COVID-19 IMPACTS ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

The Geneva Environment Dialogues special COVID-19 series discusses the impacts of the pandemic on the global environmental agenda. Experts are concerned that the world is losing critical time to turn around alarming trends in biodiversity loss, climate change, sound management of chemicals and other environmental threats.

ILO, COVID-19 AND THE WORLD OF WORK – FOR A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

The world of work is being profoundly affected by the global virus pandemic. In addition to the threat to public health, the economic and social disruption threatens the long-term livelihoods and wellbeing of millions. The ILO and its constituents – Governments, workers and employers – will play a crucial role in combating the outbreak ensuring the safety of individuals and the sustainability of businesses and jobs.
The Climate Action for Jobs Initiative

“We can choose another path. The path of climate action and well-being for people and planet. And this path is about people’s jobs, health, education, opportunities, and their future.”

UN Secretary-General, Madrid, 12 December 2019
Climate Action for Jobs - National support

**High-level policy interventions**
- Assistance in establishing an overarching framework for a just transition in light of country specific circumstances and in reinforcing mechanisms for social dialogue and policy coordination.
- Implemented by ILO technical units and departments, field offices and knowledge partners.

**Thematic and sectoral interventions**
- Support in developing or enhancing sectoral and thematic policy instruments.
- Implemented by ILO technical units and departments, field offices and knowledge partners.

**Programmatic interventions**
- Assistance in the design and the delivery mechanisms of operational programmes and schemes.
- Implemented in partnership with or directly by other partners e.g. MDBs, RDBs, IFIs.
Green Works

**Physical activities** for the development and maintenance of infrastructure, environmental or community assets that have an overall positive **environmental impact**.

“Green works **contribute to** environmental preservation, rehabilitation and improvement, green house gas emissions reductions, increased carbon stock or reduced negative impact of climate change and natural disasters”.

**Specific Sectors for Green Works**
- Irrigation
- Flood control
- (Rural) Transport
- Agriculture:
  - Soil and Water Conservation
  - Forestry

![Image of Green Works activities]
• 25%-70% spent on wages
• 2 – 5 times jobs created
• 10 -30% more cost effective
• Optimum use of locally available resources
• Good quality standards
• Improved income distribution
• Good scope for social protection measures
• More environmentally friendly
• Focus on capacity development
• Strong sense of local ownership