

## Green Economy Paradigm Through the Lens of Local Wisdom: Connecting Tradition and Modernity in Sustainable Development

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Article Information		Abstract
Submission date	27 March 2025	<p><b>Research Aim:</b> This research aims to develop a conceptual framework that bridges the green economy paradigm with local wisdom, thereby achieving sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Design/Method/Approach:</b> This conceptual research employs a constructivist approach, utilizing critical literature analysis and conceptual synthesis to develop a framework.</p> <p><b>Research Finding:</b> The research findings present a conceptual framework that integrates green economic principles—namely, resource efficiency, emission reduction, and social justice—with elements of local wisdom, including traditional values, customary practices, and local ecological knowledge. The framework emphasizes the importance of integration mechanisms, including dialogue and collaboration, recognition and reward, adaptation and innovation, as well as justice and equality.</p> <p><b>Theoretical contribution/Originality:</b> The theoretical contribution of this research is to offer a new perspective on the green economy by including a dimension of local wisdom, which is often overlooked in the mainstream literature</p> <p><b>Practical/Policy Implication:</b> By practical implication, this framework can guide policymakers, development practitioners, and local communities in designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive green economy initiatives.</p> <p><b>Research limitation:</b> The limitation of this study is that the conceptual framework developed is theoretical and requires further empirical validation.</p> <p><b>Keywords :</b> Green Economy; Local Wisdom; Sustainable Development; Conceptual Framework</p>
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### 1. Introduction

Sustainable development is not only a global challenge but also an urgent one, seeking a new paradigm of economic growth that balances financial gain, environmental protection, and the achievement of a fair social order. This green economy model can be viewed as a more sustainable alternative by promoting the efficient use of resources, lower emissions, and greener investments [1]. Nevertheless, implementing a green economy is often challenging, especially in developing countries with rich cultural and biological diversity.

In this respect, local wisdom, defined as the knowledge, customs, and values of indigenous and local people, can be crucial in ensuring long-term sustainability and thereby strengthening the green economic paradigm. [1].

A green economy refers to a system of economic activities that ultimately results in improved human well-being and social equity, with low carbon emissions [2]. An environmentally friendly economy, which aims to substantially reduce environmental hazards and ecological shortages, is considered a green economy. Increasingly, cities and countries are incorporating these ideas into their plans [3]. Making the economy Green requires a commitment to various approaches, such as managing carbon emissions, green finance, integrating with the digital economy, and eco-restoration [4]. We must transition to a resource-efficient, socially inclusive, low-carbon economy. Several measures, policies, initiatives, projects, and processes can be developed in the context of a green economy [5]. In countries, these initiatives include organic agriculture and the development of renewable energy. The success and longevity of these initiatives often depend on their setting and the local reception.

People often refer to local wisdom as Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). It refers to the knowledge and practices Indigenous and local peoples acquire through their long relationship with the environment [6]. Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), also known sometimes as local knowledge, is a continually evolving body of knowledge regarding the environment that Indigenous and local peoples have developed over time. Local knowledge includes thoughts and actions that are critical for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use [7]. This understanding will help preserve culture and resources by utilizing them wisely. Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is transmitted from one generation to the next, adapting intermittently to different environments and challenges. characterized by an integrative vision [8]. Local knowledge often encompasses the local ecosystem, the sustainable utilization of natural resources, local culture, and a worldview that respects and values nature. [2][9]. Local knowledge is essential for the preservation of biodiversity, adaptation to climate change, and management of natural disasters, according to several studies.

Although local knowledge and green economics have significant combined value, they are often viewed as independent entities in development literature and practice. While local wisdom is frequently overlooked or considered irrelevant to contemporary development, the dominant green economic paradigm focuses on macro-level policies and technical solutions [6]. As a result, many green economy initiatives fail to incorporate the socio-ecological dimension of local wisdom, leading to unsustainable and non-inclusive solutions.

Thus, we believe that a conceptual framework is needed to bridge the gap between the green economics paradigm and local wisdom that has not been developed. Such a framework could help elucidate how aspects of local wisdom can complement the concepts found in the green economy, and how a green economy can contribute to the preservation and promotion of local wisdom. To fill this gap, this paper develops a conceptual framework that integrates local knowledge and green economics to promote sustainable development.

