



Operationalizing Just Transition in North Africa: Institutionalizing Skills Systems, Informal Workforce Formalization, and Social Protection under Tunisia's National Ecological Transition Strategy (SNTE)

1. Name of proposing Party or organization.

Ministry of Environment of Tunisia

2. Brief description of the proposed study:

Tunisia faces acute climate vulnerabilities—including water scarcity, land degradation, and coastal erosion—alongside socio-economic pressures such as youth unemployment and high informal employment. To address these challenges, the Ministry of Environment leads the implementation of the National Ecological Transition Strategy (SNTE 2035–2050), which integrates decarbonization, circular economy principles, and biodiversity protection with social equity and green job creation. This case study examines Tunisia's concrete operational pathways, governance models, and policy mechanisms for managing workforce transitions across key non-energy ecological sectors, specifically waste management, circular economy value chains, and nature-based solutions. The case study will analyze three main structural pillars: 1. Informal Sector Formalization & Social Protection: Evaluating strategies to transition informal waste pickers (Barbechas) and rural laborers into formalized, decent green jobs within circular economy value chains (plastics, e-waste, organic waste), ensuring occupational health, fair wages, and social security integration. 2. Adapting Vocational Training & Skills Systems: Examining how national training institutes and university curricula are being updated (under SNTE Axis 5) to align green skills with emerging ecological professions, particularly in climate-resilient agriculture, eco-tourism, and coastal ecosystem restoration. 3. Institutional Frameworks & Impact Assessment Tools: Assessing how Tunisia applies Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and inter-ministerial coordination (led by the Ministry of Environment alongside labor and economic authorities) to monitor transition outcomes, assess trade-offs, and safeguard vulnerable regions. By highlighting real-world implementation data, regulatory frameworks (such as the draft Environmental Code), and public-private partnership models, the study will capture key enabling factors and structural bottlenecks (e.g.,



fiscal constraints and international market shifts). Ultimately, it will deliver actionable insights for African and Mediterranean Parties seeking to pair ecological restoration with inclusive socio-economic protection and decent work creation.

3. *United Nations region to be covered by the case study:*

Africa;

4. *Country or countries to be covered by the case study*

Tunisia

5. *Area of the case study:*

Managing workforce transitions ;The design and implementation of economic diversification strategies ;The identification of potential new sectors for diversification ;Institutional arrangements surrounding impact assessment ;

6. *Expected duration for completion of the case study (in months):*

6 months

7. *Contribution of the submitting organization*

Technical inputs;Data;Authorship;

8. *Can the study be developed without financial support from the UNFCCC?*

No

9. *If no, please provide the estimated range of required financial support in USD (Please note that the UNFCCC is not a donor organization and has limited funding):*

45000

10. *Please provide the status of any preliminary work undertaken that could serve as a basis for the study, including a link to any available reports, if available.*

Tunisia has established strong foundational policies to serve as the baseline for this study: • National Strategy for Ecological Transition (SNTE 2035–2050): Adopted in 2023, outlining 5 axes and 53 strategic measures for green and circular transformation. (link :



https://www.environnement.gov.tn/fileadmin/Bibliotheque/SNTE/SNTE_version_An.pdf) • Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2025–2035): Integrating carbon intensity reduction targets with adaptation and social mitigation plans. • National Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) & Blue Economy Roadmap: Addressing coastal workforce adaptation and ecosystem preservation. • GIZ/UNDP Joint Technical Reports: Analytical baseline studies on green employment potential, circular waste management, and environmental governance in Tunisia.



Framework Convention on
Climate Change