Towards a low-carbon economy

Side event COP 14, Poznan

Program

- Short overview
- Panel
- Discussion

Panellists

- Sylvie Lemmet, UNEP-DTIE
- Luis Neves, GeSI
- Cristina Bueti, ITU
- Norine Kennedy, IOE
- Anabella Rosemberg, ITUC

Introduction Peter Poschen, ILO

The dual challenge for 21st century:

- **Environmental**: climate-related disasters, water shortages, environmental refugees, displacement by flooding, food shortages, loss of biodiversity
- **Social/decent work**: working poor, unemployed, young job seekers, no access to social security, food, shelter, energy

2nd Great transformation

‘Green growth’, ‘clean development’

- Pollution control
- Fewer resources/output (eco-efficient)
- No pollution and degradation (eco-effective)
- Sustainable economies

➡ Profound impact on enterprises and workers

= Social effectiveness and sustainability?

Green jobs

- Reduce consumption of energy and raw materials (**dematerialize economies**)
- Avoid greenhouse gas emissions (**decarbonize economies**)
- **Minimize waste and pollution**
- **Protect and restore ecosystems** and environmental services

High potential sectors

- **Energy efficiency**: buildings, industry, transport
- **Renewable energy**
- **Mobility**: mass transportation
- **Recycling**, waste management
- **Sustainable agriculture and forestry**
- **Environmental services**

The role of ICT

ICT's GHG footprint:

- Current: = 2 % of global emissions
- year 2020: doubling in absolute terms
  = 3 % of global emissions

ITC's contribution

- **Emissions reduction potential: 7.8 Gt CO_{2equ} by 2020**
  (= emissions US or China today)

- Some potential: Teleworking and –conferencing, e-paper a.o.
- **Most potential: Applications in infrastructure and industry**

Examples Existing Green Jobs

- Renewable energy: 2.3 m jobs
- Solar thermal China:

  1,000 manufacturers, 600,000 jobs
- Environmental industries US: 5.3 m jobs
- Recycling Brazil: 500,000 jobs
- Green jobs France: 220,000 (in 2 years)

  (in efficient buildings, renewables, public transport)

