Green Jobs –
International Labour Organization perspective

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Decent work

Adapted from Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World, UNEP/ILO/IOE/ITUC, 2008.
“A ‘green job’ is not by definition a decent job; green jobs will be made ‘decent’ not by default but by design.”

ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder
Green jobs are decent jobs that contribute to preserve or restore the environment.

Green jobs help:
• Improve energy and raw materials efficiency
• Limit greenhouse gas emissions
• Minimize waste and pollution
• Protect and restore ecosystems
• Support adaptation to the effects of climate change
Design, set and monitor international labour standards, aimed at ensuring economic growth and development are not at the expense of rights at work.

Promote jobs and income opportunities by making employment creation a priority.

Ensure access to social protection for all, to help make sure no one is left behind.

Foster tripartism and social dialogue, ensuring all world of work actors are ‘in the room’ to represent everyone’s needs.
Quality of employment

- Safety and ethics
- Equality and rights at work
- Adequate earnings
- Working time & work-life balance
- Employment security and social protection
- Employment-related relationships and work motivation
- Social dialogue
- Skills development

ILO’s work on green jobs

International labour standards
• Facilitate the green transition;
• Protect the most vulnerable (workers affected by the transition, in green sectors, and displaced by climate change);
• Ensure equity and inclusion, incl. through social dialogue; and
• Protect the environment.

A key role for national legislation is to reconcile economic, social and environmental objectives
• Examples: legislation in Brazil, France, Mexico, Philippines, etc.;
• A visible trend to include labour issues in climate legislation and policy.
ILO’s work on green jobs

- 2030 Agenda
- Paris Agreement & collaboration with UNFCCC
- Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all
- Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)
- Future of work, green jobs assessments, green enterprises, social protection, skills development, policy research...
ILO’s work on forestry

Two tools developed through meetings of experts:

1998 – Code of Practice: Safety and health in forestry work

2005 – Guidelines for labour inspection in forestry


May 2019 - a tripartite Sectoral Meeting on promoting decent work and safety and health in forestry
Potential of green jobs in the future of work

- 18 million more jobs will result from achieving the Paris Agreement’s 2°C goal.
- 6 million more jobs will result from embracing the circular economy.
- 1.2 billion jobs depend on a stable and healthy environment.

Managed well, transitions to environmentally and socially sustainable economies can become a strong driver of job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication.

ILC 2013. Conclusions concerning achieving decent work, green jobs and sustainable development
Thank you!

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