

UNIT 28

Green Peace Movement

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Learning Objectives

This unit introduces you to a new phenomenon called green peace movement, which has enduring impacts on the process of development. After reading this unit you should be able to discuss:

- objective of this movement;
- the emergence and growth of this movement;
- achievements of this movement; and
- socio-political implications of this movement.

28.1 Introduction

At the threshold of the 20th century, new socio-political movements emerged in the world challenging the conventional developmental model prevalent in the capitalist mode of production and consumption. These movements evolved as a response to the problems and issues that emerged in different parts of the world and in different communities and groups that were the result of the the current process of development followed nationally and internationally and its political, economic and social ramifications. These movements, struggles and organisations have taken many forms and have different emphases at different places. Green peace is one such independent international environmental organisation founded in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 1971. It is committed to the principles of non-violence, political independence and internationalism. Green peace's official mission statement describes the organisation and its aims thus: Green peace is an independent campaigning organisation, which uses non-violent, creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems and force solutions for a green and peaceful future that follows sustainable development practices. The goal of green peace is to ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity (<http://www.greenpeace.org>).

The Environment has been a prominent part of any political and social agenda since the 1960s. The expansion of the consumer society after the 2nd World War in North America and Europe has increased the pressure on the environment causing the deterioration/degradation of the environment. The environmental movement that originated from these concerns is not very historically oriented. The contemporary problems are seen as unique and a product of 20th century capitalism and industrial progress.

In this context we shall look at the efforts of one of the forerunners of environmental activist movement in the world, the Green peace movement. Green peace movement works to change government and industrial policies that threaten the natural world. Green peace calls attention to the dangers to the environment of such actions as offshore oil drilling, nuclear bomb testing and the dumping of radioactive wastes into oceans. It also opposes whaling, the spread of nuclear weapons and the threat to wildlife from hunting, pollution and habitat loss.

The present unit will look into the circumstances that lead to the emergence of the green peace movement and its growth through its activities for more than three decades. The green peace movement emerged as a people's initiative to save the environment and the ecology, which was affected to a great extent by the so-called development activities around the globe. The movement emerged with some specific objectives, which will be explained in detail here. The unit will also look into the main activities and the major achievements of green peace movement. Let us start with the emergence of this environment movement.

28.2 The Emergence and Growth of the Organisation

Green peace was founded in 1971 in the basement of the Unitarian Church in USA by a small group of people who were motivated by a vision of a green and peaceful world. These activists, the founders of green peace, believed that individuals could make a difference. The founders linked peace, ecology and a talent for media communications and went on to build the world's largest environmental activist organisation.

Taking its name from a slogan used during protests against United States nuclear testing in late 1969, the Committee came together with the objective of stopping a second underground nuclear bomb test codenamed Cannikin by the United States military beneath the island of Amchitka, a tiny island of the West Coast of Alaska, which is one of the world's most earthquake-prone regions. A small team of activists set sail from Vancouver, Canada, in an old fishing boat. Their mission was to "bear witness" to US underground nuclear testing at Amchitka. Amchitka was the last refuge for 3000 endangered sea otters, and home to bald eagles, peregrine falcons and other wildlife. When though their old boat, the Phyllis Cormack, was intercepted before it got to Amchitka, the journey sparked a flurry of public interest. The test was not stopped, but the voice of reason had been heard and the organisation of the committee laid the groundwork for green peaces later activities. Nuclear testing in Amchitka ended that same year and the island was later declared a bird sanctuary.

Although the movement started its activities opposing nuclear tests, in later years, the focus of the organisation turned to other environmental issues as well, including bottom trawling, global warming and genetic engineering. Green peace also gained international attention for its efforts to save whales and for its opposition to the killing of baby seals off the coast of Newfoundland in Canada. In 1985, Green peace members planned to use their ship Rainbow warrior to protest against French nuclear tests in the South Pacific. But an explosion sank the ship in the harbour at Auckland, New Zealand, and a Green peace photographer was killed. French government officials admitted responsibility for the sinking, and the defense minister resigned.

