

‘Giving people a stake in the green economy’ Policy Priorities for Ministers

The Green Economy Coalition (GEC) is the world’s largest movement for green and fair economies. On 8-9th January our members and civil society stakeholders met in Cape Town, South Africa in advance of the 2019 PAGE Ministerial to debate **the policy priorities that are most important to create green and fair economies - and to give people a stake the transition.**

Finance

- ✓ **Stabilize & reform** – The design of the global financial system is structurally not fit for purpose and meeting our environmental crisis. An unstable financial system won’t set the 20-year+ time-horizon necessary for sustainability – civil, gov. & financial actors acting in concert can initiate reform.
- ✓ **Democratise finance** – The best way to re-direct financial flows is via a democratic economic project. Empowering transparent, ethical, and accountable finance can help to align economic regulations and financial incentives with society’s interests.
- ✓ **Re-direct & improve** – We already have tools which can re-direct capital flows toward green - monetary, macro and micro-prudential policies can help, but new regulatory, economic, and consumer driven means are needed before finance will safely serve society.

SMEs

- ✓ **Focused policy, that fails fast** – Prioritise piloting many specific SME policy interventions, before moving to test at scale. Small businesses need a ‘try and see’ approach to policy that embraces and learns from failure.
- ✓ **Aggregation** – Engage SMEs at local level via groups or networks. Small voices are amplified, peer-to-peer exchange encouraged, and the transaction costs of policy engagement are pooled.
- ✓ **Finance & market** – SMEs at start-up level need assistance with access to markets and ‘missing middle’ finance most of all.
- ✓ **Green success** – Green SMEs need business support and legal form that recognises soc. & env. success as well as their bottom line.

Inclusion

- ✓ **Address process** – Inclusive outcomes are highly unlikely without inclusive process. GEC & civ. soc. are looking for shared partnership/resource with gov. to deliver meaningful participation in policy design – the new PAGE expansion round offers an opportunity to embed inclusivity early.
- ✓ **Address outcomes** – We should judge policies by whether they measurably advance the SDGs, which speak directly to poverty & inequality reduction, and help offset elite bias. Pre-planning for those facing negative & unintended side-effects is an essential step.
- ✓ **Address delivery** – Conventional policy implementation is insufficient for the scale and scope of the econ. transition. Decentralised, multi-actor delivery shares the burden, is faster, and offers potentially greater coverage.

Natural Capital & GE Strategies

- ✓ **Better decision making** – Nat Cap approaches can provide a common, accepted international approach to improve and integrate env. and econ. decision-making – and link with SDGs.
- ✓ **Uncover natural dependency** – Assessing and uncovering dependency on the natural world is key. Highlighting dependency can help clarify the diverse returns on investment from stocks of natural assets, protect env. econ. & soc. benefits, and create paths to inclusivity by clarifying the question of nature’s ‘value to who’.
- ✓ **Challenge centric** – Nat Cap accounting focused on solving specific challenges (e.g. water in SA) can be the **HOW** of green economy implementation, and ensure accounts are used, improved, and scaled up.