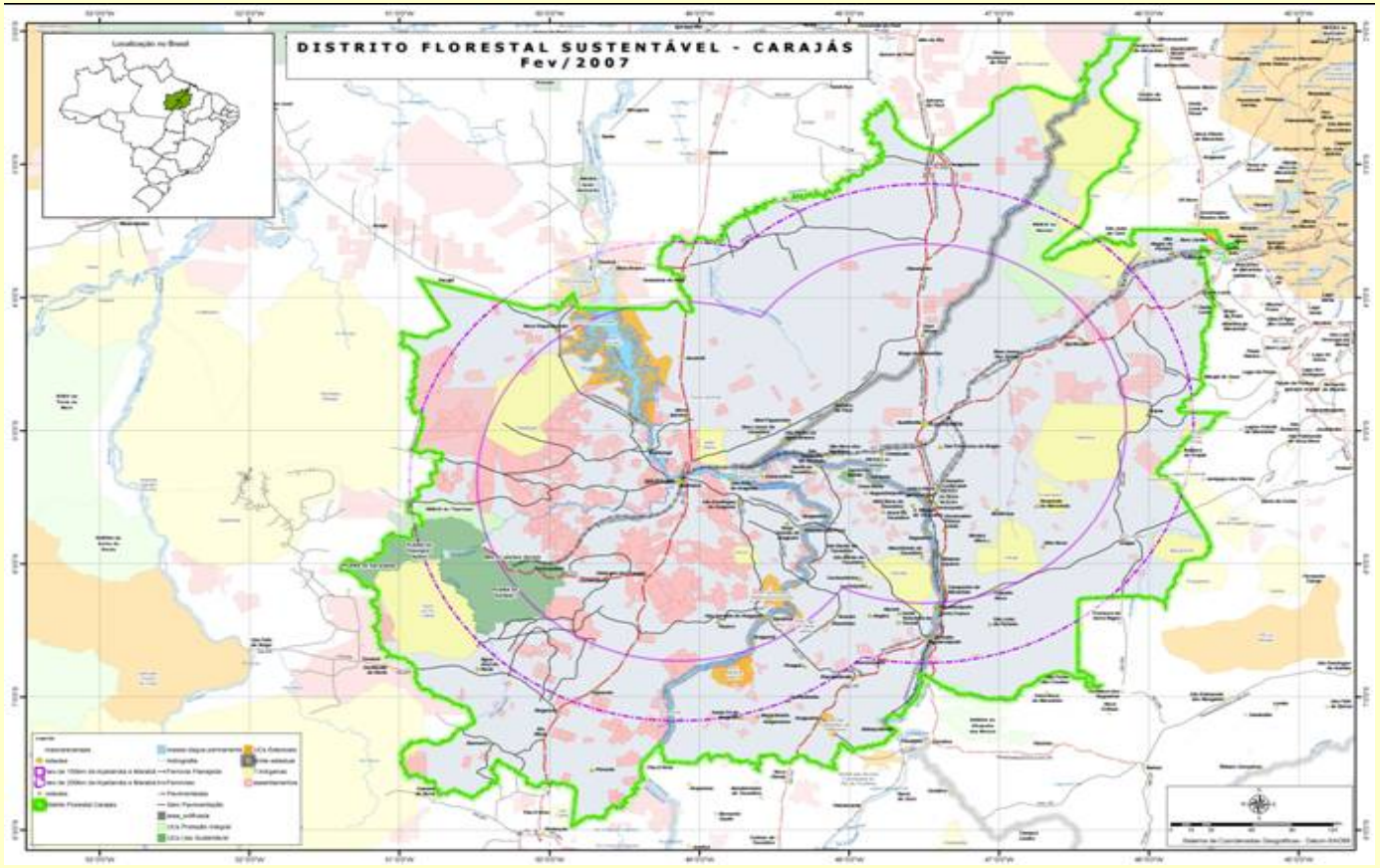
Photovoltaic in Bangladesh

1.6 bn people without access to modern energy

Upgrading of social housing South Africa

Slum population > 1 bn

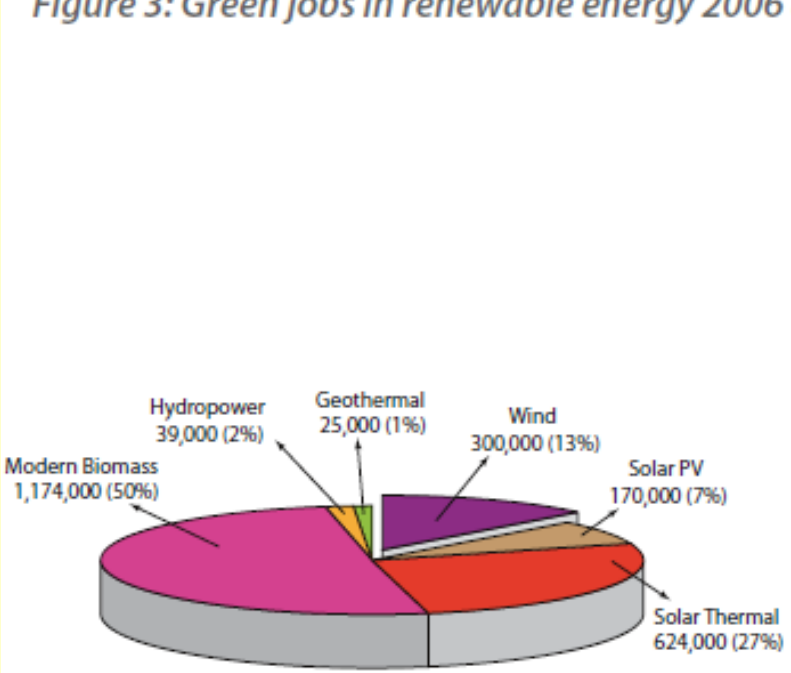
Amazon forest, Brazil



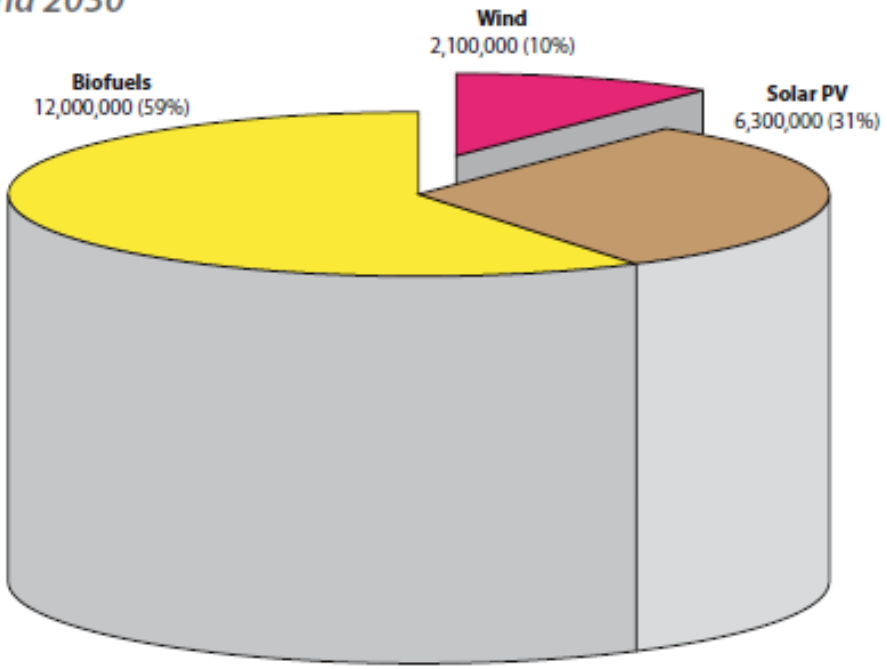
Sustainable forest district Carajás:
‘employment and income’

Renewable energy:
2006: 2.3 m jobs
2030: > 20 m jobs

Figure 3: Green jobs in renewable energy 2006 and 2030



Green Jobs in Renewable energy, 2006



Green Jobs in Renewable energy, 2030

Climate change and labour markets

Employment affected in at least four ways:

- Additional jobs created
- Some employment substituted
- Certain jobs eliminated without direct replacement
- Many jobs transformed and redefined

On balance

- **Net gain in jobs** from active climate and environmental policies
- **Large potential in developing countries** and emerging economies
- Greening and green jobs **effective as economic stimulus**

Implies:

- Major gains and losses, mostly within sectors
- Transformation of most jobs+sectors

Policy messages

- **No need to chose** between climate protection and development/social justice
- Condition: **coherent policies**
- **Inaction would massively destroy jobs and incomes**
- **Prepare for change** and guide: anticipation, mapping
- **Pro-poor, decent jobs and fair transitions** to sustainable economies (adaptation and mitigation)

For more information:

- UNEP: www.unep.org/civil_society/publications/index.asp
- ITU: www.itu.int/climate
- ITUC: www.ituc-csi.org/
- IOE: www.ioe-emp.org/
- ILO: www.ilo.org/integration/greenjobs/lang--en/index.htm
- GeSI: www.gesi.org/