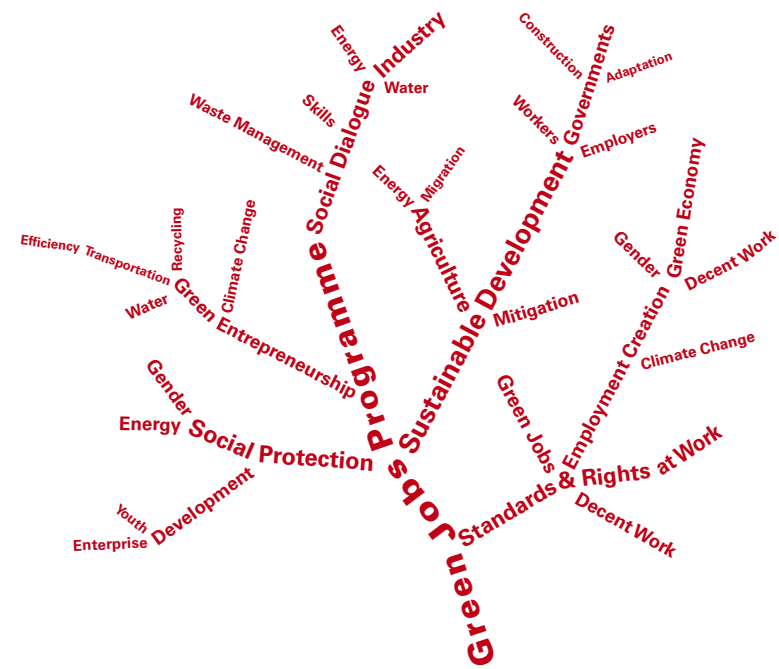




International
Labour
Office
Geneva



Green jobs becoming a reality Progress and outlook 2013



Employment
Sector

**Green jobs becoming a reality
Progress and outlook 2013**

Copyright © International Labour Organization 2013
First published 2013

Publications of the International Labour Office enjoy copyright under Protocol 2 of the Universal Copyright Convention. Nevertheless, short excerpts from them may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. For rights of reproduction or translation, application should be made to ILO Publications (Rights and Permissions), International Labour Office, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland, or by email: pubdroit@ilo.org. The International Labour Office welcomes such applications.

Libraries, institutions and other users registered with reproduction rights organizations may make copies in accordance with the licences issued to them for this purpose. Visit www.ifro.org to find the reproduction rights organization in your country.

ISBN 978-92-2-127424-7 (print)
ISBN 978-92-2-127425-4 (web pdf)

The designations employed in ILO publications, which are in conformity with United Nations practice, and the presentation of material therein do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Labour Office concerning the legal status of any country, area or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

The responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles, studies and other contributions rests solely with their authors, and publication does not constitute an endorsement by the International Labour Office of the opinions expressed in them.

Reference to names of firms and commercial products and processes does not imply their endorsement by the International Labour Office, and any failure to mention a particular firm, commercial product or process is not a sign of disapproval.

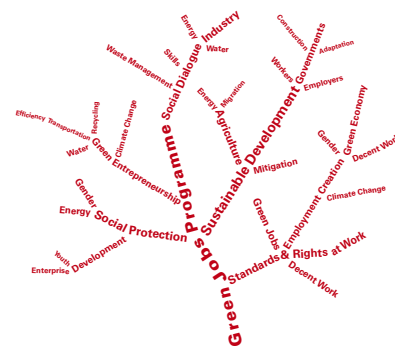
ILO publications and electronic products can be obtained through major booksellers or ILO local offices in many countries, or direct from ILO Publications, International Labour Office, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland. Catalogues or lists of new publications are available free of charge from the above address, or by email: pubvente@ilo.org

Visit our web site: www.ilo.org/publns

Printed in Switzerland

Contents

1. Introduction	5
Green jobs: building block for sustainable development	5
Green Jobs Programme of the ILO: progress and outlook	5
What are green jobs?	6
2. Highlights of 2012	7
Assessing the potential for green jobs in Mexico	7
Kenya's green economy strategy	7
Greening the hotel sector in Thailand	8
South Africa's Free State Province creates decent work in waste management	9
Occupational training on green jobs in Central America and the Dominican Republic	10
Green entrepreneurship in China	11
Green Jobs in Asia – a regional conference for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing	11
3. Recent Publications	13
4. Outlook 2013	16
Towards a green jobs strategy in Turkey	16
Greening Zambia's Building Industry	16
Promoting sustainable green livelihoods for local communities in Indonesia	17
Towards a statistical definition of green jobs	17
The Partnership of Action on Green Economy	18
5. Final words	19



1. Introduction

Green jobs: building block for sustainable development

Sustainable development has been one of the most widely discussed topics in 2012. The Rio+20 Conference and other high-level events that took place over the course of the year offered the opportunity to debate how best to achieve sustainable development and address its three pillars (social, economic and environmental development) equally.

