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Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2022



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Rationale for the report-knowledge gaps



NbS have the potential to generate decent work outcomes, and decent work outcomes build support and the case for for NbS... but how is this happening?



No existing systematic effort to monitor the quantity and quality of jobs generated by investments in NbS

Addressing knowledge gap can support governments and stakeholders to develop **better, more coherent policies and strategies** related to Biodiversity, Climate, NbS and Just Transition and Decent Work

ILO-UNEP IUCN: Decent Work in NbS Report Series

- First report launched at CPD COP 15 in Montreal in December 2022
- After first report- commitment by the three partners to develop biennial series with at least four more reports- **2024, 2026, 2028 and 2030** to coincide with UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- Future reports to dive into specific sectors and relevant topics



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

NbS and Natural Capital

- Underlying assumption in report is that we consider NbS as a modality to invest in renewable Natural Capital- potentially improving both its quantity and quality
- However, this edition of the report focuses on the job impacts of the implementation of NbS- not the employment impacts of the subsequent increases in natural capital
- However previous ILO work estimated that 1.2 billion jobs (livelihoods) depended directly on ecosystem services (ILO 2018). Degradation of Ecosystem services reduces productivity, decreases income and can destroy jobs

Decent Work and the Global Biodiversity Framework

Target 9: Sustainable Use of Wild Species

1. **Jobs Creation:** Sustainable management of wild species can lead to employment opportunities. Activities such as ecotourism, wildlife monitoring, and sustainable harvesting can create jobs for local communities.
2. **Skills Development:** Training programs for wildlife guides, rangers, and conservationists contribute to skill development and capacity building.

Target 10: Sustainable Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry

1. **Rural Employment:** Sustainable practices in agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry can enhance rural livelihoods. Jobs in organic farming, agroforestry, and sustainable fishing support local communities.
2. **Value Chains:** Developing sustainable value chains (e.g., fair trade products) ensures decent work conditions for farmers, fishers, and forest workers.

Target 11: Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem Services

1. **Green Jobs:** Implementing nature-based solutions (e.g., reforestation, wetland restoration) creates green jobs. Roles include tree planting, habitat restoration, and ecosystem monitoring.
2. **Ecosystem Services Professionals:** Employment opportunities arise for experts in ecosystem services assessment, valuation, and management.

Target 15: Business Accountability and Biodiversity Integration

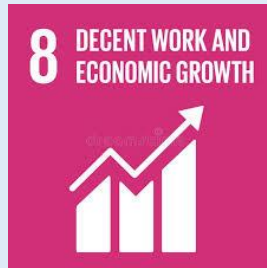
1. **Corporate Sustainability Roles:** Companies need professionals to assess biodiversity impacts, integrate conservation into business strategies, and ensure responsible supply chains.
2. **Biodiversity Analysts:** Experts analyze risks, dependencies, and impacts on biodiversity, contributing to sustainable business practices.

