of the green economy specificities.

Certain players, therefore, have difficulty positioning the green economy.

*“The green economy, as I understand it, is linked to sustainable development or fair trade”. (Vietnam, member of the diaspora)*

*“With regard to the green economy, I understand that it is part of the circular economy, [...] also, in my personal life, I recycle, that’s it, it’s something that I think important in the green economy”. (Haiti, member of the diaspora)*

Others prefer to use another prism that is closer to their aspirations, or more all-embracing, such as Corporate Social Responsibility.

*“CSR includes taking the environment into account. CSR and the green economy work towards the same goal: how to take the environment into account over the entire value chain, up to putting on the market. CSR nowadays does this in a more global way (governance, working conditions, environment etc.). That should be part of a company’s DNA.” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

Certain players also pointed to the lack of adoption of these issues by the local communities and parts of the diaspora who identify other economic priorities in this situation.

*“There is a category [of the diaspora] which still hopes to go back to live there. The majority of these are not trained [in the green economy]. They do things. For this group the green economy does not mean anything. If there has to be stock rearing, stock rearing there’ll be, that’s that. [...] That group, with regard to sustainable development, I don’t see it happening.” (Haiti, member of the diaspora)*

*“The green economy is an idea thought up in the West. It still doesn’t resonate in Africa. The terminology must be worked on. [...] Try to find what speaks to the people; a rights-based approach [for example.]” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

In the African entrepreneurial context, the [ZOINET report](#) declares “the concepts of sustainability and the green economy remain largely or even totally unknown to the population of Africa. This cultural restraint has been noticed to the extent that the principal barriers to green entrepreneurship is the social perception of the entrepreneurs, the absence or lack of awareness of the benefits of the green economy and the fear of failure”.

## C. ADAPTING APPROACHES TO THE CONTEXT

In drawing up the agenda of the Rio+20 Summit, many developing countries and civil society members criticised the application of the green economy to the developing countries. Their recommendations were particularly aimed at:

- *The adoption of a **holistic approach** and not limiting oneself to a one-dimensional mindset.* One fear of the G77 countries was to see social issues being relegated to a secondary position compared with economic and environmental issues. It was at their request that the notion “in the context of the poverty reduction” was added to the RIO+20 theme of “the green economy”;
- *Keeping the **right to development** and the **differentiated responsibility** of the developing countries.* Another fear was that of seeing additional constraints weighing on their development strategy and hampering their right to development;
- *Using the international trade rules in an appropriate way.* The promotion of the green economy can be advanced by introducing protectionist measures or, on the contrary, by waiving customs duties on products classed as “green” by the developed countries;
- *Taking into consideration the possible **informal character of the economies**.* In developing countries, a large part of the economy is based on the informal sector where environmental regulations are difficult to apply. Instead of trying to formalise these activities, other approaches can be adopted to facilitate the contribution of the informal sector to the green economy.

The realities of the green economy vary throughout the world. The members of the diaspora point out the necessity of taking into consideration the different approaches that may exist between the host countries and the countries of origin, and the realities on the ground:

*“There are differences of approach between the contexts. The effects of climate change for example are more violent on the continent of Africa than in the West. These consequences have not yet led to a consensus between the players (NGOs, authorities etc.). There is a need for academic and scientific work on the subject. There is need for work on definition as there is not a shared understanding, even among sector professionals. There is need for work on definition, training and communication. There is need also for political leadership”. (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

This work of understanding and adoption can be done in particular through an analysis of the green economy practices in the countries of origin, in order to situate oneself within these dynamics:

*“It’s good to be able to see both sides. We were already doing recycling but we didn’t know it. We didn’t call it that. There are things that have been done but we haven’t yet realised it.” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

## D. SLOW INTRODUCTION OF CLASSIFICATION TOOLS

The definition of “green sectors” such as those of energy and waste, is not enough to be able to label an economic activity as green. In addition to the purpose of the economic activity, the methods and means used are also crucial.

In this respect, taxonomies play a major role in the definition of criteria enabling an activity to be classified as “green” or not, in accordance with sectors, impact criteria and socio-economic contexts.

In publishing a technical report in March 2020 which presented a [taxonomy of the green economy](#), the EU offered a novel framework for identifying “green” economic activities. These activities must contribute to the improvement of at least one environmental issue and not significantly harm the others, whatever the economic sector considered. The targeted issues are:

- Mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- Adaptation to climate change;
- Preservation and sustainability of water and marine resources;
- Transition to a circular economy;
- Prevention and control of pollution;
- Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

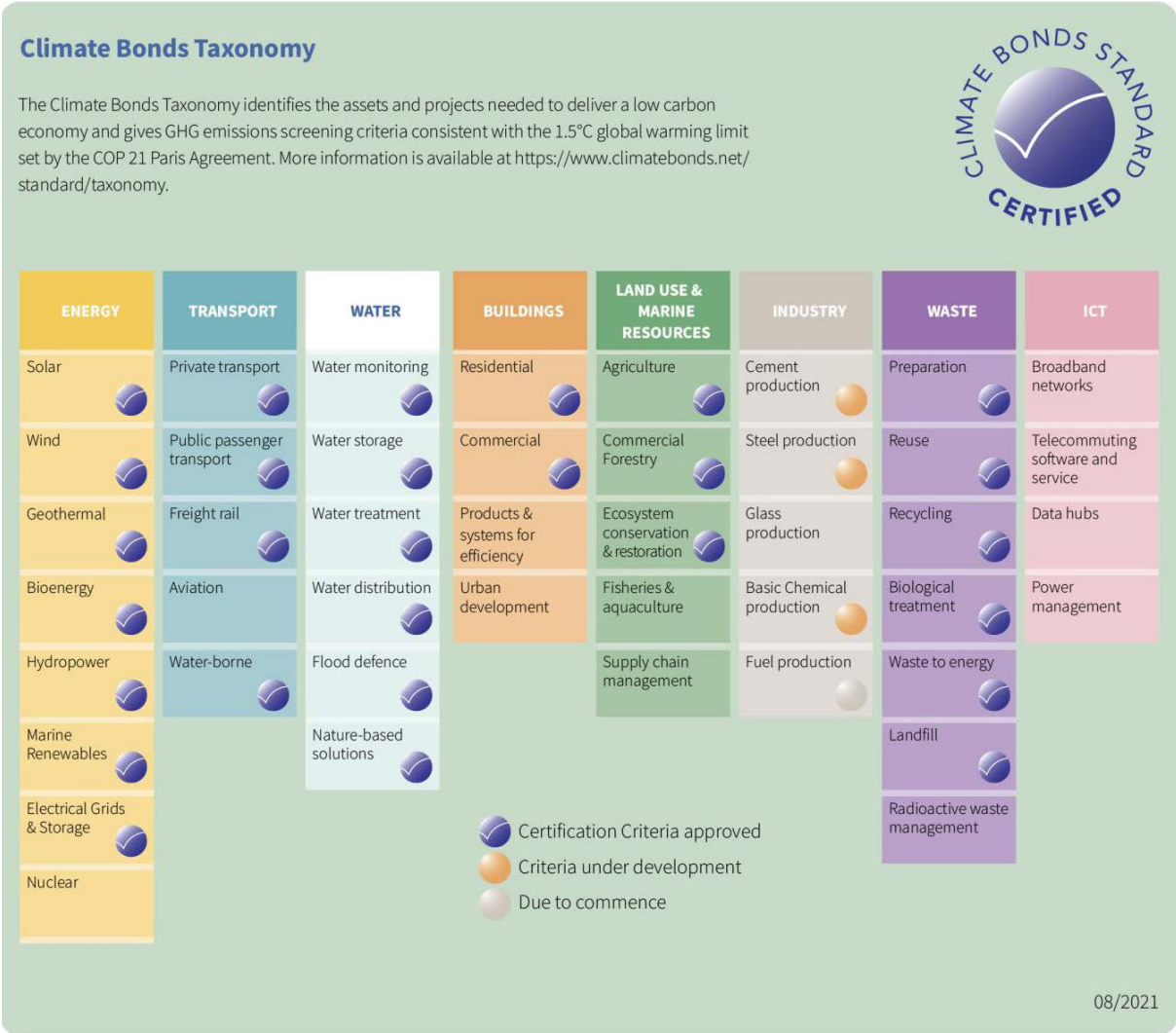
All taxonomies being specific to the region concerned, the European taxonomy is not suitable for assessing activities in the developing countries, as the realities are not the same. For example, burying waste might be classified as “green” in a country where there are no other means of management, while landfill is prohibited in France today. The members of the diaspora in Europe cannot therefore apply this methodological framework in the countries of origin.

International initiatives, such as the *Climate Bonds Initiative*, are also based on specially developed [taxonomies](#), adaptable to the developing countries. The *Climate Bonds Initiative* is an association which makes it possible for “green” projects to mobilise private funding, by proposing a certification with corresponding directions for application. This certification presents criteria to be respected for different sectors, with a distinction between developing and developed countries.

[National taxonomies](#) are also being drawn up – in China, Mexico or South Africa for example – at different stages of development. As none of the countries concerned by the study is at present drawing up a national taxonomy, it remains difficult to characterise the green economy in these countries. While awaiting the generalisation of these tools, the conduct of targeted socio-economic studies or the use of dedicated existing standards could provide additional insights and improve our recognition of green activities within a country or activity sector.