Country experiences from around the world have demonstrated that the creation of green jobs contributes significantly to sustainable development. Indeed, decent and environmentally sustainable employment provide a constructive and indispensable answer to the multiple global challenges of social equity and inclusion, human well-being, economic development and environmental protection.

At national level, green jobs present an effective means for reviving economies and creating employment, whilst reducing the environmental impact of enterprises. Green jobs can also play a key role in promoting socially inclusive development, as they provide adequate income, social protection and the respect of workers' rights. In essence, green jobs are also decent jobs.

Green Jobs Programme of the ILO: progress and outlook

Since its inception in 2009, the Green Jobs Programme of the ILO has promoted the creation of green jobs through research, international advocacy, capacity building, knowledge sharing and at national level through the provision of political and technical advisory services.

Country-level support initiates usually through information and awareness raising, followed by capacity building for relevant national stakeholders. Where there is demand, assessments on green jobs potential are carried out to inform on-going policy dialogues. This process often leads to pilot projects in various sectors and at enterprise level. Ultimately, the aim is for these interventions to enable the formulation and implementation of green jobs policies.

The ILO Green Jobs Programme has grown steadily both in terms of its geographic coverage and through its network linkages. Indeed, over the past four years a total of 27 countries have been assisted directly, including 16 through technical cooperation projects. Moreover, the Programme's network approach has led to a strong cooperation with the different ILO departments, as well as with external partners. As a result of this cooperation, a growing number of successful national and regional initiatives are being carried out each year.

Section 2 of this progress report presents successful national experiences from 2012. These experiences illustrate the different levels at which the Green Jobs Programme operates:

- The experiences from Mexico and Kenya describe possible interventions at *policy level*, particularly with regard to the conduction of national assessments on green jobs potential;
- Thailand and South Africa exemplify possible interventions at *sectoral level*, namely the waste management and tourism sector;
- The articles from Central America and China showcase how existing skills gaps for green jobs can be addressed through national training institutions and at *enterprise level*;
- Moreover, the case of the Green Jobs in Asia Regional Conference highlights the importance attributed to *knowledge sharing* activities after project implementation to enhance the on-going policy dialogue process.

Latest publications from the Green Jobs Programme and other ILO departments and offices are presented in section 3. Looking ahead, section 4 provides a preview of the activities which will unfold over the course of 2013. These and many other activities are expected to be implemented with the support of the Green Jobs Global Network and the Green Jobs partners.

The progress report concludes with final words on the future strategy of the Green Jobs Programme.

What are green jobs?

Green jobs are decent jobs that contribute to preserving and restoring the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency. Green jobs reduce consumption of energy and raw materials; limit greenhouse gas emissions; minimize waste and pollution; protect and restore ecosystems; and enable enterprises and communities to adapt to climate change.

At enterprise level, green jobs can produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment, for example green buildings or clean transportation. However, it is important to note that these green outputs (products and services) are not always based on green production processes and technologies. Therefore, and in addition to this, green jobs can also be distinguished by their contribution to more environmentally friendly enterprise production processes. For example, green jobs can reduce water consumption or improve recycling systems. Yet, green jobs defined through production processes do not necessarily produce environmental goods or services.

In short, and as illustrated by the diagram below, a distinction can thus be drawn between employment in green economic sectors from an output perspective and job functions in all sectors from an environmentally friendly process perspective. Green jobs are, therefore, all those jobs that fall in the dashed area.

