Promoting Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

Creating green job opportunities in the forest sector

Thematic session IV

Promoting Green Jobs in the Forest Sector 27-28 June 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia
Cross-sectoral approach to green jobs creation in integrated programmes of land and water management; examples, experiences and findings

*Rory Harrington, VESI Environmental Ltd*

- There is great green job creation potential in water bioremediation by tree planting in appropriate areas.
- Reanimated forests and wetlands intercept, and treat overland polluted water flows from unsustainable agricultural activities.
- This process enhances and conserves biodiversity.
- The UNEP Ecosystem Approach should be applied.
Green Care FOREST: Prescribe yourself a dose of forest. Jobs! Jobs. Jobs?

Christian Lackner, Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape Austria

- Forests provide an excellent antidote to stress and depression and the Austrian Green Care Forest ecotherapy project provides many green jobs in this specific area.
- There are job creation opportunities for collaboration in the areas of forestry, health, social care and tourism.
- Trend: combining blue and green spaces, creating green jobs in blue spaces.
- Green prescriptions are healthier than the prescribed Pharma medication, reducing costs of the health care system.
- Perhaps, national health care systems should budget for and subsidise forest ecotherapy activities, thus promoting green jobs.
New green forest jobs potential – The example of funeral forests in Germany and other European countries

Josef Herkendell, Ministry for Climate Protection and Environment, Land North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

- This innovative approach to burials creates and guarantees jobs, as the only certain thing in life is death.
- Global perspective: Identification of green jobs in India – 7 million bodies per year are cremated, 2-3 m³ of wood are needed per body in the process (ca. 14-21 million m³ of timber could be saved); this activity is SDG compliant.
- This process causes no ground pollution and is self-sustaining.
Summary

- The present definition of green forest jobs is adequate.
- In identifying potential green forest jobs, we should not be averse to lateral thinking: Be creative, innovative and courageous!
- The main objective is to increase employment in the forest sector and provide new decent green jobs for those forest workers unemployed or made redundant due to mechanisation or technological changes.
Summary

- Specific job training may be required and should be provided where necessary.
- Identified and envisioned green forest jobs should be SMART, and subject to SWOT and STEEP (social, technological, environmental, economic, political) analysis.
- *Food for thought:* How can we quantify the monetary value of all these activities? (Imponderables?)