### **1.1. Problem Statement**

Often, current green economic models overlook the socio-ecological component of local wisdom, leading to non-inclusive and unsustainable solutions.

### **1.2. Research Objectives**

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To create a conceptual framework that bridges local wisdom with the green economic paradigm, aiming to achieve sustainable development.

## 2. Methods

This study aims to develop a framework for a green economy paradigm that incorporates local wisdom through a conceptual approach. It is relevant in this case because it builds upon existing studies to generate new theoretical insights by combining existing works. It encompasses three key stages in the research process: conceptual synthesis, critical literature review, and framework development.

### Critical Literature Analysis

Stage one is critical, as the literature serves as a guideline for identifying key ideas, appropriate theories, and arguments that exist in local wisdom and green economics books. Keywords, for example, can be applied to academic databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. Academic quality, relevance to the research issue, and their ability to clarify the concepts of the green economy and local wisdom are some of the criteria for including literature. The selected works are then thoroughly examined to highlight key themes, powerful arguments, and areas of knowledge that require further exploration.

### Concept Synthesis

The second stage involves synthesizing ideas that integrate aspects of local wisdom with concepts from the green economy. Concept synthesis is the closest thing we have to creativity, as it combines and harmonizes different ideas into a more comprehensive picture. To summarize the key concepts, this paper created combinations by identifying the fundamental ideas of the green economy, such as resource efficiency, emission reduction, and social justice, and the basic components of local wisdom, including traditional ecological knowledge, resource management methods, and cultural values. Following this, a comparative study was conducted to identify areas of conflict between the two potential synergies and their commonalities.

### Framework Development

Stage 3: Develop a conceptual framework that aligns local knowledge and wisdom with the principles of the green economic paradigm. This structure is built on the synthesis of concepts and the results of critical literature studies. This technique focuses on four tasks: understanding your model, the relationship between its different parts, and creating an illustrative picture of the model. This enables local communities, development workers, and lawmakers to design and implement inclusive green economic projects.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### Presentation of the Conceptual Framework

The local wisdom that sustains smallholder farmers is embedded in a set of human, physical, and financial resources that can be dynamic and continuously adapted to environmental changes. There are three main components of the framework:

- a) **Principles of Green Economy:** This component encompasses resource efficiency, emission reduction, transition to renewable energy, production and consumption, and investment in green sectors, covering the fundamental principles of a green economy [9] [10]. Essentially, the fundamentals of the green economy involve the simultaneous pursuit of an economic growth system that is also environmentally sustainable and

socially inclusive, aiming to achieve sustainable development [11]. Such an approach is evolving globally as countries strive to foster economic growth while maintaining ecosystem balance. A green economy is understood as the restructuring of market economies to align with renewable energy, low carbon emissions, and sustainable resource management [10]. A key component of these principles is the underlying concern for how to grow the economy while minimizing its adverse environmental effects.

- b) **Elements of Local Wisdom:** This aspect integrates several key matrices of local wisdom, including traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), sustainable natural resource management methods, cultural values that respect nature, social systems that facilitate sustainability, and community participation in decision-making [12]. Local wisdom encompasses a multitude of aspects of traditional knowledge and practices, which are deeply ingrained in the cultural and social fabric of communities. Such aspects of local wisdom are essential for health, agriculture, food security, disaster risk reduction, and environmental management [13]. These aspects offer a unique perspective on their way of life, which coexists with nature.
- c) **Integration Bridge:** This component connects the principles of the green economy with local wisdom elements. Some other studies have connected the green economy and local wisdom, which signifies creating symbiosis leverage on traditional knowledge and practices for sustainable development [14]. Environmental sustainability, alongside economic growth, depends on such integration, particularly when indigenous and/or local populations possess considerable knowledge of their environmental surroundings [15]. The integration bridge can be viewed as a connection that links the economic and technological advancements of the green economy with the ecological and cultural knowledge of local wisdom [16]. The integration bridge is a model that describes the mechanisms and processes through which the two concepts support and reinforce one another [17] [18]. Dialogue and collaboration, recognition and reward, adaptation and innovation, justice and equality.