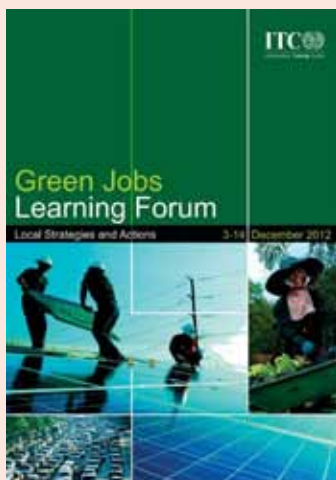


Sustainable Development, to precisely tackle the youth employment crisis. Funded by the Government of Japan, the project aimed to equip 2,500 young people with road maintenance skills and create 130 micro and small enterprises (MSEs) owned by young women and men. The main focus of the project was the labour-intensive road infrastructure development and maintenance sector, requiring improvements in both environmental practices and labour standards. Another important project component was building capacity for ILO's constituents on the adoption of green jobs approaches in infrastructure related works and services and in other traditional and emerging sectors. The project's component on green jobs promotion through training and knowledge sharing was supported by ILO's International Training Centre (ITC-ILO), linking directly to the broader Government /ILO/ UNEP green economy and green jobs strategies.

strategies and actions for the promotion of green jobs. Furthermore, ITC-ILO supports training activities at national and regional level, as in the case of the national tripartite training workshop in Trinidad and Tobago, held in May 2012. The overall aim of this rich portfolio is to address the specific needs of different target audiences, including in particular the social partners. It includes, for instance, the current development of a training manual for employers' organizations to strengthen their capacity for national debates on the green economy as well as a distance learning training programme for trade unionists developed and implemented jointly with the ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) and Sustainlabour.

The ITC-ILO Green Jobs Learning Cluster tackles challenges and opportunities in the promotion of green jobs. It provides governments and social partners with knowledge and tools to assess potentialities, device appropriate policies, implement strategies and monitor and evaluate progress.

In doing so, the Learning Cluster coordinates a dedicated portfolio of training courses. Current training focuses, among others, on decent work in the context of sustainable development, climate change and its impact on the world of work, green enterprise development and local

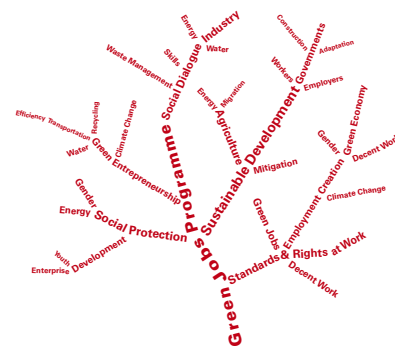


Greening the hotel sector in Thailand

The expanding tourism sector is a key engine of the Thai economy and a large provider of jobs (11.4% share of direct and indirect employment). Yet, despite its positive economic role, the tourism sector gives also reason for increasing concerns about its long-term sustainability. Indeed, severe environmental costs are associated with the rapid development of the sector, including water pollution, solid waste management problems, general environmental degradation, as well as emissions associated with poor resource management. At the same time, workplace practices and relations are often challenging, characterised by the limited scope for improved cooperation and dialogue among workers and employers.

The ILO project *Greener Business Asia* addresses precisely the need to shift towards more sustainable and responsible business models. It focuses on the requirements of small and medium sized hotels in terms of access to knowledge, technical and financial resources. The project developed and piloted training and advisory services for hotels that equip workers and management with practical tools and knowledge to jointly effect positive changes in their enterprises in terms of better resource efficiency and environmental impact, workplace practices and overall competitiveness.

The first pilot programme was implemented in Phuket from October 2011 to June 2012 in collaboration with



the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism of the Prince of Songkla University and the Phuket Chamber of Commerce. Over the course of the programme, newly established worker-management teams identified key problems and proposed strategies to address them.

Achievements included:

- enhanced mechanisms of workplace communication and cooperation
- revived and activated occupational safety and health committees
- improvement in workspace organization
- better waste management systems through the 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) approach

And resource efficiency improvements such as:

- laundry expenses reduced by 18% (over 10,000 USD savings a year) thanks to innovative bed-linen programmes
- 30 % energy savings thanks to change in work practices
- 42% reduction in food waste thanks to food audits



The experience in Phuket demonstrates that better worker-employer cooperation can bring about substantive benefits to enterprises, their stakeholders and the environment. Thanks to an effective training package, a team of national master trainers, and supportive partner institutions, the impact and benefits of the approach can now be expanded and scaled up.