By 1986 Green peace was established in 26 countries and had an income of over \$100 million per year. In 1986 the mainstream of western society had started adopting the very environmental agenda that had been considered radical only fifteen years earlier. By 1989 the combined impact of Chernobyl, the Exxon Valdez, the threat of global warming and the ozone hole clinched the debate. All but a handful of reactionaries joined the call for sustainable development and environmental protection.

Whereas previously the leaders of the environmental movement found themselves on the outside railing at the gates of power, they were now being invited to the table in boardrooms and caucuses around the world. For environmentalists, accustomed to the politics of confrontation, this new era of acceptance posed a challenge as great as any campaign to save the planet.

Presently, Green peace is an international organisation that prioritises global environmental campaigns. In 2005, Green peace has 2.8 million supporters worldwide, and national as well as regional offices in 41 countries, all affiliated to Green peace international based in Amsterdam, Netherlands (www.greenpeace.org).

Reflection and Action 28.1

Just now you learnt the circumstance under which green peace movement emerged. Can you examine the significance of green peace movement that functions cutting across national boundaries?

28.3 Green Peace Movements: Objectives

Members of Green peace use direct and as mentioned earlier, nonviolent methods of protest. Green peace has been campaigning against environmental degradation since 1971, where the US Government was conducting underground nuclear tests. This tradition of 'bearing witness' in a non-violent manner continues till today.

The green peace activists' act of protest is unique. They go to the place where an activity that the group considers harmful is occurring. Without using force, they try to stop the activity. For example, to protest against whaling, Green peace members in boats position themselves between whales and whaling ships.

Green peace is a campaigning organisation and organises public campaigns for the following causes:

- Protection of oceans and ancient forests
- Phasing out of fossil fuels and the promotion of renewable energy to stop climate change
- Elimination of toxic chemicals
- Prevention of genetically modified organisms being released into nature
- End to the nuclear threat and nuclear contamination
- Safe and sustainable trade

Examine the significance of the objectives of greenpeace movement in the context of present day development practices.

Green peace does not solicit or accepts funding from governments; for not compromising its independence, aims, objectives or integrity. It relies on the voluntary donations of individual supporters, and on grant support from foundations.

Among other things Green peace has played a pivotal role in:

- Ban on toxic waste exports to less developed countries
- Moratorium on commercial whaling
- United Nations convention providing for better management of world fisheries
- Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary
- A 50-year moratorium on mineral exploitation in Antarctica

- Ban on the dumping at sea of radioactive and industrial waste and disused oil installations
- End to high-sea, large-scale driftnet fishing
- Ban on all nuclear weapons testing which was their first ever campaign.

Box 28.1: The Impact of Reclcling of e-wastes on the Enviornment in India

Every year 20-50 million tones of electrical and electronic wastes (e-wastes) are generated world wide, which can bring serious risks to human health and environment. This rapidly growing e-waste system presents additional difficulties because a wide range of hazardous chemicals are, or in the past been used in the components of electric or electronic devises, and these subsequently create substantial problems with regard to handling, recycling and disposal of obsolete products. The EU banned the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products from July 2006 to facilitate safer recycling. The e-waste recycling sector in many parts of Asia remains highly unregulated. Green peace studies the impact of e-waste recycling in India on environment, and on the health of recycling workers and surrounding communities. It studied samples that included industrial wastes, indoor dusts, soils, river sediments and ground water from typical sites representing all major stages routinely employed in dismantling, recycling and final disposal of the e-wastes. The results of the study confirm that all stages in the processing of e-waste have the potential to release substantial quantum of toxic heavy metal and organic compounds to the workplace environment and also the surrounding soil and watercourses. The study illuminates on the urgent need for the manufacturers of electronic products to take the responsibility for their products from production through to the end of their lives. It also urges the manufacturers to develop and design clean products with longer life span that are safe and easy to repair, upgrade and recycle and will not expose the workers and the environment to hazardous chemicals.