In addition, the aforementioned classification tools apply to players in the formal sector. For example, the European taxonomy applies to businesses, and the Climate Bonds Initiative concerns funding by banks. The informal or family character of a great part of the money transfers by the diaspora will also hinder the application of these classifications:

**FIGURE 4: THEMATIC SCOPE OF THE CLIMATE BOND INITIATIVE CLASSIFICATION**



*“Monitoring and measuring the involvement of the diaspora will be complicated. It is hard to follow the impact of everything that is being done today. It is more about satisfaction surveys. As long as there is not a complete supporting framework, from the beginning to the end, [...] to get the best out of the diaspora. For that, the formal commitment of the state is necessary”. (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

# 3. MOTIVATION FOR DIASPORA TO SUPPORT THE GREEN ECONOMY

In the interviews, many sources and determining factors for the motivation of the diaspora, possibly common to other commitments in other sectors, were expressed, such as the wish to develop one’s country, give of one’s time or enhance an expertise. General factors were also mentioned, such as the diaspora’s relationship with its country of origin, the socio-political situation, etc.

However, the diversity of the interviews made it possible to identify two sources of motivation for the diaspora that are intrinsic to the green economy:

**FIGURE 5. MOTIVATION FOR DIASPORA TO SUPPORT THE GREEN ECONOMY**



These two motivations are neither exclusive nor interdependent.

The gaining of **environmental awareness** is generally the result of a “trigger”. This trigger may occur in the country of origin, during a stay in another, or in the host country.

*“I arrived in France, I find that they are more [environmentally] concerned, immediately I started work on it automatically.” (Haiti, member of the diaspora)*

It may also have been experienced in the country of origin and have motivated a departure to the host country.

*“Coming back from college, I saw somebody throwing litter in a public school. That acted as a trigger. Afterwards I went to study in Montpellier, because I didn’t have any specific technical knowledge about the environment. What motivates me today is that [I saw] that environmental awareness can be a priority and real concern for the heads of businesses. There are financial objectives but behind that there are human ones.” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

In addition, environmental awareness may be the result of an individual journey: *“Everyone becomes [environmentally] aware in their own way. We must avoid generalisations.” (Vietnam, member of the diaspora)*

Action as a consequence of gaining **environmental awareness** will often depend on the expertise that can be mobilised to include this dimension, which initially will generally be limited to donation and awareness-raising projects without proceeding immediately to the creation of economic value.

**The identification of economic opportunities** is closely linked to an expertise or existing business experience which has found an outlet or an opportunity in the country of origin. The identification of these economic opportunities comes in part from the development of a local context where an economic market is identified:

*“Initially I was not motivated to return to my home country: I saw in Togo as an entry point, an opening for my existing business in France.” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

*“I came back to Togo with an idea for the waste sector. I was told “it’s too avant-garde” and there was no chance of getting funding. I met a person who said to me: “Do you know the CSR [Societal Responsibility of Enterprises]? There is a real opportunity.” And I launched my business.” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

It can also be driven by the desire to succeed in the host country, which is easier by using a development capacity in this double area, as **Patrice Anato** points out: *“While the first generation wants to go back home and invest in the home country, the second and third generations no longer want to return but rather to succeed in France and create an economic dynamic in the country to which they are linked. It is not only out of love for the continent, but also to find new opportunities for themselves. Some of them say that they cannot reach the level they wish for in France and that they could have something more stable and more recognised over there.”*

This desire to succeed in the double space may be voluntary or forced:

*“I think that, forced or voluntary, the capacity for taking initiatives is stronger in the immigrant populations. [On the one hand,] they migrate and initiate: there is a spirit of adventure in common. This is the positive side. On the other hand, unfortunately, when one is a migrant, the ability to integrate is more difficult. The solution of individual innovation is more direct because of employment discrimination, networks, etc. For an entrepreneur of the diaspora, the objective of individual success may be mixed with the objective of solidarity”. (Anonymous)*

Following identification of an **economic opportunity**, the member of the diaspora will be faced with certain determining factors, partly common to all business projects (risk management, family issues, etc.) together with factors proper to their personal journey.

*“The journey of a business enterprise is a personal journey. It is like the determining factors in migration, it’s a personal choice. Everybody has a set of motivations for undertaking an enterprise. For each question asked of an entrepreneur, you will have a proportion of individual determinants but if you say: the entrepreneurs of the diaspora can be put in a box with determining factors, profiles, that can help but above all it is an individual journey. (Anonymous)*



*The entrepreneurs of the diaspora bring together two elements of a decidedly robust individual journey: the decision to migrate and the decision to become an entrepreneur” (Anonymous)*

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMITMENTS

While initiatives coming from the diaspora in favour of the green economy have existed for a long time, it is clear that there has been an acceleration in this awareness amongst the young. A report produced for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs declares: *“The young of the second generation who have had the occasion to go to countries in the South are often struck by the environmental problems, such as the plastic bags, waste material scattered in the environment, pollution and traffic jams in cities, erosion and desertification in the country. [...] Quite frequently the young think that many people in North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa are not aware enough of ecological questions, that a big effort has to be made to supply this information and that there are opportunities and space for developing numerous projects and exchanges of experiences.”*

*“I think the young have this awareness and I find that the first generations of the diaspora have it a good deal less.” (Vietnam, member of the diaspora)*

The possibility of committing themselves in their country of origin may encourage the new generations to find their roots again, on the basis of a common awareness between the host country and country of origin.

*“I am sure that there is a much greater awareness on the part of the young. That could motivate the young, even if [Vietnam may seem] further and further away, that could motivate them to find their roots again, on an issue which is sensitive for them even here, over the whole planet.” (Vietnam, member of the diaspora)*

In addition, the background of the commitment of a diaspora community may influence the vocations of today. Within the Vietnamese community in France, according to the development of needs felt, this commitment would have passed from being a political action to being a humanitarian one, and then today a more diversified action (cultural, economic, environmental, social, family etc.).

*“During the war, there was a very clear militant, political action. After that there were two commitments: humanitarian and development projects, [...and] the transmission of the culture in France. I think that the green economy or ecology in general may be one of the bases of the future, among others” (Vietnam, member of the diaspora)*

In the same way, in Togo, several of the persons interviewed noted an evolution in engagement, with a tendency to move from donation to investment, either in land or, to a lesser extent, financially.

*“The Togolese of the diaspora now make donations at the start of the school year and at Christmas. There are more and more who invest, to buy a site but also to invest. For example, I myself am negotiating to get funding from a diaspora investment fund.” (Togo member of the diaspora)*

*“There must be a change of mentality. The Togolese must invest rather in the economy than in the purchase of land. That makes more sense.” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

On the contrary, the Haitian diaspora seems very fragmented, with few exchanges, even if the creation of structures such as the Plateforme des Associations Françaises des Haïtiens (PAFHA) makes it possible to bring initiatives together, and the support of structures, such as the FORIM, makes it possible to streamline exchanges.

*“It is a community [the community of the Haitian diaspora] that doesn’t like to form a group, where persons like to stay each in their own corner. But recently, they have been developing more links, have more support, more open-mindedness, for example with the FORIM, the community is beginning to start projects for they know that the FORIM is supporting them, they have structures, bodies to turn to, the word spreads” (Haiti, member of the diaspora)*

## THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-POLITICAL CONTEXTS

The socio-political contexts, particularly the security situations of the countries of origin, influence the commitment of the diaspora. In **Haiti**, the present context (insecurity, economic crisis and lack of a strong state, etc.) limit any intervention on the part of the diaspora. Individuals have a personal motivation to act on green economy questions but these are isolated initiatives.

*“Security is a real problem and there are more and more no-go areas because of the gangs” (Haiti, waste management adviser of the Autorité Nationale de Régulation du Secteur de l’Energie (ANARSE) [National Authority for the Regulation of the Energy Sector].*

*“At present participation takes place in an ad-hoc/individual way because the security situation in the country is a brake and there is no structural /institutional framework” (Haiti, green energy adviser of the Autorité Nationale de Régulation du Secteur de l’Energie (ANARSE))*

Before the new wave of insecurity, the diaspora was engaged in significant projects, particularly in the green energy sector. For example, the diaspora created a cooperative in the south of the country to manage a power station. A diaspora group also responded to a call for tenders to produce and distribute energy, but they were not selected.

*“All the same things were being done also with the diaspora but now with the instability that’s finished.” (Haiti, green energy adviser ANARSE)*

In **Togo**, the socio-political context also influences the motivation of the diaspora, in accordance with the members’ positions with regard to the government: opposition, constructive collaboration, neutrality.

*“The Togolese diaspora is very politicised. Communication with the government is not good and access to information is difficult for the segments of the diaspora that are not in favour with the government [...] There is distrust of the government and it is easier to intervene without going through the government.” (Togo, Member of the diaspora)*

However, even if the needs have to be specified, the contribution of the diaspora to development is more recognised, both in France and in Togo.

*“I said to myself: Everything has been done in France while in fact the need is pressing over there in my own country.” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

*“I think there is always a debt towards one’s country of origin [in Africa]. It is spontaneous or arises out of a felt social obligation.” (Anonymous)*

Finally, the level of openness of the country is also something to be taken into account. In **Vietnam**, the openness level of the state to the world seems to have gradually limited the importance of the diaspora in foreign policy.