South Africa's Free State Province creates decent work in waste management

To overcome the existing unemployment challenge, the government of South Africa is looking to create more jobs in emerging green sectors, such as waste management. South Africa's development strategy, the New Growth Path, prioritizes the green economy as a driver of growth. Moreover, the 2011 Green Economy Accord commits to improving waste recycling and to identifying and promoting recycling projects. Indeed, waste recycling holds significant potential for employment creation and already provides income generation opportunities for thousands of people in both the formal, but more so in the informal economy. Self-employed informal waste pickers work either on the streets or on landfill sites recovering items that have value, sorting them and selling them on to buy-back-centres who in turn sell them on to end users. End users such as paper mills, plastics companies, and metal or glass smelters are keen to get access to these recyclable materials. The high level of informality in the sector clearly represents an opportunity for the creation of more decent and formal employment opportunities.

The ILO project *Employment Creation through Small and Medium Scale Enterprise (SME) Development*, implemented in South Africa's Free State Province is supporting waste management initiatives at local level. With the project's assistance, the provincial government will critically review the systemic challenges of the sector and unlock the opportunities for SME development to create more and better jobs. The recently published study "Unrecognized Waste Management Experts: Challenges and Opportunities for Small Business Development and Decent Job Creation in the Waste Sector in the Free State" recognizes the important role of informal waste pickers. People who depend on recycling for their living have acquired years of know-how, practices and experiences that should be built upon rather than discarded. The research study was validated and endorsed by local stakeholders, which are following up on recommendations with targeted interventions.

This three year project (2011-2014) funded by the Flanders International Development Agency (FICA) is implemented in partnership with the Department for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental



Affairs (Detea). The overarching goal of the project is to create employment opportunities for previously disadvantaged population groups through the development of small and medium sized enterprises.

The ILO has a longstanding commitment and experience in promoting decent work in the solid waste management sector. The widespread lack of decent working conditions, productivity gaps and environmental hazards present in the sector, particularly in developing countries, remain issues to be tackled. But, despite these severe challenges, the waste management sector offers huge potential for green jobs creation worldwide.

The ILO has developed several training materials, such as the **Work Adjustment for Recycling and Managing Waste training manual (WARM)** implemented in Asia. This approach promotes practical collaborative actions between waste collectors and the community for establishing safe and efficient waste collection systems. WARM has, for instance, been integrated into the National Vocational Qualification certification courses for the job profile of 'Municipal Solid Waste Operations Assistant' in Sri Lanka, which has in turn been endorsed by Sri Lanka's Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC). The mainstreaming of WARM is a direct outcome of the ILO's *Green Jobs in Asia* project (2010-2012), supported through the Australian Government-ILO Partnership Agreement.

Occupational training on green jobs in Central America and the Dominican Republic

Occupational training and labour insertion are two central topics of ILO's work in Central America. Strong emphasis is placed on marginalized groups, such as young women and men with low education levels and workers of the informal sector.

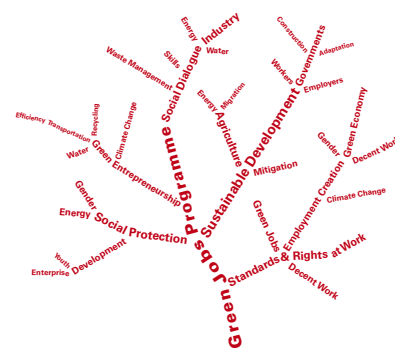
In the framework of the Spanish funded project FOIL (*Formación, orientación e inserción laboral*), the ILO is collaborating with the regional network of technical vocational education and training institutions. Created in 2004, the network has as objective to jointly



establish programmes of cooperation and exchange and to standardize and improve technical vocational training programmes in line with the latest labour market developments. All six Central American countries (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama) and the Dominican Republic are represented in the network.

In 2010, the network members decided to focus, with the technical support of the ILO, on the creation of learning standards and methodologies for green occupations. Based on previous experiences in jointly developing standards for technical vocational training, to date the network has elaborated learning standards and curricula for eight green occupations. These

Green Jobs Programme



occupations include, among others, organic agriculture, installation and reparation of photovoltaic systems, water management and forestry. After jointly elaborating these standards, all countries have included them into their vocational training portfolio, allowing people to receive trainings in those occupations.

Recently, the network has also decided to conduct national assessments on technical vocational training needs for green jobs. Applying an assessment methodology originally developed by the Brazilian National Service of Industrial Learning (SENAI), each national training institution is to conduct sectorial surveys to identify skills shortages in green occupations. The results of these surveys will help the identification of new green occupations and the development of their respective learning standards and curricula.