Source: www.greenpeace.org

28.4 Green peace Movements: Global Avenues of Action

The priority issue for green peace is climatic changes. They believe the disruption in the ecosystem will likely harm everything from minke whales to coral reefs to polar bears. The world forest cover will deplete, and hundreds of thousands of species will become extinct due to drastic weather change. Climate change will also bring devastation to people and communities, especially some of the world's poorest. They do this by sensitising the people about the need to maintain climatic stability and influencing the policy decisions of national governments that may leave an impact on the climate. Let us now look into some of the green peace actions against some national initiatives which otherwise could have caused adverse environmental changes.

Some of the main avenues of action of green peace movements as mentioned earlier, are in the areas of climate change are saving sea and sea wealth, protection of ancient forests, protesting against genetic engineering, elimination of toxic chemicals, ending nuclear tests, encouraging sustainable trade, and abolishing nuclear weapon. In this section let us see some of the initiatives of the green peace in each of these avenues.

Stop human caused climate change: Green peace activists are very prompt in protesting the energy and power plants that may cause environmental deterioration and climatic changes. They claim burning of coal is one of the main causes for global warming. And this is precisely what many of the giant power plants around the globe do. They accuse that international lending agencies such as Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Japanese International

Bank for International Cooperation, Export Agencies etc. all of whose proclaimed agenda is development of underdeveloped, in fact are depriving the people of the both developing and developed nation a healthy living environment by way of financing huge power projects that cause adverse environmental impact.

According to green peace movement out of the ADB's entire Energy Portfolio Financing from 1966-2004, only 1.82% went towards funding renewable energy and energy efficiency. The overwhelming majority of financing has been geared towards fossil fuel power projects such as the Masinloc coal plant in the Philippines and Southeast Asia's largest coal plant in Mae Moh, Thailand and currently funds are being earmarked for newer plants like Map Ta Phut in Thailand. Since Mae Moh began operations in 1955, 30000 people have been displaced, almost 200 killed and thousands suffer from respiratory problems caused by inhalation and exposure to sulfur dioxide from the mine and the power station.

Clean alternatives to fossil fuel power in Asia are widely available. In the Philippines enough wind power potential exists to produce 7 times over the country's current energy demand. In the Chinese province of Guangdong there exists sufficient wind power potential to meet the equivalent of the current energy supply in Hong Kong.

International financing institutions like the ADB, along with the WB, need to stop fuelling the problem of climate change and start financing cleaner, safer solutions. Greenpeace calls on them to commit to a 20% renewable energy target for power project lending annually. They need to come clean on dirty energy. Green peace activists demonstrate peaceful protest against these projects. They protested the expansion of the Masinloc coal power plant in Mainila. Greenpeace activists were at the plant to draw attention to Australian and Japanese backing of the expansion of climate changing coal dependency in Asia. Australia and Japan are underwriting climate change at a time when the Philippines and Asia are facing the likelihood of devastating social and economic instability from climate change precisely when the country and the rest of Asia are least able to deal with its impacts.

Another instance is that of a case in Brazil. The devastating drought currently affecting the Amazon rainforest is part of a vicious cycle created by the combined affects of global warming and deforestation and could cause the collapse of the rainforest, according to scientists. Brazil is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate changes in the world because of its invaluable biodiversity. Seventeen per cent of the Amazon has been completely wiped out over the past 30 years, according to Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and even more has been damaged by destructive and illegal logging and other human activities. Life on Earth depends on ancient forests for its survival. They are the richest most diverse habitats, and help stabilize climate and regulate the weather. Amazonian deforestation and fires account for more than 75% of Brazil's greenhouse gas emissions and place it amongst the top four contributors to global climate change. Greenpeace called on governments to take urgent action to stop deforestation and commit to the massive carbon dioxide reductions needed to protect the Earth's biodiversity and millions of people who are at risk from the impacts of climate change and ancient forest destruction.

In China the severity of climate change is already bringing two of the world's mightiest rivers at the brink of collapse. Scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences say that environmental damage linked to climate change is pushing the Yellow River source into an ecological breakdown, threatening the lifeblood of 120 million people who rely on it for domestic as well as agricultural and industrial uses. In the Amazon river region, one of the worst droughts ever recorded is damaging the world's largest rainforest, with wildfires breaking out, fresh drinking water becoming scarce and polluted and the death of millions of fish as the streams dry up.

