ONLINE

CLIMATE CHANGE

GREEN WORKS AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO RESPOND TO UNEMPLOYMENT AND RURAL POVERTY

1 – 26 JUNE 2026

4 WEEKS

Information Note

International Labour Organization

ITC International Training Centre

BACKGROUND

Nature and climate are intimately connected with the world of work. Some 1.2 billion jobs in sectors such as farming, fisheries, forestry and tourism are dependent on the effective management and sustainability of healthy ecosystems. Half of the world's Gross Domestic Product is, to a greater or lesser degree, dependent on nature.

The loss of biodiversity and climate change therefore have negative impacts not only on ecosystems, but also on jobs, economies, and livelihoods. Millions of people are already experiencing higher temperatures and extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts, and increased flooding, which are putting food security, water supply and jobs at risk. Vulnerable groups, especially in developing countries, will suffer the most from the changing weather patterns, not only because they are more exposed to climate-related impacts, but also because they have less access to social and financial support, including social protection.

Poverty in rural areas is multidimensional: it manifests as financial deprivation, lack of economic opportunities, material hardship, social exclusion, environmental degradation and seasonal vulnerability. Unemployment and underemployment are both a cause and a consequence of this complexity. Climate change and biodiversity loss compound these dynamics, reversing hard-won development gains and pushing vulnerable communities deeper into poverty.

A just transition is about supporting developing countries and the most vulnerable to adapt their economies, labour markets and infrastructure to the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. Holistic just adaptation measures such as green works, nature-based solutions or both can help address both the climate and biodiversity crises while creating decent employment and reducing rural poverty. However, equal importance needs to be given to identifying and negotiating potential trade-offs to prevent maladaptation.

This course explores how to effectively design, implement and monitor projects in adaptation measures to transition to a greener and more resilient society. By undertaking a review of different approaches, examples and best practices, participants will learn how to identify and develop interventions that reduce the future impact of climate change, while providing employment opportunities, addressing the multiple dimensions of rural poverty and enhancing the productive capacity of ecosystems. The course will have a specific focus on:

- Analysing the multidimensional nature of rural poverty and unemployment and their links to ecosystem degradation
- Designing and implementing adaptation measures: the development of green works using a local resource-based approach, nature-based solutions and hybrid approaches
- Identification and negotiation of trade-offs to prevent maladaptation
- Deep dive in 4 key sectors:
  - Forestry
  - Agriculture
  - Construction
  - Transportation

WHAT?

The course covers the following four modules:

Learning Block 1: Climate change, biodiversity loss, unemployment and rural poverty. Deep dive into the rationale for green works and nature-based solutions

Learning Block 1 will provide a general overview of the linkages between climate change, biodiversity loss, unemployment and rural poverty, as well as the rationale for implementing green works, nature-based solutions, or both. Poverty is multidimensional and its causes are structural, geographical, cultural and individual in nature. Understanding this complexity is essential for designing interventions that go beyond environmental objectives and deliver meaningful socioeconomic outcomes. Solutions are context-dependent; sometimes a hybrid approach between grey infrastructure and NbS should be considered to prevent trade-offs that can result in maladaptation.

More specifically, it will cover the following topics:

- Overview of the ILO Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) approach
- Multidimensional poverty: financial, economic, material, social, environmental and seasonal dimensions
- Rural unemployment: drivers, profiles and links to ecosystem degradation
- Climate change, biodiversity loss and their impact on the world of work and livelihoods
- The rationale for implementing adaptation measures such as green works and/or nature-based solutions
- The identification and negotiation of trade-offs to prevent maladaptation

Learning Block 2: Climate change adaptation measures in forestry and agriculture

Forests are among the most important natural resources, providing industry with materials, communities with livelihoods, and plants and animals with habitat, especially for indigenous people and local communities. Agriculture also represents a key economic sector; however, unsustainable expansion is one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss as it is occurring in tropical areas. In relation to the prevention of maladaptive measures or any other potential trade-offs, it is important to consider having strong social and environmental safeguards.

The second module will focus on adaptation measures aimed at protecting biodiversity and forests while ensuring sustainable agriculture systems, generating rural employment and addressing the financial, economic and material dimensions of poverty.

Specific topics include:

- Forest and agriculture as economic sectors and sources of rural livelihoods
- Deforestation and biodiversity loss and their impact on the world of work and livelihoods for indigenous people and local communities
- Employment creation, income diversification and market access through forestry and agricultural NbS
- Food security as a dimension of material poverty: NbS contributions
- Climate change adaptation measures through forestry (good practices, examples and advice for implementation):
  - Afforestation and reforestation
  - Agroforestry

Learning Block 3: Climate change adaptation measures in flood control and rural transport enhancement

Climate change has already led to greater peak flows of water in rivers, and the situation is likely to get worse in the future. Even low-level, non-catastrophic flooding may impact on urban and rural living conditions, jobs, livelihoods and transport. Poor rural communities are disproportionately exposed to these risks and have the least capacity to cope, making flooding a direct driver of seasonal and economic poverty. The third module introduces participants to the issues of flood control and protection, with attention to livelihood protection and local employment generation, focusing on the following topics:

- Flooding and its impact on the world of work, livelihoods and rural poverty
- Seasonal vulnerability and the disproportionate burden on poor rural communities
- Types of flood control systems (good practices, examples and advice for design and implementation)
- Employment generation through labour-based construction and maintenance works
- Rural transport improvement and maintenance to ensure that road networks can withstand the increased level of rainfall and flooding, and to improve market access and connectivity for rural communities

Learning Block 4: Climate change adaptation measures for water and soil management

Climate change is expected to significantly increase soil erosion, water availability and desertification. The degradation of water and soil resources is a key driver of environmental poverty, affecting food security, agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of rural communities. The last module introduces participants to water management and soil and water protection works, with a focus on community-based approaches that generate employment and build long-term resilience, covering the following topics:

- Water availability, desertification and their impacts on the world of work, livelihoods and rural poverty
- Environmental poverty: soil erosion, land degradation and their effects on vulnerable communities
- Irrigation and watershed development (good practices, examples and advice for implementation)
- Soil and water conservation works (good practices, examples and tips for implementation)
- Gender and social inclusion in water and soil management interventions
- Financing mechanisms for green works and NbS: voluntary carbon markets, climate funds and development assistance

WHO?

The course targets professionals involved in designing and implementing local, sectoral, national and global strategies for the transition to greener economies and climate change adaptation working in developing countries. The course specifically targets:

- Government officials operating at the local, provincial and national level
- ILO, UN staff and development practitioners
- Donor organizations who are working or would like to work on climate change adaptation and just transition
- Public investment and employment policy advisors
- Research and education institutions

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are kindly asked to send us:

- A completed online registration form: https://oarf2.itcilo.org/MIF/A9718986/en
- If you are financed by your organization (or a donor), an official sponsorship letter is required to finalize your registration. The letter can be uploaded to the application form or sent by email to: esg@itcilo.org
- If you pay the course fees directly, please note that the payment is due before enrolment in the course. More details about payment methods can be found here.

FEES

Total costs per participant: €1,205

FURTHER INFORMATION

Language: English and French

Certificate: On completion of all required course activities, participants will obtain an ITCILO Certificate of Achievement

Contact: esg@itcilo.org

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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