Green entrepreneurship in China

The *Green Business Options training scheme* (GBO) engages potential young Chinese entrepreneurs in creating environmentally friendly, economically viable, and socially just business ideas and plans. The training mainly focuses on micro-and-small-scale green businesses and provides relevant methods and skills for business creation and management.

The GBO enhances trainees' awareness of environmental protection and helps them self-evaluate whether they are ready to start a business. It supports potential entrepreneurs to identify and analyse green business opportunities, and draw lessons from business case studies to eventually develop their own green business plans.

Formally launched in April 2010 in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), the GBO had been developed based on the successful experiences from the ILO *Start and Improve Your Business* (SIYB) programme². During the pilot phase (2010-2012), thousands of young people in five provinces benefited from the training. Realized in collaboration with the Chinese central and local labour governments, all training activities have received sponsorship from the local labour bureaus through a dedicated government fund for entrepreneurship development and employment promotion.

In 2013, the GBO will expand to other provinces in China by applying an upgraded training kit. This new kit puts a stronger emphasis on integrating skills and knowledge building, environmental protection, and

social development concerns. This allows for greater benefits for people, the environment and the local community simultaneously. Furthermore, it includes six sector-specific handbooks on energy efficiency, circular economy, recycling and waste management, eco-tourism, eco-forestry and distributed renewable energy. As in the previous GBO phase, training activities will include both training of trainers and training of potential entrepreneurs. The former allows for an increase in training activities and, therefore, enables for a wider outreach.

In the long term, the GBO is set to extend not only to other provinces but also to various cities in China integrating other potential groups, like migrant workers and existing entrepreneurs that likewise face the green economy transition challenge. Also, the material will be revised for application in other countries.



Green Jobs in Asia – a regional conference for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing

Government, employer and worker representatives called for intensified efforts to promote green jobs and the greening of existing jobs at the Green Jobs in Asia Regional Conference held in Surabaya, Indonesia from 29-31 August 2012.

By examining both existing and new ways of generating green jobs, participants from ten countries in the Asia-Pacific region engaged in group discussions on matters related to environmental protection, employment and economic growth. Among others, this in-

² The ILO SIYB training programme focuses on starting and improving small businesses as a strategy for creating more and better employment in developing economies.

cluded the need for training and capacity building, the potential replication of tested green jobs employment models and green enterprise tools, youth employment opportunities, and the importance of mainstreaming green jobs at policy level.

Participants called for the replication, expansion and adaption of successful green jobs projects and presented their priorities for action and the way forward. They highlighted the need for strong cooperation at the national and regional level not only to promote green jobs policies, but also to create green work places through enhanced skills, local economic development, social finance and social protection.

The valuable experiences and views shared at the conference confirmed the wide recognition of green jobs promotion as an important policy priority among constituents. The focus was no longer on “why” the promotion of green jobs is important but significantly on “how” to achieve such promotion. Illustrating the momentum generated at the conference, a trade unionist from Bangladesh concluded *“We don’t usually meet so often with employers groups, usually only thanks to ILO, but with ‘green jobs’ we should start talking and meeting more independently now”*.

The conference was convened by the ILO through the support of the Australian Government. It followed-up on the 15th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting in which tripartite country representatives emphasized the need for green growth and green jobs creation. The conference offered an opportunity to share experiences and knowledge gained through the implementation of the Australian funded project *Green Jobs in Asia*. The project, implemented from 2010 to 2012 in 5 countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka), provided capacity building on green jobs to constituents, supported the mainstreaming of green jobs issues in labour and social policies, and realized demonstrative sectoral green jobs interventions.

Green jobs for sustainable development. A case study of Spain



The report, produced in collaboration with Sustainlabour, compiles and analyses data on the creation of green jobs in Spain in recent years. It includes current employment data and also studies of trends for some sectors: renewable energy, transport, construction, waste management, basic industry. The somewhat paradoxical nature of the report's conclusions reflects the timing of study. While green sectors show good results in recent years, the impact of the current economic crisis, and the modification of policies could considerably reduce this growth tendency. It is difficult to judge the future effect of general contracting in the sectors of the green economy. Yet, recent studies have shown that green sectors in Europe have weathered the recession better than others.