Reflection and Action 28.2

You must have read or heard about green peace activities in newspapers, TV, Internet etc. What are the methods used by green peace activists for mobilising campaign for their organisational cause?

Save sea from destruction

Our oceans cover two thirds of the planet and host 80% of all life, from microscopic plankton to the largest of the great whales. Oceans also provide half of the oxygen requirement of the planet. Until a few centuries ago oceans were protected by vast distances, great depth and harsh conditions making it inaccessible to the human kind. The latest vessels and equipment used to exploit marine life coupled with the burning of fossil fuels and the development and dumping of chemicals into the oceans outpace their ability to cleanse themselves and maintain a natural balance. The indiscriminate exploitation of oceans causes “dead zones” of lifelessness in the sea, decimation of fishing stocks, extinction of whales etc. Green peace movement make a voice against this for saving our sea and sea life from further destruction.

Other than seabed trawling some of the key threats to the sea life are industrial fishing, destructive fishing, unfair fisheries and fish farming. Industrial fishing fleets, using pinpoint accurate sonar, can zone in on schools of fish with frightening speed and precision. The modern ‘goldrush’ for fish in many places far exceeds the ocean’s ability to recover. Destructive fishing wastes marine life. Many a times when it is fishing for particular types of fishes 90% of what comes into the net are thrown back mostly killing the unwanted fish lives. This accidental catch or by-catch as it is euphemistically known, is not restricted to unwanted fish. Every year, up to 300,000 whales, dolphins and porpoises die in nets and 100,000 albatrosses are caught on hooked fishing lines. Turtles, seals and sharks are also victims of indiscriminate fishing practices. Unfair fisheries include pirate ships that steal vast quantities of fish destroying the marine environment. Also by misappropriation of their “catch” large fleets of trawlers cheat the nations. Fish farming, known as aquaculture, is often promoted as the solution to over fishing. But it is far from the answer. The shrimp aquaculture industry is perhaps the most destructive, unsustainable and unjust fisheries industry. Mangrove clearances, fishery destruction, murder and community land clearances, to make way for fish farming, have been widely reported by human rights and environmental groups in almost a dozen countries around the world.

Some countries have introduced protected areas within their national waters – a national twelve-mile exclusive economic zone to save the sea from destructive human activities. Greenpeace believes that this is not enough if protection is to be effective. They call for a massive network of marine reserves. Marine reserves are areas of the sea that are fully protected from human activities - national parks for oceans. Greenpeace defines marine reserves as areas that are closed to all extractive uses, such as fishing and mining, as well as to disposal activities. Within these areas there may be core zones where no human activities are allowed, for instance areas that act as scientific reference areas or areas where there are particularly sensitive habitats or species. Some areas within the coastal zone may be opened to small-scale, non-destructive fisheries, provided that they are sustainable, within ecological limits, and have been decided upon with the full participation of affected local communities. The establishment of marine reserves has been shown to result in long-lasting and often rapid increases in marine populations, their diversity and productivity.

Protect ancient forests

The world’s ancient forests are truly diverse. They include boreal, temperate and tropical forests, coniferous and broadleaf forests, rainforests and

mangroves. Together they maintain environmental systems that are essential for life on Earth. They influence weather by controlling rainfall and evaporation of water from soil. They help stabilise the world's climate by storing large amounts of carbon that would otherwise contribute to climate change.

These ancient forests are home to millions of forest people who depend on them for their survival - both physically and spiritually. These forests also house around two-thirds of the world's land-based species of plants and animals. That's hundreds of thousands of different plants and animals, and literally millions of insects - their futures also depend on the ancient forests. These magnificent ancient forests are under threat. More than 87 human cultures have been lost in Brazil alone; in the next 10 to 20 years, the world looks set to lose thousands of species of plants and animals.