Key concepts

Decent Work

4 Pillars:

1. Employment Creation
2. Rights at Work
3. Social Protection
4. Social Dialogue



Just Transition

Seize opportunities and mitigate risks of green transitions for decent work

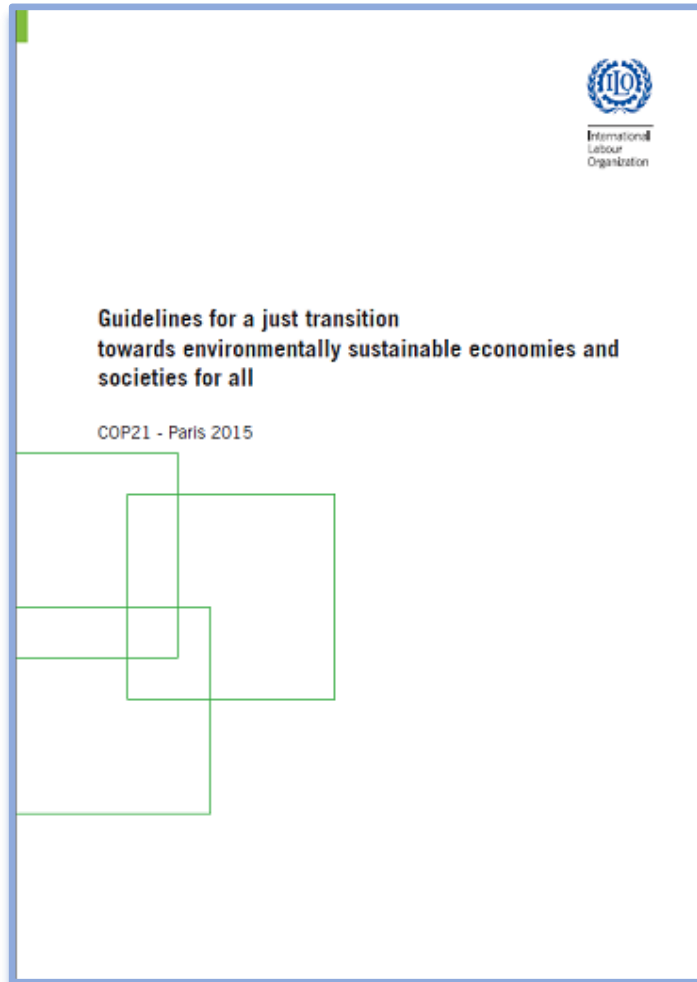


Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

UNEA Resolution 2022- unemployment one of the socioeconomic challenges



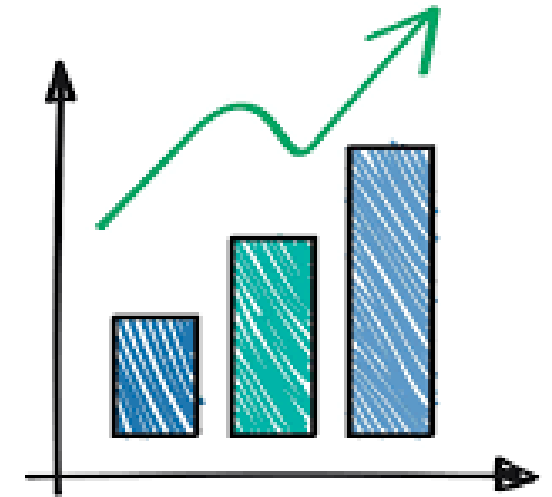
ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally and socially sustainable economies and societies