*“It would have to be checked, but from my point of view I think that the Bureau of the Vietnamese Overseas played a central role in the foreign policy of Vietnam. Today, this role is doubtless less central” (Vietnam, Member of the diaspora)*

This has caused doubts in the members of the diaspora about their added value:

*“The idea of intervening over there makes me ask myself some questions. Am I the most capable person to do this? Sometimes I feel like an impostor.” (Vietnam, member of the diaspora)*

*“Yes, they have a need, but it is already taking place. They recycle, they take measures... The green economy is already moving. There doesn’t appear to be a demand. Vietnam is not asking for anything. It’s under way. The people are already doing it. [...] I do not say that it is not pertinent. If the diaspora wishes to become involved in Vietnam, that will be rather in an individual spontaneous way. Vietnam is not necessarily asking, as it might seem to us from France. They are asking to see how that is done elsewhere. They are asking for funds to have studies carried out but they do not expect the diaspora to take initiatives.” (Vietnam, member of the diaspora)*

Similarly, this difficulty in identifying the diaspora as a potential lever has also been expressed by local actors.

*“As things stand, we do not have partnerships with diaspora organisations. Maybe certain individuals. [...] We prefer to target internal resources in Vietnam.” (Vietnam, local association)*

*“There are opportunities [in the green economy]. But there has to be an environment of support for the enhancement of these opportunities. Certain countries are not ready. [...] For a country to be deemed ready, we must consider:*

- ✓ *The environmental awareness of the population*
- ✓ *The political issues*
- ✓ *The socio-economic issues*
- ✓ *The other sectoral opportunities, possibly more attractive ones.” (Multi-country, partner)*

# 4. ANALYSIS OF THE SECTORAL ACTION FRAMEWORKS

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## A. THE FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION ON ENERGY IN HAITI, TOGO AND VIETNAM

### HAITI

The Ministry of the Environment, created in 1994, is responsible for promoting sustainable development and the preservation of the environment. However, it does not possess the necessary capacities and resources to see that the environmental laws and regulations are applied<sup>9</sup>.

In 2007, the national energy development plan was drawn up, aimed at providing the political decision-makers with quantitative and qualitative information about the Haitian energy sector, in order to draw up appropriate policies and strategies to achieve these sustainable objectives. It tries to recommend specific improvement and development measures for this sector on the short (up to the end of 2008), medium (2008-2013) and long (2013-2032) terms. However it was not until 2019 that a **national policy** was drawn up aimed at putting Haiti on the road to green growth by 2030. This policy recognises that Haiti has not been able to make substantial progress in order to become resilient to climate change because of a lack of synergy between existing measures, a lack of resources and a lack of clear and precise directives in the area of climate change.

The government has recently promoted renewable energies by limiting the associated customs duties, particularly with regard to solar energy:

*“It has become a government priority because they want to get out of fossil fuels.” (Haiti, green energy adviser ANARSE)*

In 2020 the World Bank approved the project “Haiti: **Renewable energies for all**”, which aims at developing investment in renewable energy and at improving the level of access to electricity. This structural project will support the principal network of Electricity of Haiti (EDH) in its transition to renewable energies. Other initiatives are also on-going such as, for example, a project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) with the objective of rehabilitating the electricity network and the construction of three hybrid power stations in the north-east of the country funded by Japan and the United Nations Development Programme. The diaspora is not a player specifically targeted by these projects. In addition, private funders (impact funds, investors in renewable energies) exist but remain marginal having regard to the development of renewable energies in Haiti.

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9 “Fiche d’information USAID/HAITI sur l’environnement et la gestion des ressources naturelles [USAID/HAITI environment and natural resources management fact sheet]”, USAID, 2020, [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1862/US-AID\\_Haiti\\_Environment\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_-\\_January\\_2020.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1862/US-AID_Haiti_Environment_Fact_Sheet_-_January_2020.pdf); Chris Herlinger, « Les vulnérabilités environnementales sont liées à tous les autres problèmes en Haïti [Environmental vulnerabilities are linked to every other problem in Haiti]», National Catholic Reporter, 2018, <https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/environmental-vulnerabilities-are-linked-every-other-problem-haiti>.

The markets arising in the energy sector do not explicitly favour the enterprises of the diaspora. However, the obligation in the calls for tender to be associated with local enterprises indirectly favours the enterprises led by members of the diaspora, as partnership can be created more easily:

*“A diaspora group recently responded to a call for tenders to produce and distribute energy.” (Haiti, green energy adviser ANARSE)*

## TOGO

Several institutions spread over different ministerial departments have competence in the area of the environment, but this leads to less efficiency. The principal institution responsible is the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry Resources: created in 1987, it is responsible for the management of the environment and natural resources. [The framework law on the environment](#) was adopted in May 2008. It establishes the legal basis of all environmental management in Togo and guarantees the right of all citizens to a quality of life founded on the sustainable management of natural resources.

The energy sector is a priority sector of the [National Development Plan 2018-2020](#) and of the Presidency. The Ministry of Energy in particular is attached directly to the Presidency. At present, the Minister for Energy is Mila Aziablé, a former member of the Togolese diaspora in France. This priority sector benefits from numerous funding arrangements, as shown by the number of backers in this sector (BOAD, BAD, AFD, GIZ, World Bank, United Arab Emirates etc.).

*“This question is of great importance for the government of Togo. The green economy creates income and jobs, both in the institutions and in the private sector.” (Togo, Representative of the Directorate for Togolese Abroad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)*

The [law on the promotion of the production of electricity based on renewable energy sources](#), adopted in 2018, defines the legal framework governing installations, equipment, materials, goods and storage of renewable energy resources. An electrification rate of 100% by 2030 has been fixed, counting on 50% of renewable energy to achieve it. This “electrification strategy”, which must be realised in three phases, will cost 1,000 billion CFA francs (1.5 billion euro), of which 50% will come from private investment funds, according to the estimations of the authorities.

*“The government has set up the CIZO project to help electrify the rural areas by offering cheques to the most remote populations to enable access to green electricity.” (Togo, Member of the diaspora)*

The production of electricity is a public service activity regulated by the state. A reorganisation of the electricity sub-sector has been implemented in Togo with the aim of opening up the sector to private players to improve the quality of the service. One of the consequences of this opening up has been the emergence of new players, Togolese ([Kya Togo](#)) or foreign ([Contours Global](#), [Bboxx](#)). The opening of the sector to private players, the development of solar/hybrid mini-networks, the provision of a single gateway for the diaspora and the improvement in the business climate could constitute important green investment opportunities for the Togolese of the diaspora.

## VIETNAM

In the course of the last decade, the legal and political framework in Vietnam concerning the energy question and climate change has greatly changed, calling for the creation of environmental institutions. This has led to the creation of several institutions in different ministries and at all levels of government, with consequences for efficiency and the capacity for ensuring compliance with the environmental regulations<sup>10</sup>. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MONRE) is the central authority with responsibility for supervising the environment sector. But other ministries also play an important role, such as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIT) competent for electricity, new energies and renewable energies, among other things.

In 2007 the first national strategy for energy development was adopted with objectives linked to national energy security, the promotion of new and renewable energy sources and the sustainable development of energy sources, taking into account the protection of the environment. This strategy was updated in 2021 with the inclusion of new provisions on the creation of green jobs, the training and recycling of management and administration knowledge and skills in the green economy and green manufacturing industry and the improvement of the green growth skills and knowledge of teachers in order to develop and construct a safe, green, clean and intelligent school model.

To respond to the increasing demand for energy, public sector funding of the energy sector, as practised in the past, is no longer sustainable because of the government's wish to limit public debt. A competitive market for all consumers will be established from 2023, meaning that the price of electricity will no longer be fixed by the state. The reform of the sector begun in 2016 should result in the arrival of private capital and independent producers in the production sector. Foreign investments in renewable energies are gradually increasing but the involvement of the big international commercial banks in the sector remains limited. Innovative funding structures (green loans, non-sovereign financing, etc.) are beginning to emerge to overcome the problem of the complicated access to banks in order to fund the sector. The diaspora is identified as a player to be mobilised in funding innovation in the green economy sector, particularly through the *Climate Innovation Center* which wants to simplify access to funding for start-ups through finance coming from the diaspora.

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10 Stephan Ortmann, *Environmental Governance in Vietnam: Institutional Reforms and Failures* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

## B. THE CONTEXTS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION ON WASTE IN HAITI, TOGO AND VIETNAM

In a general way, the waste sector seems less mature than that of energy, with a strong predominance of the informal and association sector, often replacing the competences of the local authorities.

### HAITI

In 2018, 52% of Haitians were urban dwellers as against 8% twenty-five years ago. This urbanisation has not been accompanied by planning for the management of solid waste: the waste has therefore piled up, obstructing the drainage systems and posing hygiene problems<sup>11</sup>. Uncollected waste is burnt or dumped on hills or in ravines, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and the pollution of the ground and water tables.

For many years the management of solid waste was controlled by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication (MTPTC) but this is no longer the case today. The municipalities of the metropolitan area of Port au Prince and the medium-sized provincial towns try to work independently to ensure a minimum service in the absence of coordinated services at the national level. However, the local authorities are confronted with a lack of collection equipment and insufficient planning capacity.

*“At the political level, there are ideas but they do not take any concrete shape [...] research on waste recovery and a national plan for waste were developed in 2016 but because of diverging interests the government did not implement the policy.” Waste management adviser of the National Authority for the Regulation of the Energy Sector (ANARSE)*

Recycling is hampered by an onerous process and logistic constraints. The potential for the exploitation of organic waste exists because the deposits are high, but the costs of production and the difficulties of marketing a product unfamiliar to consumers limit the initiatives. Industrial recycling and composting initiatives which could be carried out by the private or association sector are still marginal (regulatory obstacle, difficulty finding a sustainable economic model, etc.).