Working towards sustainable development: Opportunities for decent work and social inclusion in a green economy



This joint ILO/UNEP study shows that, if accompanied by the right policy mix, a green economy can create more and better jobs, lift people out of poverty and promote social inclusion. It also demonstrates that employment and social inclusion must be an integral part of any sustainable development strategy and be included in policies that address climate change and ensure the preservation of the environment. In particular, the report assesses the sectoral, employment and income implications of the transition to a green economy. It highlights the necessary conditions, policy prescriptions and good practices required to ensure that the green economy is characterized by gains in job quality, reductions in poverty and improvements in social inclusion.

Social dialogue for sustainable development. A selection of national and regional experiences



By identifying successful experiences of social dialogue on environmental policy, the report, produced with the support of Sustainlabour, presents practices, challenges and opportunities in developing and strengthening an efficient social dialogue on environmental issues at national, supranational, subnational and sectoral level. The report intends to promote potential routes for the strengthening of spaces for democratic decision making for governments, workers' and employers' organizations in the transition towards a green economy.



Promoting Green Entrepreneurship. First lessons learned from the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) Kenya 2010- 2011



The Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) is a partnership between the Africa Commission, the Youth Employment Network (YEN) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) running from 2010-2014 in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. At the inception phase of the project, key stakeholders in Kenya identified green jobs promotion and green entrepreneurship as one of its key priorities. This report presents YEF's activities in the field of green entrepreneurship promotion in Kenya by outlining key achievements and practical examples from the 2010 and 2011 (first phase). The lessons learned from those experiences allow formulating recommendations for future activities for the second phase 2012-2014.

Towards sustainable construction and green jobs in the Gaza Strip



Sustainable construction provides opportunities to address and alleviate several challenges and needs currently experienced in Gaza. These include the increasing housing demand, limited availability of construction materials, insufficient energy and water provision, inadequate sanitation, as well as severe unemployment. The assessment analyses the feasibility, opportunities and challenges relating to sustainable construction in relation to the above mentioned needs and explores ways to promote green jobs. Focus is placed on three core areas- materials, energy and water- and special emphasis is put on the potentials for employment creation and the needed skills following an implementation of such sustainable construction solutions.

4. Outlook 2013

Towards a green jobs strategy in Turkey

Policy discussions in Turkey are becoming increasingly devoted to green economy related issues. Government representatives and social partners point out to the need to create decent work with reduced negative environmental impact. Particularly with regard to the youth unemployment challenge, the creation of green jobs is considered as an opportune and sustainable solution. Reducing the national youth unemployment rate has indeed been identified as one of the main national development priorities. Since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Turkey and the ILO in February 2009, youth employment has become one of the priority areas of ILO's technical support at national level.

In the context of a two-year project, initiated in February 2013, the ILO will support national partners in assessing the existing green jobs potential and in formulating a set of recommendations to contribute to a Green Jobs Strategy for Turkey. Of particular focus, will be the creation of green jobs for young women and men.

The project will initiate capacity building activities for government, workers' and employers' representatives on relevant issues such as sustainable enterprise development, skills upgrading, vocational training, gender, policy formulation, etc. After building constituents' capacity, a national green jobs assessment will be carried out to identify existing and new green jobs opportunities in particular for youth. The results of this assessment will be used for the development of a set of recommendations to contribute to a Green Jobs Strategy for Turkey.

Both the green jobs assessment and the set of recommendations for a Green Jobs Strategy are expected to contribute to the preparations of Turkey's 10th National Development Plan in the context of climate change, sustainable development, green economy and employment policies.

Greening Zambia's Building Industry

Although Zambia has experienced economic growth over the past few years, this has not directly translated into reduced poverty. Therefore, facilitating more broad based wealth and job creation are challenges

lying ahead. In response, the Government has given a strong focus on private sector development and, more particularly, on micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs).

One sector offering high growth potential is the building industry: it has experienced rapid growth in recent years and is expected to further expand; it presents high labour intensity, low entry barriers for semi-skilled and un-skilled labour, and contains a high concentration of MSMEs. It also has the potential to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through eco-friendly building, housing materials and goods, and the installation of renewable energy technologies.