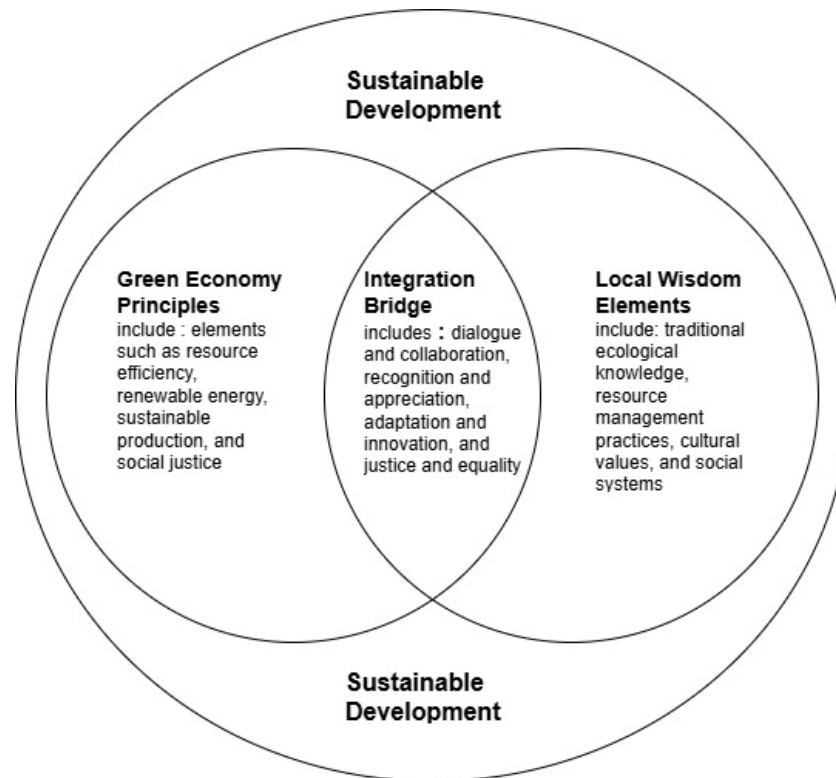


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Green Economic Integration and Local Wisdom  
**Integration of Green Economy Principles and Local Wisdom**

This element includes the key concepts of the green economy: resource efficiency, emission reduction, transition to renewable energies, sustainable production and consumption, and investment in green sectors:

- Resource Efficiency and Management of Natural Resources:** The principles of the green economy promote the efficient use of natural resources [19]. Natural resource management practices and resource efficiency are crucial in sustainable development, particularly in addressing challenges such as agriculture, urban systems, and ecological management in general [20]. Sustainable natural resource management is often rooted in local wisdom. Adopting these practices in green economy initiatives can enhance resource utilization and minimize ecological footprints.
- Renewable Energy and Traditional Ecological Knowledge:** The green economy is facilitating the transition to renewable energy. TEK and renewable energy have multiple connections from sustainable development to community empowerment [21]. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) encompasses the knowledge and practices of Indigenous and local populations. Such integration can increase ecological sustainability, facilitate cultural preservation, and contribute to socio-economic development [22]. Local knowledge encompasses a profound understanding of local energy resources and sustainable access to them. Early involvement of communities in renewable energy planning and projects provides context for their suitability in the region and within society.
- Sustainable Production, Consumption, and Cultural Values:** The green economy promotes sustainable production and consumption. This aligns with local wisdom, which emphasizes cultural values such as simplicity, frugality, and respect for the

natural world [23]. Cultural values are related to sustainable production and consumption because they reflect and are shaped by the socioeconomic and environmental resources and constraints of the setting in which they are formed [24]. Incorporating cultural values into sustainability practices can lead to more effective solutions that are grounded in the local context. These values can shape more sustainable forms of production and consumption.

- d) **Social Justice and Social Systems:** The green economy recognizes social justice and social equality as fundamental principles of the transition to a green economy [25]. Social justice and equality are closely linked to the transition to a green economy, which aims not only to promote environmental sustainability but also to prevent potential socioeconomic imbalances [26]. Local wisdom is often supported by a social system that upholds justice and equality. Incorporating these systems into green economy development can help ensure that the costs and benefits of transition are shared justly and equitably.