The Japanese cooperative agency JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is funding a project for the strengthening of the solid waste management system in Haiti, a project entrusted to the UNDP for a period of 5 years (2018-2023). This project targets the municipalities of Ouanaminthe in the North and Jérémie in the Grande Anse. The French Agency for Development (AFD) was involved in the waste sector between 2010 and 2018, with a support project in Cap Haitien and Gonaïves, two secondary towns in the North of Haiti. The European Union<sup>12</sup> is planning to invest again in this sector and is at present preparing the guidelines for these future investments.

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11 UNDP, “Projet de renforcement du système de gestion des déchets solides en Haïti” (UNDP, 2018), [https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/HTI/ProDoc\\_signe%20Dechet%201%20mars%202018.pdf](https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/HTI/ProDoc_signe%20Dechet%201%20mars%202018.pdf); Samantha Brangeon, “La gestion des déchets des acteurs de l’aide” (URD; CEFREPADE, 2015), [https://www.careemergencytoolkit.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/35\\_21.pdf](https://www.careemergencytoolkit.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/35_21.pdf)

12 European Commission, “Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027”, 2022, [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/mip-2021-c2021-9081-haiti-annex\\_fr.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/mip-2021-c2021-9081-haiti-annex_fr.pdf)

A small number of recycling companies have existed in Haiti for the last ten years or so (ECSSA, Haiplast, Haiti recycling): they principally collect plastic waste for export to China. In addition, the NGOs present in Haiti are supplying waste sorting devices<sup>13</sup> and so contribute to the development of private or voluntary players in processing and recovering waste. The GRET has in this way contributed to the emergence of a social enterprise, SJF (Sevis Jesyon Fatra), a community pre-collection and transport operator.

In the absence of a regulatory framework and of adequate funding of the waste sector, this sector would at present seem quite suitable for diaspora-capacity-strengthening measures.

## TOGO

Togo does not have a national solid waste management policy. Act No. 2008 -005 of 30 May 2008 establishing the [Framework law on the environment](#) may be considered as the basic legal framework governing this sector. The Framework law on decentralisation 2007/011, Article 53, establishes Waste Management as a prerogative of the municipalities.

Section 8 of the Framework law on the environment is specially devoted to waste management and confirms the responsibility of the local authorities over the area for which they are competent in cooperation with the public or private services tasked with ensuring hygiene and sanitation. They are in particular responsible for establishing and implementing plans for eliminating refuse and domestic waste and industrial, vegetable and agricultural waste and for organising the collection, transport, processing and final disposal of the waste.

This law is supplemented by the national strategy determined by the national hygiene and sanitation policy in Togo since 2010. The objective is particularly to draw up [solid waste management strategies](#) in the 30 biggest urban centres in Togo and the construction of a technical inter-municipal landfill site per region.

In an ongoing decentralisation context, which has accelerated significantly since 2019, the municipalities are not equally competent or knowledgeable with respect to this management.

*“With regard to waste, the work is done particularly at the municipal level but there are few means and little knowledge of what might be done. There is a need for raising awareness, and for training in the municipalities for the mayors regarding decentralisation issues so that it is understood what lies within the competence of a municipality and how to manage these competences. A peer-to-peer training project with the mayors of France could be an option.” (Member of the diaspora, Togo)*

The National Agency for Sanitation and Public Hygiene is responsible for supporting the municipalities in the implementation of this competence. The Municipality of Lomé, representing approximately 25% of the population of Togo, possesses more advanced competences, organisation and infrastructures. It particularly has a technical landfill site and a composting centre.

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<sup>13</sup> Samantha Brangeon, “La gestion des déchets des acteurs de l’aide” (ibid)



Outside Lomé, associations and economic groupings supply local waste collection and management services but experience serious financial difficulties, in the absence of grant aid from the local authorities and a sufficiently robust economic model.

Certain recycling channels are dominated by the informal sector, especially with regard to the recycling of metals. Certain sectors offer opportunities for economic exploitation. Civil society initiatives such as “Zam-ke” target particular areas such as water sachets and advertising banners to turn them into fashion objects. It has recently received funding and technical support from the Togolese of the diaspora. This enterprise of the social and solidarity-based economy is being restructured in the form of a cooperative.

The waste sector has an important economic potential. According to the feedback from local entrepreneurs interviewed, several hundred jobs could be created in the collection, sorting and exploitation of waste in Togo. However, a prerequisite is that the capacities of the local authorities be strengthened.

As for Haiti, this need for capacity building may have great potential for the involvement of the diaspora.

## VIETNAM

With regard to waste management, we note that the protection of the environment has been strengthened these last few years, but that **the management of solid waste** is still a challenge, mainly because it has not been managed adequately in each region. Management of the sector is divided between the central level (ministries) responsible for regulation and the local levels responsible for implementation. The administrative management is consequently complex where decision-making is divided between several ministries.

In 2009 Vietnam drew up a national strategy for the management of solid waste up to 2025 with a view also to 2050, which was revised in 2018 and 2021.<sup>14</sup> The objectives are:

- From now to 2025, 100% of the total volume of dangerous solid waste generated by production, commercial and service activities will be collected, transported and eliminated in accordance with the requirements of environmental protection (and 85% of the waste generated by households /individuals) ;
- Clarify the competences with regard to waste between the ministries, provinces and municipalities;
- The pooling of waste management services between the municipalities in order to improve efficiency and reduce costs;
- Progressive privatisation of the sector.

The state wishes to attract private enterprises through calls for tenders, encouraging Public Private Partnerships, offering tax and administrative incentives and opening up public sector companies to private investors. However there are many constraints (low returns, short contracts, complex administrative procedures etc.) that act as a brake on private investments.

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14 USDA, “Le Vietnam publie une stratégie de croissance verte pour 2021-2030 et une vision pour 2050 [Vietnam: Vietnam Issues Green Growth Strategy 2021-2030 Vision to 2050]”, 2021, <https://www.fas.usda.gov/data/vietnam-vietnam-issues-green-growth-strategy-2021-2030-vision-2050>.

The association sector is highly developed in Vietnam with many local and international NGOs. Civil society players are present in the waste sector, particularly PRX-Vietnam (Bureau of the decentralised cooperation between the French region of Île-de-France and the People's Committee of Hanoi) and the GRET, active in the upstream part of waste management. Initiatives in the area of environmental protection in general and waste management in particular are ongoing in Vietnam, especially under the aegis of the “[Vietnam Zero Waste Alliance](#)”. The role of the diaspora in these initiatives remains to be developed.

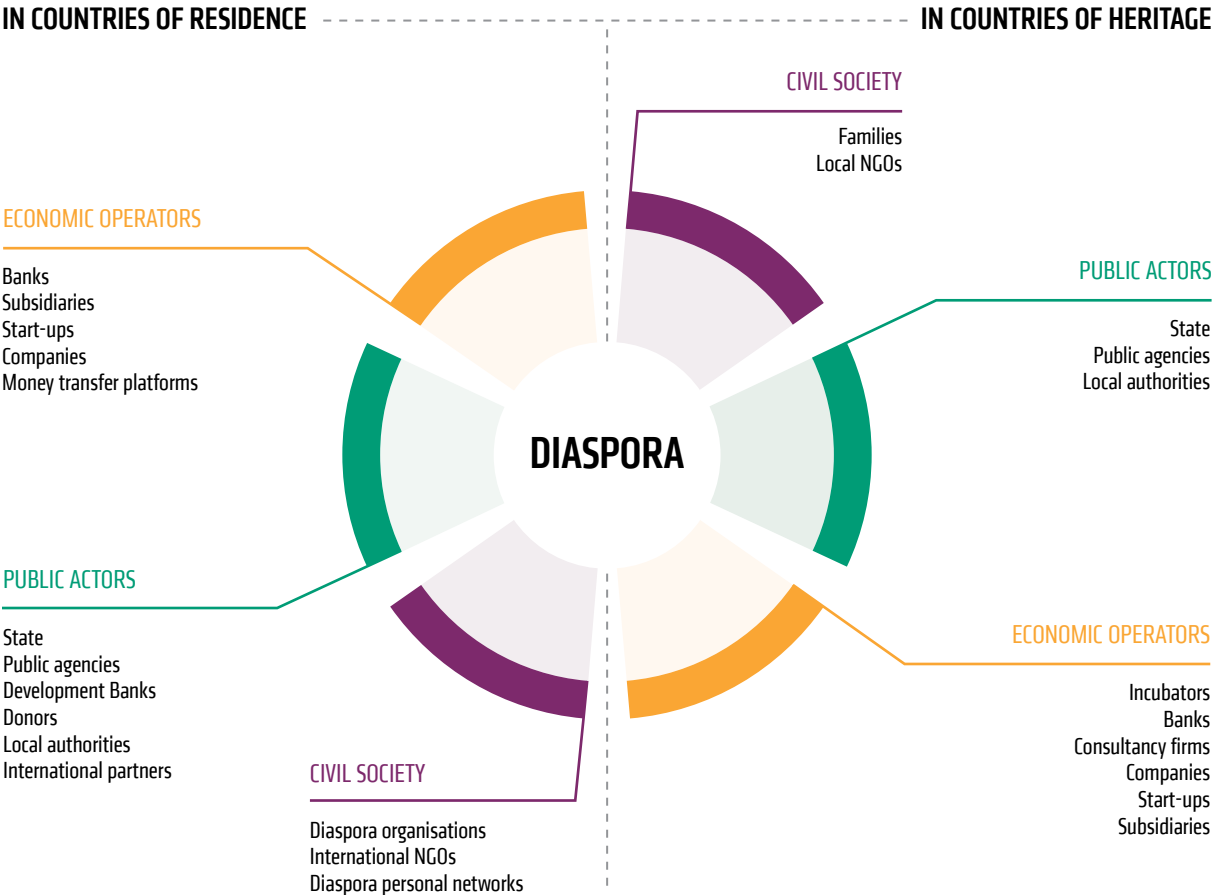
The private French and European players (Veolia, Suez, Vinci etc.), while present in Vietnam, have not yet invested heavily in the sector particularly because of the complexity of the legislative framework and the technical needs of the communities. The multilateral financial backers essentially support the government through technical cooperation (GIZ, JICA, AFD).

