



**PAGE** PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION  
ON GREEN ECONOMY

# Joining Forces for a Green and Inclusive Economic Transformation in Cambodia



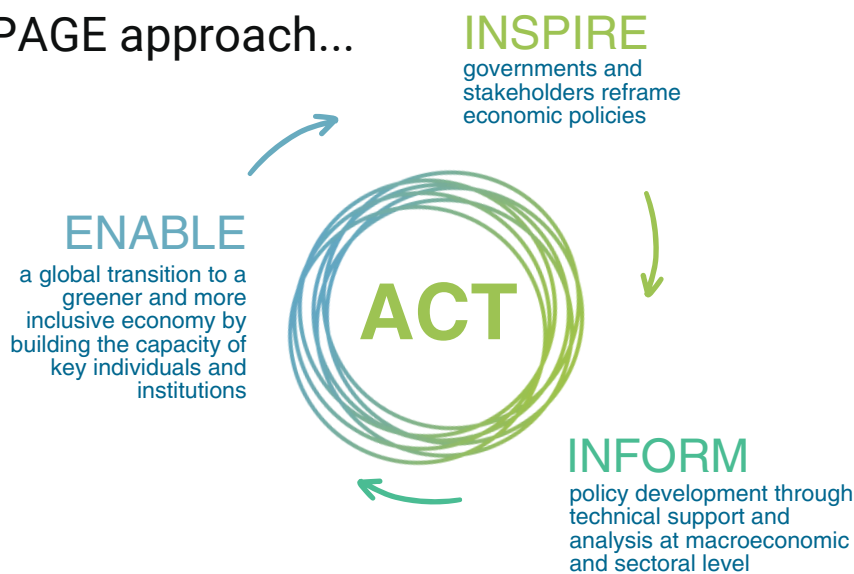
International  
Labour  
Organization





PAGE is a joint programme between UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The partnership was founded in 2013 to address the needs of countries by accelerating transformative economic change. Its goals are to promote green growth, reduce poverty and inequalities, create jobs, enhance social equity, and strengthen livelihoods and environmental protection, all in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

## PAGE approach...



# Cambodia joining PAGE

Cambodia joined PAGE in 2022 under the leadership of the National Council for Sustainable Development chaired by the Minister of Environment and with participation of other government ministries including Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, and Council for Development of Cambodia/Cambodia Investment Board. Private sector associations, research institutions and academia also supported Cambodia's application to join PAGE. The Department of Green Economy (DGE) is the coordinating Government institution and UNITAR is the coordinating UN agency.



*Photo credit: PAGE | Cambodia and Rwanda were introduced as new partner countries at the PAGE side-event as part of the Stockholm 50+ Conference in June 2022.*

# Five-year engagement

## Inception phase

A one-year inception phase was implemented, with the aim of defining specific policy reform areas to support mobilizing government and stakeholder commitment; developing foundational knowledge and skills to enable an informed policy dialogue; and establishing a national governance mechanism. PAGE in collaboration with Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) conducted a policy scoping study to identify critical policy areas for a green and inclusive economic transformation. Furthermore, an official launch event took place in May 2023 bringing together over 100 participants from the Government, civil society, private sector and academia.

## Programme implementation phase

The core implementation phase of the PAGE project in Cambodia includes technical advice and capacity development support by partner agencies, focusing initially on two priority areas: (1) enhancing the Government's technical capacity in economic foresight and fiscal policy; (2) promoting a circular economy with emphasis on the reduction of single-use plastics as well as 4R principles and green jobs within the garment industry.

## Transition phase (2027)

This phase will include evaluation and completion of PAGE support initiated during the previous phases and will focus on ensuring sustainability beyond the five-year support programme.

2023

2024-2026

2027



# Highlights since 2022



Photo credit: PAGE (1) and (4) Official launch of the programme implementation phase in 2023 (2) Inception mission in 2022 (3) Workshop on “Accelerating a Green and Fair Economic Transformation in Cambodia” in 2023 (5) First National Steering Committee meeting in 2024.