The joint UN programme *Green Jobs through MSME development in the Zambian building industry*, financed by Finland, seeks to unlock the green job potential of Zambia's building industry by focusing on the value chain for green building goods and services. The programme outcomes are three-fold. Firstly, increase awareness for green building principles to gradually change the perception held in Zambia's market place towards green building. Secondly, refine the industry's regulatory framework to facilitate a more enabling regulatory environment for green businesses. Thirdly, enhance MSMEs capacity to effectively participate in the building industry and green building

tional Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). This will offer the opportunity for discussions amongst the international statistical community on developing a statistical definition of green jobs, guidelines for statistical measurement, as well as future steps in developing relevant international statistical standards. To achieve this, the ILO is developing a concept paper for the ICLS with a proposal for a statistical definition of green jobs, which could be applied by countries in all regions and at all stages of economic and social development.

The Partnership of Action on Green Economy

To build on the momentum generated at the Rio+20 Conference held in June 2012, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO and UNITAR have decided to team up under a joint Partnership of Action on Green Economy (PAGE).



The Rio+20 Declaration – The Future We Want – recognized the green economy as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. It called on the United Nations to support interested countries in their transition to greener and more inclusive economies. In a response to this call, PAGE will support countries in building an inclusive, resource-efficient, low carbon economy.

By harnessing the expertise and resources of the different UN agencies and their partners, PAGE will provide countries with a full range of integrated services at national and global level - from social mobilization and capacity development to economic assessment, policy formulation, as well as knowledge creation and sharing.

The uniqueness of PAGE lies in both the strong com-

mon interest of the partnering agencies in supporting the development of inclusive green economies, and their manifold expertise in economic, social and environmental development issues of relevance for such action. Areas covered will be wide-ranging including, among others, national policies, industrial and sectoral approaches, labour market and skills development strategies, access to finance, best available technologies and, knowledge sharing on best environmental practices, as well as general and tailor-made capacity building at global, regional and national level.

PAGE has been officially launched at UNEP's Governing Council on 19 February 2013. During its initial period of 7 years, PAGE aims to be operational in up to 30 countries.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20

Over 130 Heads of Governments gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012 to agree on a joint vision for sustainable development. The Rio+20 Outcome Document *The future we want* spells out action points, such as the need to establish Sustainable Development Goals and mobilize financing for sustainable development, as well as the promotion of sustainable consumption and production.

From an ILO perspective, the Outcome Document contains many positive elements. It reinforces the importance of the social pillar within sustainable development. Multiple references are made to full and productive employment, decent work, youth employment, social protection, SMEs, skills for green jobs, labour rights and gender equality.

In the more than 500 side events organized during the Rio+20 Conference, numerous successful national and regional initiatives were heralded to promote a green economy, green jobs and social inclusion. These initiatives clearly evidenced the strong commitment amongst countries to move towards a more sustainable future that addresses economic, social and environmental dimensions in a single and coherent strategy.





5. Final words

The year 2012 was marked by key milestones for the recognition and promotion of green jobs. Global reports, published by the ILO and by others, made it abundantly clear that green jobs have become a reality. For a sustainable, socially inclusive future, ILO constituents are increasingly formulating policies that create decent work and address environmental protection simultaneously. This has translated in growing demand on the Green Jobs Programme and has created opportunities for new partnerships, such as PAGE. It also highlights the need to better articulate green jobs in all ILO's strategic outcomes and the priority areas that are seen critical for the Organization's heightened relevance in the world of work today.

The discussion at the International Labour Conference in June 2013 will provide the opportunity to sharpen the Organizations' agenda on sustainable development and green jobs for the years to come. It will provide guidance to both constituents and the Office to act upon the agreed conclusions, with a clear action plan for the Office's work to be adopted in October.

In the meantime, the Green Jobs Programme will start working with countries having recently asked for support, like Tunisia and Namibia, to assess the potential for green jobs and formulate adequate policies. Capacity building will be scaled up with new training for ILO staff and constituents, in Turin and in the regions, such as francophone Africa. A range of new products will be developed to assist the regional and national ILO Decent Work Teams to provide practical advice to partners at country level and assist in mobilizing technical cooperation resources. Among these products are briefs and guidelines on greening employment policies, gender and green jobs, and on green entrepreneurship with a focus on youth and women.

As in 2012, this work can and will not be carried out by the Green Jobs Programme alone. Continued office-wide team work is needed to better reflect the relevance of green jobs in many areas of work and country outcomes. For this to materialize, the Programme will scale up its knowledge sharing activities and intensify its collaboration with all relevant departments. The Green Jobs Network, now in its 3rd year of operation and multiplied in Africa and Latin America, remains one of the key instrument to stay connected and create synergies for joint results.



ISBN 978-92-2-127425-4



9 789221 274254