

Assessing Green Jobs for evidence-based policy making

International research conference, 9 - 10 December 2013

ILO, Geneva

Rationale

In 2013, ILO constituents mandated the Office to upscale research on the inter-linkages between global environmental trends, greener economies and employment. The conclusions of the International Labour Conference guided the Office to provide evidence-based knowledge on the implications for the world of work of the move towards low-carbon, resource efficient economies. These implications stem from a structural change driven by (i) resource scarcity, (ii) growth in green industries and demand and (iii) climate change, pollution and environmental degradation.

While those trends are increasingly felt around the world, Governments, Workers' and Employers' Organizations turn to the ILO for advice. Constituents ask for best practice and policy recommendations which would maximize employment opportunities while ensuring a just transition for all.

Since its inception in 2008, the Green Jobs Programme has been developing methodologies to build national Green Jobs Assessment Models (GJAM). At its core the model is a 'green extension' of the Input Output (I-O) framework and Social Accounting Matrices (SAM) which have been widely used within the ILO. However, one additional feature of the 'Green I-O/SAM' model is that it allows for the analysis of gross and net employment effects of a shift towards greener industrial activity as well as of income redistribution. In collaboration with the ILO Skills Branch, further extensions to assess skills needs for Green Jobs are planned.

Experience from pilot countries such as Mauritius, India and Mexico showed that the modeling and policy advice provided by the ILO has informed evidence-based policy making and is well suited to respond to constituents' demand.

Issues to be addressed

The rapid increase of initiatives for national green jobs assessments, in many instances through national partners supported by ILO technical and financial resources, merit a comparative review in order to obtain a better global understanding of the transitional effects on the labour market. This knowledge will inform global policy guidance, as stipulated by the ILC Conclusions, and enhance the Office's capacity to better guide future analysis and support social dialogue at national level.

The Conference on 9 – 10 December is part of the efforts of the Office to improve and scale-up policy advice on green jobs which - since the inception of the Green Jobs Programme - has been provided to countries. Over the past years, several Green Jobs workshops have been held in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A first global conference dedicated to assessments and related policy implications was held in Turin in early 2013. Additional country assessments have since been initiated (a.o. in India, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Senegal, Tunisia, Malaysia, Indonesia and South Africa).

Capacity building and networking

In order to provide a collaborative platform for policy and research institutions engaged in green job assessments, the ILO initiated a Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network (GAIN) in 2013. GAIN brings together research institutions from developed and developing countries, operating in a variety of fields of economic analysis, energy policy, development cooperation, environmental policy, education and training, and social development, making it a vehicle for south-south and triangular cooperation in research, assessment and analysis on green jobs.

Objective

The objective of the conference is to contribute to improved capacities for evidence-based green jobs policy making in the context of sustainable development strategies.

The conference will also help shaping the future research agenda of the ILO related to the Green Initiative and the follow-up to the 102th ILC Conclusions on Sustainable development, decent work and green jobs.

Intended outcomes

1. National Green Jobs research methodologies are shared, compared and validated
2. Approaches to apply the recently adopted statistical definition of Green Jobs¹ to the level of practicable data collection are collected and endorsed
3. Best practices on how research can inform policy and how policy can promote Green Jobs is collected
4. An agreement on the objectives and functioning of the Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network (GAIN) is achieved
5. Future priorities for Green Jobs Assessment at national and sector level are identified

Expected participants (approx. 50)

- Member of the Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network (GAIN)
- Key policy makers from South Africa, Kenya or Mauritius, Tunisia, Malaysia or Indonesia
- Partner organizations related to green economy promotion (UNEP, OECD, GGGI, GGKP, ...)
- ILO staff (ILO Green Jobs network, Knowledge Resource Centre (STAT, ILS), Policy Departments, ACTRAV, ACTEMP)

¹ International Conference of Labour Statisticians October 2013. See: http://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/meetings-and-events/international-conference-of-labour-statisticians/19/WCMS_224052/lang--en/index.htm