



environmental affairs
Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Exploring the Potential of the Natural Resources Sector to Create More and Better Green Jobs: Green Jobs Training Programme Successfully Completed in South Africa

In the fourth training course, offered under the Green Jobs for South Africa training programme, 43 participants operating in the natural resources sector in South Africa, received training to support the implementation of green jobs policies and strategies in the natural resources sector. The event “Green Jobs in the Natural Resources Sector”, which took place at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Vulindlela Academy from September 7 to 11, 2015 also served as a means to stimulate dialogue and bridge existing gaps between public and private stakeholders, thereby contributing to unlock the job creation potential in a key sector that can greatly contribute to the government’s target of five million jobs by 2020 while addressing both environmental and economic development targets.

The event was the final course of a series of four training sessions designed within the framework of a partnership programme between the Department of Environmental Affairs, Green Fund, Development Bank of Southern Africa and the International Training Centre of the ILO. The national training programme, implemented during the biennium 2014-2015, was aimed at training 160 national and provincial department officials, civil society and the private sector on green jobs in different sectors of the South African green economy and at different levels of intervention.



During the final training event, a wide array of stakeholders, ranging from government representatives at national, provincial and municipal level, to representatives of the private sector, civil society organisations, and workers and employers’ organisations, widened their knowledge on the key concepts and emerging practices in the promotion of green jobs for the management of natural resources and the protection and restoration of ecosystems. Special attention was given to

the approaches of the ILO Green Jobs Programme and its partner agencies, as well as country and regional level experiences in the natural resources sector in South Africa.

The combination of theoretical sessions, encompassing the review of international literature, case studies and presentations and two field visits, allowed participants to explore the complexities of converting ideas into action. This paved the way for the last day of activities, which saw participants gathering into six working groups to devise concrete action plans. While each group focused on identifying gaps in the current national, provincial and local policy framework, enthusiasm was high and each group also worked on developing solutions to bridge the aforementioned gaps through tangible and measurable activities, which they hope to carry out in the upcoming months.

In order to achieve long-term sustainability of the interventions, the action plans were shared via the Community of Practice on Green Jobs for South Africa (CoP on GJ4SA). This on-line platform which was launched earlier this year, connects all of the participants and expert trainers involved in this two-year training programme. Interestingly, the CoP on GJ4SA has proved to be a successful tool to upscale exchanges and convert ideas into action.

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