Illegal and destructive logging operations encroach deeper and deeper into biggest forests of the world such as Amazon rain forests, Africa's Cameroon rain forests etc. One of the driving factors behind this forest destruction is the demand for cheap timber from the international market place. Greenpeace protested and alerted the concerned national governments as well as the international communities against this global threat. They gave some constructive suggestions to save the forest cover from depletion. They argued for:

- a) Adoption of legislation to halt the import and marketing of illegally logged timber into Europe and promote environmentally and socially responsible forest management worldwide. Such a law should allow for the prosecution of individuals and companies involved in the illegal trade of timber and timber products. Ultimately such a law should ensure European consumers that any timber products they buy are from legal and well-managed forests and that traders engaged in legitimate trade are not undermined.
- b) Developing strong Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) between producer countries and the European Union which will tackle corruption and weaknesses in the forest governance of producer countries and that will fully parliamentarians, NGOs and indigenous people organisations within those countries, leading to responsible forest management practises, such as those specified under the principles and criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
- c) 'Greening' their timber procurement by introducing legal and sustainable purchasing criteria and stop fueling illegal and destructive logging activities using public money.
- d) Implementing and enforce existing national and European legislation on bribery and money laundering, which are regularly linked to the trade in illegally logged timber.
- e) Providing sufficient funding for forest conservation and sustainable forest management in timber producing countries and ensures that EU subsidy programs do not fund or promote forest destruction.

Campaign against genetic engineering

While scientific progress on molecular biology has a great potential to increase our understanding of nature and provide new medical tools, it is also used to turn the environment into a giant genetic experiment by commercial interests. The biodiversity and environmental integrity of the world's food supply is very important for our survival to be put at risk.

Genetic engineering enables scientists to create plants, animals and micro-organisms by manipulating genes in a way that does not occur naturally. These genetically modified organisms (GMO) can spread through nature and interbreed with natural organisms, thereby contaminating non genetically engineered (GE) environments and future generations in an unforeseeable and uncontrollable way. Their release is 'genetic pollution' and is a major threat because GMOs

cannot be recalled once released into the environment. Because of commercial interests, the public is being denied the right to know about GE ingredients in the food chain, and therefore losing the right to avoid them despite the presence of labelling laws in certain countries. Biological diversity must be protected and respected as the global heritage of humankind, and one of our world's fundamental keys to survival. Governments are attempting to address the threat of GE with international regulations such as the Biosafety Protocol.

Scientists have developed a genetically engineered (GE) insect resistant *Bt* rice variety. Genetically engineered insect resistant *Bt* rice has not yet been approved for cultivation anywhere in the world. There is neither environmental assessment, nor human food safety assessment available for any GE *Bt* rice. However, studies from other GE *Bt* crops such as maize (corn) and cotton give strong indications that *Bt* rice will have serious environmental consequences and there are human food safety concerns.

GE insect resistant *Bt* rice varieties are developed to be resistant to certain pests such as leaffolder and yellow stem borer¹. *Bt* crops are created by inserting a synthetic version of a gene from the naturally occurring soil bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) into the plant's own DNA, so the plant creates its own toxin to destroy pests. Greenpeace opposed to this new variety of GE *Bt* rice on various grounds.

Reflection and Action 28.3

What are the potential threat of genetic engineering to human well being?

To eliminate toxic chemicals

Toxic chemicals in our environment threaten our rivers and lakes, our air, land, and oceans, and ultimately ourselves and our future. The production, trade, use, and release of many synthetic chemicals is now widely recognised as a global threat to human health and the environment. Yet, the world's chemical industries continue to produce and release thousands of chemical compounds every year, in most cases with none or very little testing and understanding of their impacts on people and the environment.

Governments and industry have failed to control the spread of dangerous chemicals around the globe. So widespread are manmade hazardous chemicals in our environment, in our homes and in the products we use everyday, that we are constantly exposed to polluting substances. As a result even our own bodies are contaminated.

Expansion of the global market for electrical and electronic products continues to accelerate, while the lifespan of the products is dropping, resulting in a corresponding explosion in electronic scrap. UNEP (2005) reports in every year 20-50 million electrical or electronic equipment waste (e-waste) are generated world wide, which bring serious risks to human health and environment. This rapidly growing "e-waste" stream presents additional difficulties because a wide range of hazardous chemicals are, or have in the past been, used in components of electrical and electronic devices, and these subsequently create substantial problems with regard to handling, recycling and disposal of obsolete products.