# 5. GREEN ECONOMY AND DIASPORA: WHAT ARE THE LEVERS ENGAGEMENT?

For there to be diaspora engagement in the green economy, a variety of stakeholders from three principal spheres in both country of residence and heritage must be involved. These are:

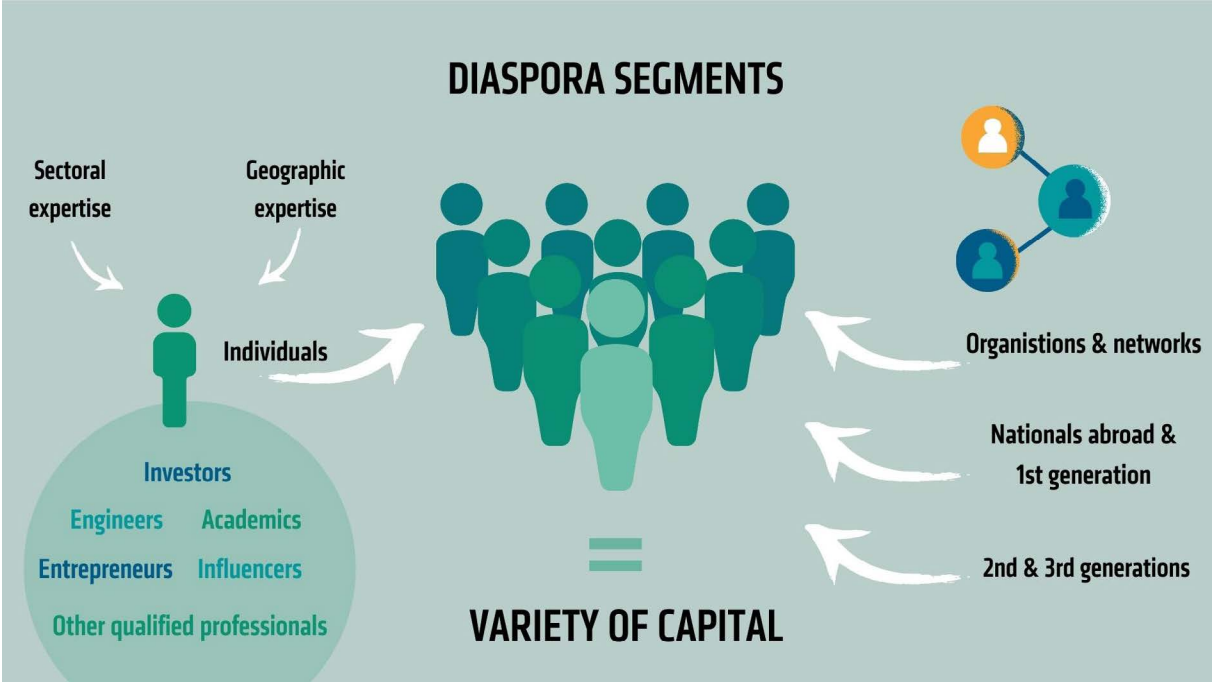
- The public players, at the international, regional, central and local levels;
- The international and local players of civil society, including collaboration between the organisations of the diaspora;
- The economic players, particularly green companies, banks, incubators and design offices.

**FIGURE 6: STAKEHOLDER MAPPING: DIASPORA AND GREEN ECONOMY**



The involvement of the diaspora in the green economy may be individual and/or collective. One cannot repeat too often that the diaspora is extremely heterogeneous and that the different segments of the diaspora offer very varied potentials and abilities.

**FIGURE 7. RELEVANT DIASPORA SEGMENTS FOR THE GREEN ECONOMY**



Diaspora capital is often said to take three principal forms: financial, social and human.

However, this is no single definition of diaspora capital and key players can have differentiated approaches. For example, **AFFORD** characterises the diaspora as having five different forms of capital: financial, intellectual, social, political and the voluntary sector.

Consequently, the capital of the diasporas may include several aspects, apart from fund transfers and investments, such as innovative ideas, transnational networks, specific knowledge and attitudes, political values and new technological skills.

**FIGURE 8: PRINCIPLE TYPES OF PARTNERSHIP AND DIASPORA CAPITAL**



## A) FUNDING

The diaspora possesses significant financial capital. As from 2011, the [African Development Bank](#) estimated that “the funding [of the green economy] could come from public aid to development (50 billion dollars), from the continent itself through international loans (400 billion dollars), from the African diaspora (40 billion) as well as from the capital markets, the budget surpluses of India and China and future green funds for Africa”. These “green” financial transfers may take many different forms. They may be transfers to the family, donations to local organisations or investments, structured to varying degrees, coming from private initiatives or public operators.

In Haiti, there have been initiatives to try to mobilise the financial flows of the diaspora to fund activities linked to energy transition, such as for example the application “[SmartFarm](#)” which makes it possible to buy butane gas directly for the family. This initiative, launched in 2018, was not as successful as expected, for the Haitians of the diaspora are not very well integrated into the United States banking system (country targeted by this initiative).

Outside the target countries of this study, EDF has also introduced the initiative “[Diaspora Energy by EDF](#)” to promote targeted funding by the diaspora in the area of energy. This type of application makes it possible to set up targeted funding channels to monitor these funds. However, it is still marginal in money transfers.

With regard to family money transfers, it is difficult to estimate the proportion devoted to funding green activities or consumption, such as the aid for the purchase of gas or solar panels.

In the same way, a review of the literature and the interviews did not make it possible to identify the diaspora investment funds devoted specifically to green economic activities.

The perception of this potential funding lever for the economic or association players varies. In Togo, there is greater awareness of the potential financial contribution of the diaspora than in Vietnam for example:

*“I think that the diaspora has a real economic power. For example, I am in negotiations to obtain a loan from a fund established by Togolese women of the diaspora. [...] In my next fundraising campaign, I think that the diaspora will be among the targets.” (Togo, local partner)*

In 2021, [Zidicircle](#) and [SNV](#) (Development Organisation of the Netherlands) launched an innovative partnership aimed at developing a [GrEEn Venture Backers programme](#). This programme aims at equipping investors in Ghana and the diaspora who wish to invest in the green economy with the knowledge and skills to invest in green small and medium-sized enterprises in the Ashanti and West regions of Ghana.

## B) ENTREPRENEURIAL PROJECTS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Entrepreneurial projects on the part of the diaspora in favour of the green economy are beginning to emerge. In the countries studied, diaspora enterprises are still generally a minority in the area of waste and energy.

In Togo, [Africa Global Recycling \(AGR\)](#) was created in 2013 by a Franco-Togolese person resident in France. AGR is an enterprise specialised in the collection and sorting of waste on the basis of a recognised expertise in sustainable development. AGR is concentrated on the paper and digital sectors.

Also created by a member of the diaspora in 2014, [Valora Solutions et Services Environnement](#) is one of the first design and engineering firms in Togo for consultancy in the areas of environmental policies, sustainable development and corporate social responsibility.

In Haiti, enterprises in the area of energy have been created on the ground by members of the diaspora who have returned, or through the creation of a Haitian branch of an existing company, such as [Geninov](#) which offers technical services in renewable energy.

The programme [Meet Africa](#), co-funded by the EU and the French Agency for Development, has given technical and financial support to many entrepreneurial projects in different sectors of the green economy, particularly sustainable agriculture and waste management.

The position of the diaspora as an entrepreneur and source of support for local entrepreneurial projects is a relevant lever for co-development, making it possible to enhance the added value of the diaspora while associating local entrepreneurs. The diaspora's knowledge of the local context in their countries of origin and residence can help them to quickly develop a client, distribution or partnership network, by more easily adopting the local codes and priority issues of both countries. There are already support projects for the entrepreneurs of the diaspora which are beginning to include the dimension of the green economy. For example, [Energy Generation](#) is an incubator devoted to African renewable energies in Lomé, founded by a member of the diaspora for the benefit of young African entrepreneurs in France and Togo. In 2019, the company [CredoGroup LLC](#), based in the United States and founded by a Togolese of the diaspora, was negotiating to obtain a partnership agreement with the government in the area of solar energy. In addition, the company [Benoo](#), founded in Benin by a member of the diaspora, is also active in Togo.

During this research, no incubator devoted to the diaspora in Haiti or Vietnam was identified.

