

# A study on labour and the environment

for the  
**International Labour Office**

by

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April 2006

## Research outline

### Overall focus

- the quantitative employment implications of a shift toward more sustainable economic activity
- including at least one qualitative implication – the income effect

### Points of departure

- little has been done in evaluating the economic implications of a transition to more sustainable economic growth
- the January 2006 UNEP meeting on labour and the environment

### Overall task

- a conceptual “mapping” of the issues
- an empirical review – i.e. what is already known, as well as what could be researched, relating to the following themes:

### Themes

- what does a “sustainable” pattern of economic activity look like?
- how to define environmentally sustainable activity – both in terms of new industries or in the transformation of processes occurring in existing industries?
- what policies would be needed to promote such a pattern, on the assumption that the market alone will not provide such a trajectory?
- would investment depend on the policy incentives created and what do we know empirically about the policy/investment linkage?

- most importantly, what conclusions can be drawn as to the employment implications of such an economic transition, both in quantitative terms, as well as in income terms (as, for example, proxied by changes in skill requirements)?

### **Outcomes**

- a paper of 50 pages or so in length – which is likely to be an initial phase of ILO work in this area
- specific recommendations for further ILO work in this area