

# Green Jobs in Asia Project Nepal



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## Objectives

To deepen ILO constituents' understanding and commitment for the promotion of gender sensitive green jobs opportunities and a just transition for workers and employers towards a low-carbon, climate resilient, environmentally friendly development in Nepal.

## Key Partners

- Employers' organizations
- Workers' organizations
- Ministry of Labour and Transport Management (MOLTM)
- Ministry of Environment (MoE)

## Support

The work of the Green Jobs in Asia Project has been made possible through the *Australian Government – ILO Partnership Agreement* and the support of the Australian Agency for International Development – AusAID.

**Budget:** AUD\$ 3,000,000 (Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka)

**Project Duration:** 2 Years (December 2010– July 2012)

**Project Coverage:** National

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## Project Background

Many countries of the Asia and the Pacific region have voluntarily committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 or carbon intensity per unit of GDP. In this regard, directing the Asian economy toward an environmentally sustainable and low carbon development path will bring profound and lasting adjustments to the socio-economic structures of countries in the region. Among other outcomes, this transformation will trigger shifts in labour markets by creating demand for some workers with new skills and a need to re-skill others. Social protection schemes will be required for workers – and financing for employers – in sectors most exposed to the required changes.

The effects of climate change on the world in which we live have been debated at length but the effects of climate change as they relate to our world of work are not always fully understood. For example, policies implemented to offset or adapt to climate change will result in changes to the way businesses function and the type of work undertaken. When this issue is raised in discussion, it is often considered in a negative context – seen as a drain on the economy and an impediment to competitiveness. In fact, most recent studies have shown that climate-smart policies can bring environmental, economic and social benefits together.

Commitment at the highest political level will be required to ensure that environmental policy debates also address the gender and social dimension more prominently and that job recovery policies take a more environmentally sustainable path. The changes in production and consumption patterns that are called for in the drive towards a climate friendly economy require decision makers to specifically consider the social, gender and employment impact of their responses to climate changes. The involvement of all three ILO Constituents (Government, Employer and Worker Organizations) is, therefore, critical when developing inclusive and coherent climate policies.

The Green Jobs Initiative was established in 2007 as a partnership between the ILO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The International Organization of Employers joined in 2008. The Green Jobs Initiative forms a part of the ILO's efforts in helping realize the potential for a positive labour market transition through the introduction of green jobs as a positive response to the challenge of climate change. Green jobs also contribute to a low-carbon development, adaptation to the impacts of climate change and reducing the environmental impacts of enterprises and economic sectors, ultimately to levels that are sustainable.

## Project Description

The main objective of the project is to deepen the understanding and commitments of the ILO Constituents in promoting opportunities for gender sensitive green jobs and ensuring a just transition for workers and employers as they move towards a low-carbon, climate resilient, environmentally friendly development in sectors, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling and waste management, and the environmentally sound management of natural resources. This two-year project in Nepal, part of the Green Jobs in Asia Project being implemented in four other countries, is a direct result of the commitment made within the Australian Government – ILO Partnership Agreement to pursue green jobs across Asia and the Pacific.

The project directly contributes to the national programs and initiates programs about climate change, environment and disaster management. Through enhanced capacity of ILO constituents, sound policy guidance and the undertaking of gender-responsive field activities on green employment in specific economic sectors, the project aims to assist five Asian countries including Nepal shift to a low-carbon, environmentally friendly and climate resilient economy. This will help accelerate jobs recovery, reduce social gaps, support national development goals and realize



decent work. The other countries participating in this project are Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Through a set of information related activities (national information sharing meetings, regional publications, reporting to ILO governing bodies, national and regional conferences on Green Jobs), the project will build public awareness and understanding around Green Jobs policies – including their gender dimensions – and the responses being promoted by the project.

It is predicted that upon completion of the project, ILO constituents and national partners will be more knowledgeable about the impacts of climate policies on the labour market and the potential for gender responsive green jobs creation/maintenance. Nepal's tripartite constituents (and those in the other countries) will have acquired the capacity and the elements to take part in the national discussions on climate change and to respond to these changes, including in the context of the development and implementation of the Nepali Decent Work Country Programme. The constituents will also contribute to developing specific policies and programs for the promotion of green jobs employment opportunities in critical sectors.

## Project Strategy

The immediate objectives of this project are:

- Promote the capacity of ILO constituents' to engage in dialogue on green jobs through increased access to reliable sources of data and information on green jobs and training, including on the employment impacts of environment-related policies and good practices on green jobs;
- Green jobs mainstreamed in national labour and social policy of participating countries;
- Green Jobs demonstration programs which respond to the different needs of women and men, implemented in key sectors selected based on the basis of research and consultations.

The ILO constituents will be a key project target group with a view to creating the long-term capacity and the conditions of social dialogue to mainstream green jobs into social and employment policy, including their integration within the Decent Work Country Programs (DWCP), contribute actively to climate and environment related policies at the national level, and facilitate a just transition for enterprises and workers towards a low-carbon, environmentally friendly economy.

## Main Activities

Develop knowledge base through country and sector specific research, including a country study on environment–employment linkages and an assessment of the potential for the creation of green jobs which meet the definition of decent work.

- Facilitate capacity building and training for constituents for social partners in the promotion of jobs and greener economies, enterprises and employment
- A national green jobs conference will be convened in Nepal (and in each of the other participating countries).
- Support to policy development will be provided through the setting up of a tripartite task force in Nepal (comprised of Government, Worker and Employer Organizations)



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