



Proposed operational definitions of concepts for the measurement of green jobs



Definitions used in the employment and environment policy contexts



- The concept of green economy and green jobs have not been precisely defined and universally agreed as yet.
- Variety of definitions: A common theme is preserving or restoring the environment.

ILO/UNEP et al, 2008 broadly defines a green job as any decent job that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment whether it is in agriculture, industry, services or administration.



Jobs are green when they help reduce negative environmental impact ultimately leading to environmentally, economically and socially sustainable enterprises and economies. More precisely green jobs are decent jobs that:

- Reduce consumption of energy and raw materials*
- Limit greenhouse gas emissions*
- Minimize waste and pollution*
- Protect and restore ecosystems”*
- This definition is reasonably comprehensive and reflects the main policy goals and issues which statistics on green jobs may need to inform.
- The need to capture the decent work dimension as well as the environmental dimension is an important consideration.



Operational definition of green jobs for statistical purposes



- Needs sufficient precision to guide the development of operationally viable methodologies for the consistent production of statistics
- Proposal is to develop statistical standards that will facilitate the production of datasets that include separate statistics on both 'employment in environmental activities' and decent work.
- Implies the need for separate definitions pertaining to employment in environmental activities and to decent work

Units of observation and analysis



- Two basic units of analysis, the job and the person,
- A **job** is 'a set of tasks and duties performed, or meant to be performed by one person for a single economic unit'.
 - can be formal or informal and can refer to work in employment or in other forms of work, such as volunteer work, trainee work, or production of goods and services for own consumption
 - most statistics on green jobs will relate to employment defined as activities carried out by persons to produce goods or services mainly to generate income.
- Where the objectives include measurement of how the economy is changing, how establishments re-structure their organization and production processes, and which technologies are used to reduce environmental impact of the production, the most appropriate unit of observation and analysis is the establishment.



Separate definitions for employment in environmental activities and decent work



- Environmental dimension is defined with reference to environmental activities as specified in the most recent System Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), adopted by the UN Statistical Commission
- The decent work dimension may be measured according to relevant indicators selected from the ILO manual on Decent Work Indicators currently under development
 - determination of those activities that are environmentally beneficial (or green) remains the responsibility of experts in environmental accounts who maintain the SEEA
 - measurement of employment, jobs and decent work remains the responsibility of the ILO and its constituents
 - Promotes coherence between statistics on green jobs, environmental production and expenditure, and decent work

Jobs are defined with reference to the relevant international standards for labour force and work statistics

System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA)



- System for organizing statistical data for the derivation indicators and descriptive statistics to monitor interactions between the economy and the environment to better inform decision-making.
- Internationally agreed standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables for producing internationally comparable statistics on the environment and its relationship with the economy
- Defines the Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS) and provides indicators of:
 - the production of environmental goods, services and technologies;
 - the contribution of this production within the economy as a whole;
 - **and the extent of related employment,** investment and exports from the sector.



SEEA definition of environmental activities



Those economic activities whose primary purpose is to reduce or eliminate pressures on the environment or to make more efficient use of natural resources.

- Two broad types of environmental activity
 - *environmental protection* activities
 - primary purpose is the prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution and other forms of degradation of the environment
 - *resource management* activities
 - primary purpose is preserving and maintaining the stock of natural resources and hence safeguarding against depletion.



ILO proposal for the operational definition of environmental employment



- Linked to System Environmental-Economic Accounting

Employment in Environmental activities

All employment in activities that lead to the production of environmental goods and services ***for consumption by other economic units*** or ***for consumption by the establishment*** in which the activity is performed.

Environmental goods and services are the products of environmental activities as defined in the most recently updated version of the SEEA. This includes activities that improve the establishment's processes in order to reduce or eliminate pressures on the environment or to make more efficient use of natural resources

Employment in environmental activities

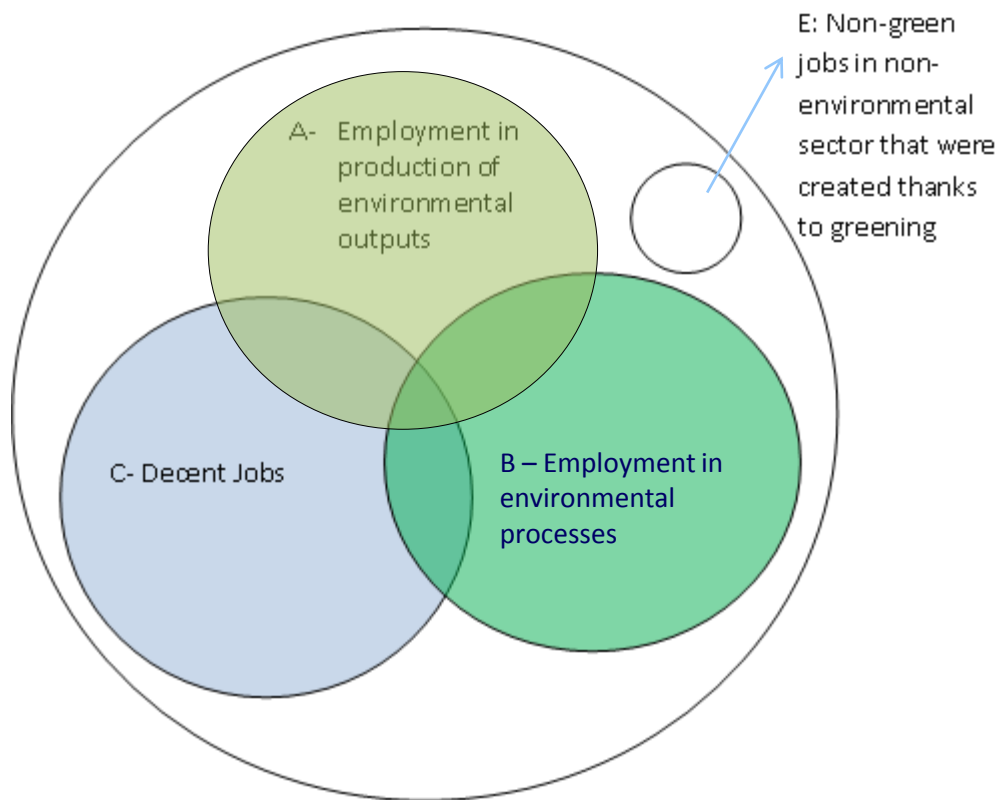


Two components:

- (a) ***Employment in production of environmental outputs*** defined as employment in the production of environmental goods and services for consumption outside the producing unit. It counts the number of employees at an establishment that, based on the establishment's output, *makes the economy greener*.
- (b) ***Employment in environmental processes*** defined as employment in the production of environmental goods and services for consumption by the producing unit. It counts the number of employees at all types of establishment with work activities that *contribute to the greening of the economy*.

Two components refer to different aspects of the 'greening' of employment.

Employment in environmental activities



Employment in Environmental activities= $A \cup B$

Employment thanks to greening = $A \cup B \cup E$

Employment in Environmental activities that is decent= $(A \cup B) \cap C$