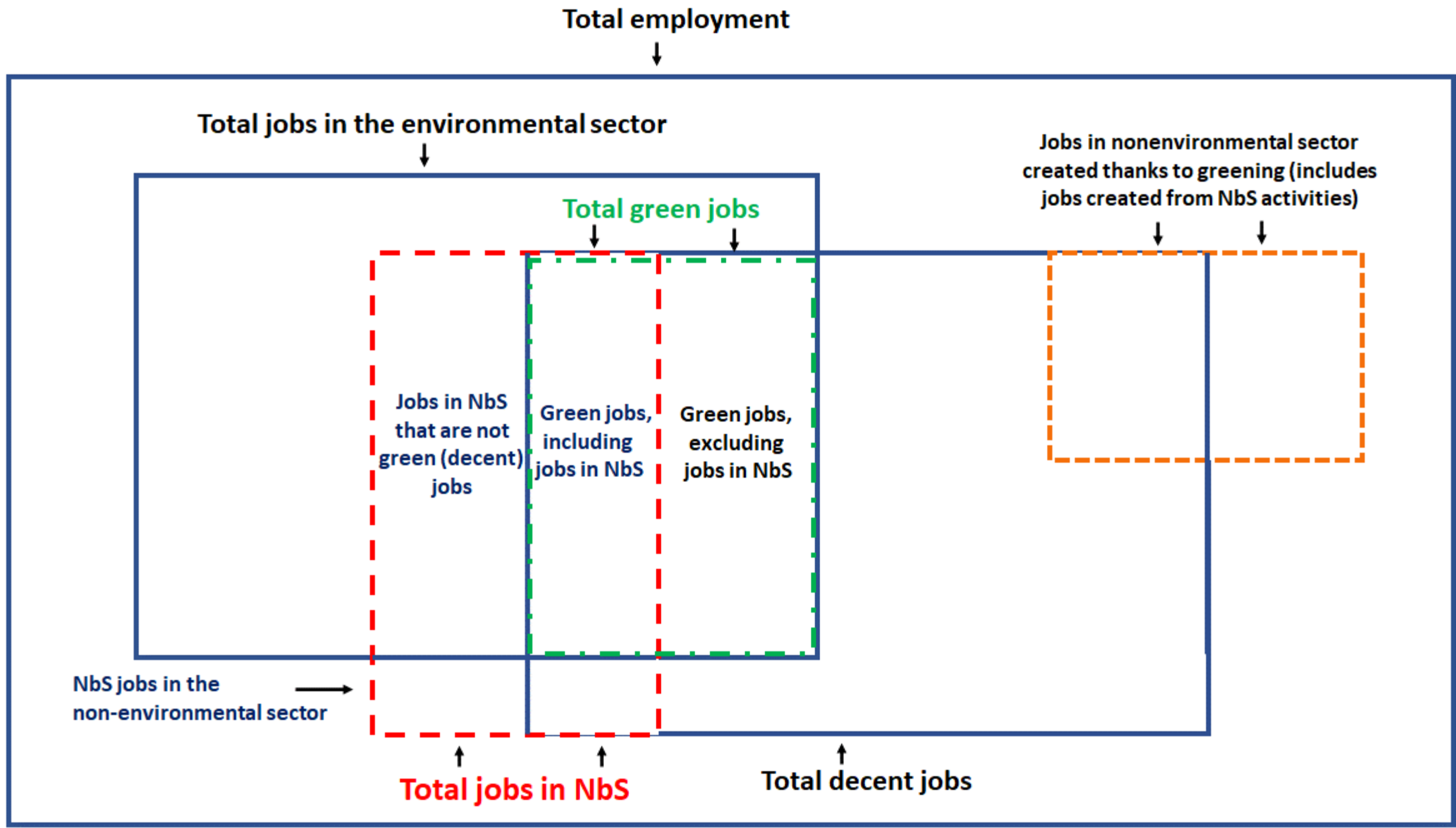


- **Just transition policies** can contribute to **greening the economy** in a way that mitigates risks to **promotes decent work**
- Report makes initial attempt to apply **Just Transition to use of NbS**: What are the **transition and social justice issues arising-** in particular in and around **land use**

Measurement framework for Decent Work in NbS

- **Integration of various datasets** relevant to both decent work and NbS **can support coherent measurement**
- **Countries are encouraged** to apply and adapt existing **international statistical standards** and **methodological guidance**
- **Measurement framework is applicable** to **different estimation methods** and includes a set of **proposed indicators**
- **Supports subnational, national, regional and global estimation**





Total employment



Total jobs in the environmental sector



Total green jobs



Jobs in nonenvironmental sector created thanks to greening (includes jobs created from NbS activities)



Jobs in NbS that are not green (decent) jobs

Green jobs, including jobs in NbS

Green jobs, excluding jobs in NbS

NbS jobs in the non-environmental sector



Total jobs in NbS



Total decent jobs



How many people are working in NbS?

First attempt to do a global estimation of its kind- with numerous challenges

Important caveats:

- Limited country coverage of both data and model
- Broad interpretation of NbS (Proxy)
- Based on reporting spending- but lots NbS work not related to reported spending
- Limited uses of NbS- focus on climate change mitigation and land degradation targets
- Likely to be large underestimation- but also depending on how strictly we define NbS
- Difficulty capturing any negative impacts

ILO Region	Total Employment	PEP and PES	Employed outside PEP and PES	Share of 15-29	Share of women	Estimated volunteers
Africa	1,919,000	1,598,000	322,000	29%	36%	166,000
Americas	756,000	456,000	300,000	19%	38%	5,460,000
Asia and the Pacific	71,693,000	69,324,000	2,369,000	14%	38%	2,435,000
Europe and Central Asia	420,000	0	420,000	15%	37%	7,971,000
World	74,875,000	71,393,000	3,482,000	16%	37%	16,116,000