Legal support may also be provided by members of the diaspora in order to create or strengthen the legal frameworks of the countries of origin so as to supply better protection for entrepreneurs and investors. The Organisation for Harmonisation in Africa of Commercial Law (OHAD) is active in this sector:

*"The lawyers of the diaspora must also be organised so that they can be resource persons who offer legal advice to diaspora entrepreneurs wishing to become established in Togo." (Togo, Member of the diaspora)*

However, the transfer of the skills of the diaspora is not limited to support for entrepreneurs. The authorities and other local players can also benefit from the technical skills of members of the diaspora through practical exchanges, for example:

*“The problem is the lack of means and qualified human resources. There is a need for access to technology and for capacity development. [...] We must see how partners with more experience could come and share their knowledge for there is a real need for training young managers.” (Haiti, Green energy adviser, ANARSE)*

Peer-to-peer training to set up and implement projects for the green economy should also be facilitated.

Alongside this, the voluntary sector is an entrance point for members of the diaspora. Togo counts several thousand NGOs or associations, some of which intervene in the improvement of charcoal processing, rural electrification or the distribution and marketing of improved cooking stoves, in accordance with a well established but often informal system. This is the case, for example, of organisations such as [Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement](#) or [Entrepreneurs du Monde](#).

In Vietnam, the [International Association for the Development of Teaching in Vietnam](#) is particularly active and is involved in the mobilisation and transfer of technical and scientific skills. The association wishes to develop projects connected with water purification, the development of renewable energies and the development of scientific educational programmes linked to the environment with the University of Ho Chi Minh Ville.

In 2022, through its mechanism for the mobilisation of diaspora professionals accessible on request by the public authorities of the partner countries of the EU, the EUDiF launched projects aimed at deploying experts of the diaspora in sectors linked to green transition, particularly in [Ethiopia](#) to create an e-curriculum in sustainable agri-business and in [Moldavia](#) to develop sustainable tourism.

[EUDiF](#) and [FORIM](#) work together to develop cascade training modules to support the development of projects introduced by diaspora organisations and related to green growth, like waste management, renewable energy and environmental sustainability.

## C) PROMOTING AND MOBILISING NETWORKS

The diaspora can also support green growth through advocacy, action to raise awareness and the structuring and mobilisation of networks.

### ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RAISING

The diaspora can mobilise its social and political capital and raise the awareness of players in the countries of origin (public decision-makers, associations, economic operators etc.). This influence comes in part from the aura surrounding the diaspora:

*“I think there is this image, positive or negative, that the diaspora people have the solution. I think that that can help [in advocacy] » (Togo, member of the diaspora)*



It also comes from professional or academic careers, such as those of the officials of the international institutions for example.

*“Many officials of the international institutions come from Africa and so play a role as intermediaries between the decision-makers and the international institutions” (Togo, member of the diaspora)*

A member of the Togolese diaspora in France created the association “Moi Jeu Tri”, to contribute an “awareness” package, principally for schools. Members of the diaspora are also involved in this association in the context of voluntary support as the need arises.

Thanks to the EUDiF Capacity Development Lab of, an academic network of the Mexican diaspora in Great Britain and the EU (RGMX) is mobilising its expertise to contribute to climate change and circular economy awareness in Mexico.

The diaspora can also contribute to advocacy campaigns by providing technical or other specific expertise, such as art. In Vietnam, the Canadian artist and member of the diaspora, [Benjamin Von Wong](#), installed sculptures in 2019 made of plastic waste collected in the streets of Vietnam, in cooperation with the association [Saigon Zero Waste](#).

Advocacy can also target i) partners and structural organisations of the diaspora so that better account is taken of green economy issues in their programmes, ii) the stakeholders in green economy support so that the diaspora is more completely integrated as a player in development.

Comdu.it is a global network of diaspora volunteers who harness the technical skills and knowledge of the diaspora for the sustainable development of vulnerable and under-represented communities in Sri Lanka. In the framework of the Jaffna Clean City initiative (JCCI), comdu.it is working in cooperation with Suvadi to promote inclusive governance of urban waste in Sri Lanka and bring about positive changes in the natural environment. Launched in June 2021, this project will bring about and strengthen the participation of the community in decision-making through workshops and awareness programmes.

## STRUCTURING AND MOBILISATION OF NETWORKS

The structuring and mobilisation of scientific, academic, association and economic networks can also be a lever for action in favour of the diaspora and the green economy.

[VIET](#) is a think tank created in Vietnam in 2018. It is part of an international network of think tanks devoted to energy transition. It carries out research, expertise and training activities. This think tank was started by a member of the Vietnamese diaspora and also calls upon the services of a pool of experts, particularly those of the diaspora.

Members of the diaspora can also participate in existing networks devoted to commerce, such as the external consultants of French commerce. The diaspora can also encourage foreign investors in the host country to invest in green sectors in the countries of origin by organising working visits and business promotion events, in association with the economic diplomatic services of the countries of origin.

The diaspora can, for example, act as a distribution network to market “green” products from the countries of origin in the host country. Apart from distribution, the diaspora can constitute a target clientele, facilitating the development of economic activities in the countries of origin.

The Lomé plastic waste recovery brand, [Zam-kè](#), and the organic soap brand Kari, founded by the same entrepreneur have the advantage of a network of customers and of distribution support within the Togolese diaspora. Other examples have been identified, notably in the pepper sector in South-East Asia.

Since 2016, FORIM has hosted events, coordinated publications and co-piloted calls for projects in the context of the programme [Génération Climat](#). This has created a framework to inspire youth diaspora to create, communicate and optimise local co-development projects on climate and solidarity in France and internationally.

This mobilisation may take place through the social networks. In Vietnam, an initiative to connect the Vietnamese and the members of the diaspora was implemented by a member of the Vietnamese diaspora. With a newsletter and an Instagram account, “On the boil”, information is shared in connection with climate change, energy, etc. making it possible to put people with the same centres of interest in touch with each other. While it is difficult to assess the impact of this initiative, it has in particular enabled a study to be conducted on the cocoa sector, carried out together by Vietnamese at home and Vietnamese of the diaspora.

This mobilisation can also take place in the context of associations or structured programmes ...

...or in a more individual way. In Togo, CSR dinners have been organised at the initiative of the founder of AGR (see above). These dinners make it possible to raise the awareness of heads of businesses and local players about the issues of the green economy.

Other individual initiatives may allow for exchanges or the constitution of a network, such as during forums even if the latter do not propose any specific focus on the green economy. [Afrika Diaspora](#) has permitted interviewed members of the diaspora to identify potential partners for a project in the area of waste.

## **WITH REGARD TO GREEN-ECONOMY PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE DIASPORA, TRANSVERSAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT**



### **Go for a variety of partnerships:**

According to the profile and interests of the stakeholders in question, different forms of partnership should be explored: technical, regarding positioning and/or financial.



### **Localise and seek association with local relays:**

Building relationships between the diaspora and local intermediaries and actors – governmental and non-governmental – may be decisive from several points of view, In particular it is essential to embed the actions of the diaspora in the local dynamics and strategies (the municipalities often have important prerogatives in key sectors of the green economy, as is the case for waste collection and processing). Having a presence on the ground will help in following up on initiatives and minimising possible disconnections with the realities on the ground.



### **Reduce data silos between stakeholders and engage with non-traditional partners:**

The building of relationships between the diaspora and sectoral players of the green economy is highly strategic for increasing expertise at all levels, identifying new opportunities and increasing the impact of green initiatives.



### **Prioritise relationship building and management:**

Significant work on communication and dialogue between diaspora, governmental and non-governmental players in the various sectors of the green economy is a prerequisite for mutual understanding of the respective competitive advantages. In turn, this helps build confidence and trust in for potential partnerships. By definition, these processes require time and human and financial investment, including efforts to manage expectations and reconcile interests which will sometimes diverge (particularly between profit-making and non-profit-making goals), challenges which are inherent in all partnerships.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

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The relationship between the green economy and migration is still at the fledgling stage, despite the emerging and varying practices of the diaspora in the area of funding, stimulating, promoting or initiating ventures with a view to transition to a green economy.

The strengthening of this commitment involves certain preconditions, in particular:

- Adoption of the theme of the green economy and a willingness to become involved in this area;
- The existence of a legal and political framework conducive to collaboration and a sufficiently stable socio-economic context;
- Pinpointing of the key players in the green economy in a given country and a good understanding of their interests and needs;
- Breaking down silos so key players understand the different perspectives, fostering innovation and driving new partnerships.

During the last decade several international organisations, such as the [IFDD \[French-Speaking Institute for Sustainable Development\]](#), [OECD](#), [UNEP](#) and [ILO](#), have published guidelines or practical guides for developing policy frameworks relevant to the green economy. Certain aspects covered by these guidelines (taxes, fiscal incentives, subsidies, regulations) facilitate the implementation framework of the green economy generally and therefore can also facilitate the involvement of the diaspora.

The recommendations are intended to:

- Promote the competitive advantages of the diaspora and encourage experience sharing and optimisation;
- Strengthen the capacities of the diaspora and other stakeholders to implement initiatives, entrepreneurial projects or advocacy actions in a coherent and methodical way;
- Strengthen the action frameworks in favour of the diaspora to bring about green action;
- Bring together the different kinds of expertise and include the diaspora in partnership frameworks.

The implementation of these recommendations calls for long, medium and short-term efforts to develop practices and frameworks for action.

### ENCOURAGE EXPERIENCE SHARING, KNOWLEDGE OPTIMISATION AND COMMUNICATION

This recommendation is based on the observation that exchange and discussion spaces for green economy questions are almost non-existent for the diaspora or are poorly integrated into the existing networks. Moreover, experiences (whether failures or successes) are given little recognition, with very little available information. This exchange must be based as much as possible on the ongoing dynamics and existing networks as well as on flexible interaction frameworks, such as social networks. Without awareness of green values, the potentials of the green economy will struggle to materialise. This awareness is therefore an important precondition.