# Intended outcome

PAGE support focuses on reframing economic policies around sustainability and social inclusion; aligning sectoral and thematic policies and strategies with key economic transformation priorities; catalysing public and private finance; and building capacity for policy implementation. Furthermore, PAGE's interventions will be guided by the two key above-mentioned priority workstreams and will be aligned with SDG 8, 9, 12 and 17. The below figure illustrates the priority workstreams' alignment with PAGE's global outcome areas and the relevant SDGs.



# Outcome 1

**Cambodia has reinforced and integrated inclusive green economy (IGE) goals and targets into SDG-aligned economic and development planning and financing.**

PAGE will focus on conducting comprehensive assessments of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of fiscal and economic decision making. This will be achieved through an integrated planning and modelling approach, combined with sustainable budgeting practices. The aim is to enable the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to explore new sources of green and inclusive growth in alignment with the country's development priorities and its vision of becoming an upper-middle-income nation by 2030 and an upper-income nation by 2050, as outlined in the Pentagonal Strategy – Phase 1. Additionally, PAGE will work towards optimizing the utilization of existing resources within the constraints of a limited fiscal space and attracting new sources of finance. As Cambodia works towards graduating from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2029, PAGE will assist the RGC in developing a roadmap for green trade standards in order to align with sustainability standards which are gaining momentum in the international market.

# Outcome 2

**Cambodia is implementing evidence-based sectoral and thematic reforms in line with national and sub-national IGE priorities.**

PAGE's sectoral support will focus on the garment industry which employs over 750,000 workers, mostly women, contributing to more than a third of the country's GDP and constituting the largest export for the country. This will involve promoting circular, resource and energy efficient practices, enhancing competitiveness, attracting green investments and improving market access. Furthermore, a study will be undertaken to analyze the amount and types of plastic consumption and waste generation in factories, distinguishing between recyclable and non-recyclable plastics. This study aims to identify key strategies at both upstream and downstream levels to reduce plastic usage, minimize waste generation, and encourage recycling practices. In addition to plastic waste, the 4R principles will be used to explore economically viable recycling solutions for garment waste. Emphasis will be placed on the creation of green jobs and the development of green skills. The ultimate goal is to establish an environmentally friendly and inclusive fashion industry.





## Outcome 3

**Individuals and institutions representing public, private, social partners, civil society groups and stakeholders have acquired the capacities needed to advance IGE approaches at the regional, national, and sectoral levels.**

Integrating inclusive green economy tools in higher education curricula can be an important means to shape the mindset and build the capacities of the next generation of economic policy-makers and business leaders. PAGE will support national education and training institutions to introduce green and inclusive approaches into their regular education programs, and to ensure the adoption of these new approaches in the long run.

## Outcome 4

**National and regional stakeholders, including green economy champions, decision-makers, practitioners, and youth representatives, access and apply knowledge for advancing IGE.**

PAGE will implement outreach activities including annual forum to disseminate the results of its analytical work and contribute to an informed discussion about green economic opportunities for Cambodia. The implementation of PAGE in Cambodia will be fully aligned with the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028. In particular, PAGE will contribute to two distinct CF outputs, Output 2.2: Businesses are more formalized, inclusive and carbon and pollution mitigating; CF Output 2.4: Finance to support the attainment of the SDGs is more diversified and sustainable.



# Contact

The PAGE project in Cambodia is coordinated by UNITAR.  
The coordinating Government institution is the Department  
of Green Economy.

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# UN Partner Agencies

**The UN Environment Programme** focuses on enabling countries to place environmental sustainability at the heart of policymaking, development planning and project execution.

**The International Labour Organization** supports countries in promoting green jobs opportunities and addressing the social dimensions of the greening of economies to achieve a just transition for all.

**The UN Development Programme** provides expertise and assistance to ensure that policymaking, development

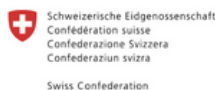
planning and project execution are sustainable and inclusive of the needs of poor and vulnerable communities.

**The UN Industrial Development Organization** delivers expertise on developing and greening industrial sectors to enable countries to sustainably diversify the drivers of their economies.

**The UN Institute for Training and Research** provides innovative learning solutions to individuals, organizations and institutions to enhance global decision-making and support country-level action for shaping a better future.



PAGE gratefully acknowledges support from the following funding partners.



For more information on  
PAGE partnerships

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