Greenpeace analyses of the man-made hazardous chemicals in consumer products, house dust, rainwater and blood add to the growing documentation that man-made chemicals are out of control, threatening our health and environment. It urges international community to substitute hazardous chemicals with safer materials. The European Union (EU), Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and several states of the USA have introduced legislation making producers responsible for their end-of-life products. The EU has banned the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products from July 2006, to facilitate safer recycling. For the present, however, the "e-waste" recycling sector in many parts of Asia remains largely unregulated.

End nuclear threat

The Nuclear Age began in July 1945 when the US tested their first nuclear bomb near Alamogordo, New Mexico. A few years later, in 1953, President Eisenhower launched his “Atoms for Peace” Programme at the United Nations amid a wave of unbridled atomic optimism. However, the use of nuclear power has never been “peaceful”. Almost half a century after Eisenhower’s speech the planet is left with the legacy of nuclear waste, which will be radioactive for tens or hundreds of thousands of years. Nuclear installations, whether military or civil, have a sad record of accidents and incidents, shrouded in cover-ups, lies and misinformation. Radiation released into the environment has led to the contamination of soil, air, rivers and oceans; causing cancer and other diseases in people. Greenpeace is campaigning to end nuclear power, reprocessing and waste dumping.

Greenpeace was born when a group of peace activists tried to sail into the US nuclear weapons testing zone near Amchitka, Alaska in 1971. although green peace could not prevent that nuclear test it could make a world opinion against nuclear testing.

Promoting sustainable trade

Greenpeace opposes the current form of globalisation that is increasing corporate power. According to them The World Trade Organisation (WTO) promotes free trade for the gain of private interests, over and above our health and the environment. It is fatally flawed and is moving the world in the wrong direction - away from peace, security and sustainability. By stalling on issues that are crucial to poorer countries, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) faces a crisis of legitimacy. They demand that the WTO adopts a policy of trade that truly works for all and that preserves and restores the environment. They support global environmental standards and argue that the governments must work to achieve sustainable development which means integrating three things: environmental, social and economic priorities.

Abolish of nuclear weapons

The Cold War may be over, but this does not mean nuclear weapons have disappeared. Far from it: There are over 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world, with more than a thousand of them ready to launch at a moment’s notice, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Over 400 reactors in warships and nuclear submarines are still circling the globe. Some are rotting away on the bottom of the ocean or in a distant port somewhere in Russia. Accidents such as the Russian submarine, the Kursk, tragically sinking in the Barents Sea can happen every day, anywhere.

Over 2,000 nuclear weapons tests have left a legacy of global and regional contamination. People living near the test sites have suffered from cancers, stillbirths, miscarriages and other health effects – and are still suffering today. Many had to leave their hometown or island as it became too contaminated to live there.

Reflection and Action 28.4

What are the potential threats to humanity and global environment posed by nuclear tests?

28.5 Green Peace Movement: An Assessment

Green peace is an organisation that has garnered world attention and new member through its rather unorthodox approach and techniques meant to call attention to the degradation of the earth’s ecosystem. In other words, Green peace is about ringing an ecological fire alarm, waking mass consciousness to the true dimensions of our global predicament, pointing out the problems and

defining their nature. The activities of green peace could bring the issues of environment and sustainable development into the forefront. Many developed countries around the world are increasingly integrating environmental protection into the mainstream of economic and political policy. Governments and bureaucracies, industry and professional associations unions and workplaces are moving together to put ecologically sustainable development into practice (Australian conservation Foundation 1994).

Green peace doesn't necessarily have the solutions to these problems and certainly isn't equipped to put them into practice. This requires the combined efforts of governments, corporations, public institutions and environmentalists and demands a high degree of cooperation and collaboration. Many developing countries already started research to solve the problems, which affect employment and environment. They began promoting green jobs that may not deteriorate the environment. Now let us understand what is meant by green jobs, as well as other ways of generating employment that help the regeneration of environment.