### Recommendation 1.

**Raise awareness within diaspora and green economy actors to create opportunities to share experiences and identify synergies**

#### Activities:

- Mapping and profiling of diaspora and the green economy, particularly geographically and thematically, to develop a database;
- Raise awareness of all stakeholders regarding their respective challenges and competitive advantages of the diaspora;
- Co-organise regular discussion sessions at different levels, from local to international, which will cover various sectors of the green economy in order to improve the knowledge of all parties and explore opportunities for cooperation.

**Relevant stakeholders:** All – Networks, diaspora organisations and individuals, entrepreneurial networks (company networks, chambers of commerce etc.), networks connected with the environment/ renewable energy/ waste management, influencers, central and local public authorities in the host countries and countries of origin, international donors and partners etc.

**Schedule<sup>15</sup>:** Medium term (change of practices over the long term)



### Recommendation 2.

**Continue to research, analyse and communicate about diaspora initiatives to turn them into a source of learning and improve practices**

#### Activities:

- Document and analyse existing practices (including education, success factors and challenges) and the potential of the diaspora for the green economy, taking other contexts, sectors and research perspectives into consideration;
- Create communication supports and social media pages/sites/profiles to promote the green economy, share existing initiatives and facilitate exchange of information and practices;
- Conduct communication campaigns and advocacy activities to increase the visibility of the green diaspora actions and their benefits;
- Highlight the results of green initiatives which include the diaspora through feedback workshops, webinars, infographics, fact sheets etc.

**Relevant stakeholders:** Funders (AFD, GIZ, EU etc.), diaspora networks and organisations (FORIM, ADEPT etc.), sectorial networks (CICLE [Réseau de la Coopération Internationale Climat Energie], PSEau [Programme Solidarité Eau], Coordination Sud [Coordination South] etc.), public authorities in the host countries and countries of origin, private sector etc.

**Schedule:** Short – medium term

<sup>15</sup> Short = less than 1 year; Medium = 1-3 years; Long = more than 3 ans.

## STRENGTHEN THE CAPABILITIES OF THE DIASPORA AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE GREEN ECONOMY

The green economy requires multiple areas of expertise which, according to the needs, require capacity development and training. In this context the diaspora can be as much a beneficiary of interventions as a source of expertise.



### Recommendation 3.

**Strengthen the capacities of the diaspora and other stakeholders to better manage the challenges of the green economy, develop “green” skills and initiate and implement green technical projects**

#### Activities:

- Analyse the capacity development needs of the diaspora and other stakeholders – governmental or non-governmental;
- Establish dedicated support programmes, or integration of a green economy dimension into existing programmes, by promoting sectors or mainstreaming challenges whatever the sector considered;
- Organise periodic customised training sessions (boot camps, webinars etc.) to train the players for the technical challenges connected with the green economy, at various levels and in various sectors (management of innovation, research and development, technical engineering, corporate social responsibility, team and project management, administrative and financial management etc.);
- Draw upon the expertise of the diaspora to implement capacity development interventions, between peers and aimed at other stakeholders in the green economy.

**Relevant stakeholders:** Technical and financial partners (GIZ, AFD, EU, Fonds ADEME [Agence de la Transition Ecologique] International, European Regional Development Fund etc.), engineering consultancies in the energy and waste sectors, ICMPD and other international partners specialised in capacity building.

**Schedule:** Medium term



#### Recommendation 4.

#### Facilitate the sharing of diaspora green knowledge and skills, particularly through mentoring

##### Activities:

- Develop sustainable mechanisms to transfer the green expertise of the diaspora, face-to-face or remotely, aimed at public or private players in the country of origin;
- Identify mentors through existing diaspora networks, companies and higher education institutions “here”;
- Take existing initiatives as a base to propose a targeted “green economy” offer by mentors;
- Identify beneficiaries through the local chambers of commerce, incubators, entrepreneurship support initiatives;
- Offer training to project leaders regarding specific challenges (rural electrification projects, suburban composting projects etc.);
- Design skill transfer activities particularly mentoring activities, such as two-way activities which are beneficial for all participants;
- Encourage university exchanges of diaspora academics.

**Relevant stakeholders:** Technical and financial partners (EU, ICMPD, UNDP, GIZ, AFD...), NGOs.

More specifically for mentoring: networks/organisations of the diaspora, entrepreneurs, Universities/past pupil networks, structures in charge of “green” implementation initiatives, local partnerships “over there” etc.

**Schedule:** Short – medium term

## PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR THE DIASPORA IN THE GREEN ECONOMY SECTOR

The integration of the green economy into the commitments of the diaspora could take place through targeted financial incentives, driven by decentralised cooperation, funders or the diaspora itself, using “*diaspora green bonds*” for example.



### Recommendation 5.

#### Strengthen the inclusion of criteria applicable to the diaspora and the green economy in the plans and projects of the funders

##### Activities:

- Rais awareness of funders, particularly through the advocacy of the diaspora, of green economy issues and the potential of the diaspora therein;
- Increase the inclusion of clauses and selection criteria regarding the diaspora and the green economy in the strategies of the funders and in the terms of reference of calls for project tenders;
- Promote projects with the purpose of involving the diaspora in the green economy, in particular to fund structuring and facilitate exchange frameworks;

**Relevant stakeholders:** Funders, European Union, technical partners (IRENA, ICMPD, UN), NGOs

**Schedule:** Short - medium term



### Recommendation 6.

#### Diversify and open up the funding sources of the green economy

##### Activities:

- Advise the stakeholders of existing standards, such as the *Climate Bonds Initiative*;
- Define the legal and regulatory framework for green investments by the diaspora;
- Launch diaspora fundraising campaigns for environmental purposes including by piloting “*diaspora green bonds*”;
- Facilitate access to bank loans for diaspora players;
- Put in place of bank guarantee mechanisms in favour of the diaspora, particularly in the case of bi-banking (funding “here” for the implementation of projects “over there”);
- Help members of the diaspora to strengthen their applications for funds.

**Relevant stakeholders:** Country of origin, banks, funders, certification bodies (e.g.: *Climate Bonds Initiative*) and private-sector development support / business start-up assistance bodies.

**Schedule:** Medium term



## REINFORCE DIASPORA ACTION FRAMEWORKS TO GENERATE GREEN ACTIONS

The strengthening of diaspora action frameworks in the green economy may be done through the co-construction of legal frameworks both in the country of origin and the host country, with the involvement of all the stakeholders, including the diaspora.



### Recommendation 7.

#### Develop and strengthen the legal frameworks to support the commitment of the diaspora to the green economy

##### Activities:


- Analyse the legal and administrative frameworks in both the country of origin and the host country;
- Organise consultations between the diaspora and the associated stakeholders, particularly by means of advisory committees;
- Support the framing of development and sectoral policies and programmes which will include the role of the diaspora;
- Create legal frameworks responding to the needs of the diaspora and the capacities of local players, reassuring investors and creating a climate of confidence;
- Develop incentives in favour of the diaspora in the green economy: support for green entrepreneurship, exemption from duties and taxes for the initial years of activity, tax exemptions for certain products (such as, for example, solar panels), creation of one-stop-shop-type structures, facilitating administrative procedures etc.;
- Develop national taxonomies for “green” activities.

**Relevant stakeholders:** Authorities of the countries of origin nationally and, if required, locally (in the case of decentralisation for example), EU, technical partners

**Schedule:** Long term

**BRING TOGETHER THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF EXPERTISE AND INCLUDE THE PLAYERS OF THE DIASPORA IN PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORKS**

Pooling the expertise and means of the various stakeholders and concluding multi-party and transdisciplinary partnerships are both essential in the response to a societal challenge as critical as the green transition. In this context, efforts must be made to position and take advantage of the potential of diasporas, who are – at present non-traditional partners of public and private sector players of the green economy.

	<b>Recommendation 8.</b> <b>Position diaspora in the framework of various partnership arrangements</b>
<b>Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor the players and opportunities of partnership, by sector and region;</li><li>• Assist diaspora in the preparation (including by skill audits), negotiation and development of robust bespoke partnerships, particularly in the private sector;</li><li>• Measure the progress and results of partnerships in an approach based on continuous learning and adjustment;</li></ul>	
<b>Relevant stakeholders:</b> All - Networks, organisations and individuals of the diaspora, entrepreneurial networks (business networks, chambers of commerce etc.), networks relating to the environment /renewable energy / waste management, central and local public authorities in the host countries and countries of origin, international funders and partners etc.	
<b>Schedule:</b> Medium - long term	

# CONCLUSIONS

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Diasporas possess competitive advantages and an undeniable potential to sustain the green economy because of their economic, human and social resources. A rich diversity of concrete and multifaceted commitments from the different subgroups of diaspora have been identified: entrepreneurship, incubation, advocacy, awareness-raising, voluntary sector, skill transfer, support for policy development, use of new green technologies, service digitalisation etc. It is not a question of systematically including the diaspora at the centre of every action regarding the green economy, but of recognising its distinct advantages and of ensuring it has a seat at the table when it comes to partnership building.