Estimates of future employment in NbS

- Estimation is based on tripling investment in NbS to approximately 400 billion per annum by 2030 based on figures from 2021 UNEP State of Finance Report
- Increase investment in reforestation, silvopasture, peatland restoration and mangrove restoration.
- No full global coverage
- Projected to increase employment by **approximately 20 million jobs by 2030** five-fold increase- excluding PEP related employment

<i>Income regions</i>	High-income	Upper-middle income	Lower middle-income	Low-income	World Total
Persons employed	418,000	4,949,000	13,924,000	466,000	19,822,000

Sectors	Persons employed
Agriculture and Forestry	13,904,000
Manufacturing	2,436,000
Construction	472,000
Distribution, retail, hotels and catering	528,000
Transport and Storage	161,000
Business Services	731,000
Public services	1,560,000
Other	30,000
Total	19,822,000

Current Work in NbS: What does it look like?

Key challenge:– how do we determine what current activities and employment can be classified as NbS? (“Application Problem”)

For now report uses “NbS proxies” where are people *protecting, conserving, restoring, sustainably using and managing ecosystems?*

- Agriculture sector,
- Infrastructure and Construction Sector,
- Private enterprises-including –“Nature-based Enterprises”
- Public Employment Programmes,
- Payment for Ecosystem Services Programmes” and
- Volunteering for nature-

Range of jobs and work activities illustrated by 14 case studies



Important characteristics of Current Work in NbS

- **Part-time, seasonal or temporary** often deliberate as part of a strategy to combat poverty and complement existing livelihoods and/ or underemployment
- **Mostly rural** (agriculture and forestry) often informal, manual labour, and low-income
- **Professional, high skilled and urban work:** design, planning, management, monitoring, research and promotion of NbS, with new occupations emerging
- **“Hidden”**- part of other programmes and activities
- **“Atypical employment”**, variety arrangements such as household contracts to manage certain areas, or social protection linked payments.
- **Volunteering** is important and common across the world



Promoting NbS in Sierra Leone

Way forward/ themes to explore

Various priority topics emerge to help define a way forward, including:

- **Implementation of Just Transition in NbS**, and **common themes with IUCN Global Standard for NbS**
- **How NbS can more effectively contribute to biodiversity objectives & job creation**
- **Implication in specific sectors: agriculture, forestry, fisheries, construction, infrastructure, tourism**
- **Developing and piloting** in the near term the **measurement framework and indicators on decent work in NbS**
- **Developing methodologies** to estimate the **longer-term impacts of NbS on natural capital ecosystem services** and the potential linkages with job creation

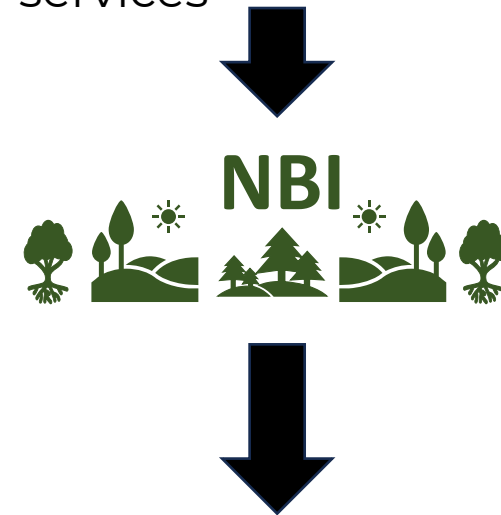
2024 edition of the report

Skills for NbS

- What are skills required for scaling up NbS?
- Are these a constraint to effective use of NbS?
- Are new occupations emerging?
- Are new skills required?
- Is skills development able to respond?

Nature-based Infrastructure

\$100 trillion infrastructure investment needed by 2040 to meet demand for services



\$484 billion/year

investment in nature needed by 2030 to meet global targets on climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation

“It is critical that as we increase the use of Nature-based Solutions, we make sure we do not scale up the decent work deficits such as informal work, low-pay and low productivity many workers involved in NbS currently face. The ILO’s Just Transition Guidelines provide a framework to help us do so”.

Vic van Vuuren, ILO Director Enterprises Department

Thank you for your attention

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**Report available in English, French and Spanish at:
www.ilo.org/dwnbs**



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