28.6 Green Jobs

In 1990s more and more developed countries began to be concerned about the rapid deterioration of environment and the unsustainable development practices adopted world over. Some of them even began policy initiatives to restrain this. Norway, Netherlands, European commission and Japan are some of the countries implementing strategic plans which placed the environment in the policy mainstream. They advocated the adoption of new development model to make the economic-ecological relationship a positive instead of negative one. The key for doing this lies in the creation of a new clean technology base. For example, in West Germany, drastic action was taken to reduce power plant emissions by 90% over 10 years period in order to save the destruction of their forests from acid rain. Far from acting as an impediment to economic growth, this greening of energy industry has proved an extraordinary stimulus.

In many of the developed countries it has been noticed that in spite of the economic growth on the one hand unemployment does not stop growing. Furthermore although a series of programmes have been established and legal measures taken, there was a deterioration of environment situation. Attempts were made to find ways that may generate more employment along with environment regeneration. It has been found that adopting an economic and political-ecologist policy may reduce job opportunities in certain sectors but in certain other sectors it may create more opportunities, more than what have lost. For example, renewable energy with respect to nuclear power, management of the demand for water, repair measures and rational irrigation as opposed to large hydraulic works, the development of public transport and the railways rather than automobiles, recycling rubbish instead of dumping wastes, etc. (Green Jobs Project 1998). There are also other measures such as forestry activities designed to reduce the risk of fires, surveillance of natural and national parks, environmental studies and inspections, waste water treatment, anti-pollution control and measurement in industry, eco-audit and environmental management systems in companies etc. which not only have a positive environmental impact, also create employment.

If a job or industry is to be characterised as sustainable in the long term then it must have the overall effect of reducing the negative impacts on the environment. According to Sarah Bloustein (1992) environmental sector is a term used to collectively describe the companies involved in business designs to limit negative environmental impacts. ILO has identified nine broad sub sectors of environment industries.

Box 28.2: Wind power to replace other more contaminating sources of energy in Spain

There has been a spectacular rise in the use of wind power in Spain in 1990s. It has leapt from the installation of 8 MW of power in 1991 or 75 MW in 1994, to almost 400 MW in 1998. By the end of 2000 this was 1400 MW. The Spanish Department of Industry and Power could create roughly 200000 jobs.

All the studies that have evaluated the employment generated by renewable energy forms, indicate that their creation capacity per unit of power produced is much greater than the equivalent for conventional and pollutant energy sources. This difference will decrease if aero generators are manufactured in large scale. The potential for this source of power at a world scale is very high.

28.7 Environment Sector and Job Opportunities

Macro economic studies carried out around the world have concluded that the labour intensive nature of energy efficiency services and renewable energy would lead to a net increase in jobs where they replaced conventional energy delivery. Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources create jobs across the manufacturing and services sector and across a wide spectrum of occupational skills from professional to trades to unskilled works. Types of jobs in this category includes energy auditing and evaluation of energy requirements, research and development, product and system design, manufacturing, marketing, sales, transport, installation, maintenance, education and training. Other renewable energy options that could generate new jobs include wind, solar thermal electricity and process heat, biogas, wood, alcohol, solar buildings, and day lighting. Waste management and clean production are another fast growing environment industry.

Reflection and Action 28.5

What did you understand by green jobs? Explore job opportunities in any sector that may help in environment regeneration.

28.8 Conclusion

The priority issue for green peace is climatic changes. They believe the disruption in the ecosystem will likely harm everything from minke whales to coral reefs to polar bears. Whole forests will be lost, and hundreds of thousands of species will become extinct. Climate change will also bring devastation to people and communities, especially some of the world's poorest. They do this by sensitising the people about the need to maintain climatic stability and influencing the policy decisions of national governments that may leave an impact on the climate.

In this unit we have seen the circumstances that lead to the emergence of green peace movement as well as their main avenues of action. We also come across various instances where green peace movements demonstration for sustainable development. Also elaborated in this unit green jobs. The job opportunities in those sectors that promote sustainable environmental development and environmental regeneration.

28.10 Further Reading

This unit is largely developed based on the information given in the official website of green peace movement <http://www.greenpeace.org>

Doherty, Brian 2002. *Ideas and Actions in Green Movement*. Routledge: London

Shabecoff, Philip 2003. *A Fierce Green Fire. The American Environmental Movement*. Island Press: Washington