#### **Discussion of Implications**

The proposed conceptual framework can therefore inform a diverse group of stakeholders.

- a) **Policymakers:** This structure can help policymakers formulate and implement more sustainable and effective green economy plans. Policy toolkits, frameworks, and ideas that incorporate a systematic approach based on comprehensive indicators can help guide policymakers in designing and developing sustainable and effective green economy strategies [27]. The transition to a green economy is multidimensional, encompassing social, economic, and environmental dimensions, which necessitate coordinated actions involving multiple sectors and levels of government [28]. When applied in tandem across policy agendas, green growth indicators, and empirical data, they can help governments establish zero-error plans that navigate the complexities of sustainable development. These rules recognize that the input of local wisdom should also respect local wisdom, allowing for communication and cooperation among stakeholders, and ensuring justice and equality during the green economic transition.
- b) **Development Practitioners:** This structure can help practitioners design and implement greener economy projects that are more equitable and sustainable. A systematic approach, through some aspects like tax parity, renewable energy initiatives, community inclusion, and legislative structures, can help design and implement more equitable and sustainable green economy initiatives [32]. These aspects assist development practitioners to formulate programs that ensure social inclusion, economic development, and environmental sustainability [30]. Such a strategy depends on a broader understanding of the interaction among the diverse components shaping green economy policies and the roles played by different milieus of actors within institutions to achieve sustainable economic development. These initiatives should be based on local knowledge and needs, have strong local community involvement, and incorporate traditional wisdom practices.
- c) **Local Communities:** This structure enables close-knit communities to actively support eco-friendly economic development. Local communities can actively encourage ecologically sound economic development by leveraging their specific resources and frameworks [31]. Examples of frameworks where local populations can be involved in sustainable development include community-based organizations (CBOs), energy



communities, and local socioeconomic trajectories [32]. Many of these organizations employ cooperative and participatory approaches to support communities in addressing environmental issues while promoting economic growth [33]. The subsequent sections examine the guidance provided by these systems for economically sound waste disposal [34]. Local communities possess the knowledge and expertise that can make green economy projects successful. It emphasizes the importance of local communities having a say in the decisions and also that the costs and benefits of the transition are adequately shared..

#### **Critical Analysis of the Literature**

The critical review of previous knowledge on local wisdom and green economics is the basis of the conceptual framework. The current literature often conflates the two thoughts, leading to solutions that are not only unsustainable but also exclusionary. Hence, this framework offers a differentiating perspective that provides a more holistic and integrated view than what currently exists in the literature. This framework emphasizes the importance of integrating the green economy paradigm with local knowledge to achieve sustainable development.

#### **4. Conclusion**

This research proposes a conceptual framework that connects the green economy paradigm and local wisdom, aiming to support sustainable development. The integrated framework proposed in this study envisions a merger of the principles of green economy (resource efficiency, emission reduction, and social justice), the elements of local wisdom (traditional values, practices tailored to local conditions, and local ecological knowledge), as well as the integration mechanisms (dialogue and cooperation, recognition and reward, adaptation and innovation, and justice and equality).

Broader in conceptual scope than the mainstream literature, this framework, grounded in local wisdom, offers a fresh perspective on the green economy. The framework not only highlights the importance of recognizing and valuing the role of local knowledge in the sustainable development process, thus promoting a dialogue and cooperation of stakeholders, thus ensuring equity and justice in the transition to the green economy, but also provides policymakers, development practitioners and local communities with a helpful guide for the design and implementation of sustainable and inclusive green economy initiatives.

Even if its conceptual framework marks considerable progress, its research has several limitations. The framework developed is theoretically driven, but it requires further empirical testing. Notable aspects of the study include the necessity of continuation and potential future contributions. Future studies may assess how to sustain and implement these models more sustainably and efficiently in practice settings. The application of this paradigm in a range of ecological and cultural contexts is explored through comparative inquiries and case studies.

Further research could examine the challenges and opportunities for integrating local knowledge and green economies across various sectors of the economy, including tourism, energy, agriculture, and forestry. This study is therefore likely to provide more detailed guidance on implementing this paradigm in practice.

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