The comparative study of three countries (Haiti, Togo and Vietnam) made it possible to highlight the differences between the three contexts. In Haiti, the security environment and the commitment modes of the diaspora highlight the issue of consciousness of the green economy but also the importance of finding stable partners. The need for training and the wish to learn among peers was also underlined. In Togo, the development of entrepreneurship and the strong recourse to the voluntary sector are opportunities for strengthening the commitment of the diaspora, which is clearly identified as a key player in the green economy by the stakeholders. Again the finding of reliable partners is a key issue, as well as the need to develop legal frameworks offering greater security to the entrepreneurs. In Vietnam, the green economy is experiencing dynamic growth. It enjoys the backing of the diaspora, particularly at the academic level. There is however the problem of better identification of needs and the possible contributions of the diaspora, as well as offering greater visibility to the existing commitment options for the diaspora.

The involvement of the diaspora in the green economy may be increased by:

- A process of adoption of the green economy by the diaspora and the associated stakeholders, in order to ascertain its relevance and the best possible approach, according to the contexts, so that interventions by the diaspora are not made unnecessarily complicated and to avoid “*greenwashing*”;
- An in-depth analysis of the needs of the different stakeholders (particularly the public authorities, associations and entrepreneurs of the diaspora as well as local associations), with a view to adapting the green economy project and possible contributions of the diaspora to realities on the ground and to the terms of engagement of the diaspora;
- A detailed knowledge of the contexts and intervention frameworks, in order to understand the associated opportunities;
- Awareness-raising among the diaspora and other sector players of the green economy to promote the strong points of the diaspora, facilitate exchanges of experiences and identify synergies;
- An increase in the visibility of “green” diaspora practices, by capitalising on information and feedback and more structured communication;
- Strengthening of the capacities of the diaspora and other stakeholders with regard to the green economy;
- Consolidation of skill and knowledge transfer schemes to take advantage of the expertise of the diaspora;
- Financial incentives for green diaspora initiatives and facilitated access to funding, particularly bank loans;
- Breaking silos between the players and improving the integration of these issues into partnership mechanisms (match-making, partnership agreements, project calls, dedicated funding etc.), based on a flexible approach;

- The development of intervention frameworks that encourage diaspora involvement in green sectors based on collaborative work.

Insofar as the issues connected with the green economy are progressing, both in the host country and country of origin, there is good reason to pursue this initial study, particularly by:

- Widening the scope of the study to other countries with different socio-economic and diaspora contexts. Senegal, for example, where the waste sector is vibrant, could be a case in point;
- Covering other sectors, such as agriculture, regularly mentioned in the interviews as another key sector in the green economy. Such expansion could include sectors for which the green economy is not the lead factor, but it there are [potential] connections with the topic and diaspora. New technologies, for example, is an economic growth sector, particularly among entrepreneurs coming from the diaspora and relevant for the green transition;
- Examining further the complementarity of diaspora with the other stakeholders, especially the private sector, local associations, communities, but also between organisations and members of the diaspora.

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# ANNEXES

## ANNEX 1 – INTERVIEW GUIDE

Registers	Questions
<b>Introduction</b>	<p><i>Introduce yourself</i></p> <p><i>What is your connection with the green economy (work, personal projects, interests etc.)?</i></p> <p><i>What does the “green economy” mean according to you? Are there other ways of referring to this notion (“green entrepreneurship”, others etc.)?</i></p> <p><i>Why have you intervened personally in this issue? What were your initial motives?</i></p>
<b>To what extent has the diaspora made its own of the issues of the green economy according to the settings in which it develops?</b>	<p><i>Has this notion (the green economy) progressed since the beginning of your involvement?</i></p> <p><i>What do you think are the main differences in approach between the green economy here and over there?</i></p> <p><i>How do you see the differences in context between here and over there? How do you approach your involvement? Have you any information about the initiatives of the diaspora? Do you work with members of the diaspora?</i></p> <p><i>Are the energy and waste sectors priorities for you in Haiti with respect to needs?</i></p>
<b>What are the motivations of the diaspora to undertake ventures, invest in and support transitions to the green economy?</b>	<p><i>What connections do you make between the green economy and the diaspora?</i></p> <p><i>What might the principal motivations of the Haitian diaspora be in taking part/getting involved in this area?</i></p> <p><i>According to you are the motivations different depending on the generation?</i></p>
<b>What are the potentials of the diaspora for involvement in the green economy?</b>	<p><i>In your opinion what are the diaspora’s various action levers in the green economy? Can you think of any examples? If no answer restart indicating different levers (economic, advocacy etc.)</i></p> <p><i>What place could/should the diaspora have in the green economy? What is the present mobilisation of this potential?</i></p> <p><i>What are the features that differentiate the diaspora from other players (restart strength/weakness/assets/deficiencies)? How does this take concrete shape in the projects undertaken? To what extent do/could these projects introduce an innovation? An unusual approach?</i></p>

<p><b>What frameworks (political, regulatory, partnership, funding) are already in existence or could be introduced, here and over there, to stimulate, accelerate and strengthen the activity of the diaspora in the green economy?</b></p>	<p><i>What feedback can be gained already from past projects (with the participation of the diaspora)? What hindering or facilitating elements were encountered?</i></p> <p><i>What political and regulatory frameworks – here and over there - promote/ hamper the implementation of green economy projects?</i></p> <p><i>Is any action type or sector more facilitated than another?</i></p> <p><i>What developments should be recommended?</i></p>
<p><b>What are the roles, contributions and modus operandi of the diaspora and its partners for undertaking, supporting, enabling or assisting green economy activities?</b></p>	<p><i>What were the chief difficulties that may have been encountered? How did you overcome them?</i></p> <p><i>What recommendations would you make for implementing more projects, changing the scale of existing projects, replicating them?</i></p> <p><i>With regard to the diaspora, what leverage should be used to support and facilitate its intervention in the green economy? What should they change or develop?</i></p> <p><i>Through which other types of player and action could the involvement of the diaspora be strengthened in this area? What synergies would there be between the actors?</i></p> <p><i>To what extent do they already include a “diaspora” / “green economy” component in their strategies/programmes?</i></p> <p><i>What advocacy actions should be undertaken as a priority? By whom? With whom? What should be changed?</i></p>
<p><b>How should the involvement of the diaspora in the green economy be measured?</b></p>	<p><i>What conclusions can be drawn about the diaspora in the green economy?</i></p> <p><i>What are the tangible impacts/changes observed? How has a particular intervention or type of intervention brought about a change regarding the attitude to the diaspora and/or the green economy?</i></p> <p><i>Is it appropriate to put in place a more robust system for measuring and monitoring? What form should it take?</i></p>
<p><b>How should good practices and information about the involvement of the diaspora in the green economy be produced, shared and discussed?</b></p>	<p><i>How are the interventions of the diaspora in favour of the green economy assessed?</i></p> <p><i>Are there work spaces to enable the sharing of good practices and creation of partnerships? What forms might they take?</i></p> <p><i>Which players would it be appropriate to include?</i></p> <p><i>What recommendations would you make to improve the standing of the involvement and contribution of the diasporas in the green economy in Haiti?</i></p>
<p><b>Opening and end</b></p>	<p><i>Let’s dream a little: What for you would the best involvement/ideal role of the diaspora be by the year 2030?</i></p> <p><i>Conclude with the statement that the study must then be made available and present the next steps (particularly workshop)</i></p> <p><i>Have you contact details for people we might meet?</i></p>

## ANNEX 2 – LIST OF INTERVIEWS

Target country	Interviewees
<b>Haiti</b>	Coordinator of energy-access programmes at the MPTPC
	Former member diaspora Haiti/USA, Founder of the Fondation Danielle Saint-Lôt pour les femmes [Danielle Saint-Lôt Foundation for Women] in Haiti
	Green energy adviser Autorité Nationale de Régulation du Secteur de l’Energie (ANARSE) [National Regulatory Authority for the Energy Sector]
	Waste management adviser Autorité Nationale de Régulation du Secteur de l’Energie (ANARSE)
	Director of Palmis Eneji
	University Professor and Member of the diaspora
	Winner of the Génération Climat programme and Member of the diaspora
	Chairperson of the Rêvons pour Haïti Association
<b>Togo</b>	Director of the Department of Togolais de l’Extérieur [Togolese Abroad]
	Local entrepreneur who received diaspora support, Founder of Zam-ké [Recycling of plastic products]
	Founder of Ubuntu Conseil and Member of the diaspora
	Founding Chairperson of d’Africa Global Recycling and Member of the diaspora
	Founder of Valora solution [Autoclassification Software] and Member of the diaspora
	Founding Chairperson Energy Generation and Member of the diaspora
	Circular economy expert at the OECD and Member of the diaspora
	Technical sales representative Lacroix environnement and Member of the diaspora
	Volunteer worker at the Association Moi Jeu tri and Member of the diaspora
	Director of France Volontaires in Lomé
<b>Vietnam</b>	Expert at Pacific Environment, Member of Zero Waste Vietnam
	Member of the diaspora Anonymous
	Co-founder of the initiative «On the boil» and Member of the diaspora
	Engineer, former project manager at Business France Vietnam and Member of the diaspora

	Founder of Officience, ChangeNow Summit and Member of the diaspora
	Expert in the environmental departments at Véolia, contributor to a Shift Project publication and Member of the diaspora
	Expert in the environmental departments at SUEZ and Member of the diaspora
	GIEC Rapporteur and Member of the diaspora
	Green chemistry scientist at IMT Mines Albi and Member of the diaspora
<b>Transversal players</b>	Director of initiative development operations of an international NGO
	Meet Africa 2 Project Manager
	Migration Project Manager at the AFD
	Chairperson of the Coordination Sud Board

