

Minutes: GEC Steering Group 27th July 2017 4-5pm

Attendees: Steve Bass, Mick Blowfield, Oliver Greenfield, Thibaut Portevin, Steven Stone, Zeenat Niazi (on behalf of George Varughese)



Apologies: Peter Poschen-Eiche, George Varughese, Mike Wilson

Agenda July 27th 2016:

1. Introductions
2. GEC summit reflections
3. GEC steering group application
4. GEC at Jeju – panel and institutional collaboration
5. GEC planning for growth
6. AOB – actions outstanding

Context – this steering group meeting was held immediately after the GEC global summit (26th and 27th July London) – therefore we were able to meet in person, with Steven Stone joining by phone. Mike Wilson, present at the summit, was required to leave to catch a plane.

1. Introductions

1. Hellos as we have not physically been together before.

2. GEC summit reflections

- Overall the steering group very pleased with the Summit content, participants and organisation.
- GEC Strategy and projects – were well received and await final sign-off based on Summit participant input.
 - **OG Action – capture GEC Network reflections on strategy and projects and summit to next Steering Group for sign-off**
- One key strategic area was the repeated request (mainly by development NGOS) to rename the GEC – the Fair and Green Economy Coalition.
 - **SG Action – further reflections on this request**

3. GEC steering group application

In GEC Phase 3 we champion equity, inclusion and **environmental limits**. Against this context it is important to have either WWF or IUCN back in the GEC steering group. (They were both founding partners and previously on GEC steering group.) IUCN Senegal are also our preferred partner in Senegal. Therefore we have been actively trying to restore IUCN senior relations. (WWF is going through significant restructuring and is not yet stable). Steve Bass has made connections with: Aban MARKER KABRAJI, Regional Director for IUCN-Asia and recommended her for GEC Steering Group

(Biog - Aban is the Regional Director for IUCN-Asia, overseeing an active presence in 15 countries and responsible for more than 70 wide-ranging environmental initiatives. With more than 30 years of experience, Aban's leadership has been instrumental in bringing awareness to gender, culture, and the sovereign dimensions of conservation. She serves as the Co-Chair for the Mangroves for the Future, the Chair for TRAFFIC, and a member of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development. Aban is a McCluskey Fellow, a visiting Professor with the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a sought-after lecturer worldwide.)

SG Decision and Action – SG approved. OG to Approach Aban for the GEC steering group membership.

4. GEC at Jeju GGGI Green Week

Our GEC two events will now be public event on Tuesday lunchtime, and institutional collaboration Wednesday dinner pm:

- i. Institutional collaboration meeting (private dinner side event) – to progress the informal collaboration work and invite other institutions to be involved.
- ii. Societal demand and successful GE transition (public event - outline below)

Public Side event title:

The importance of societal demand to support successful green economy transitions: the why, what and how...

Brief description of the event: The green growth agenda is gathering pace in the corridors of international institutions and businesses. But, to date, the concept has meant little to local and national populations. If green growth planning and policies are to be successful in driving transformation then they need to respond to the aspirations and concerns of the broader public. This seminar will answer the questions ‘why, what and how’ of making green economy transitions inclusive, aspirational and fair. The Panel will be GEC steering group.

Objectives: Improving knowledge of ‘why, what and how’ to cultivate societal demand to support successful and ambitious green economy processes.

Expected outcome: Audience contribution to and recognition of the need for inclusive green growth transition processes. Stronger understanding of GEC’s plans and added value as a compliment to GGGI and PAGE government processes.

- **SG – to confirm GGGI Jeju presence**
- **SB and OG to prepare slides for GEC panel event.**

5. GEC planning for growth

Background: GEC is expanding – both projects, resources, funding and new risks (such as delivery against EC contracts. This has prompted IIED to wish to refresh the IIED - GEC MOU and create better clarity on governance responsibilities. (This was due to be refreshed in 2016/17 anyway). IIED’s main issues/questions are: IIED is carrying most of GEC’s risk. What do other partners carry and contribute? Are there fairer ways to distribute risk and decision making?

Opportunity:

This prompts an opportunity to consider the structure and ownership of our network, in order that it can both grow, be more influential and capable and raise more funds, whilst managing better the risks associated with this success, and distributing them more fairly across the network.

Some GEC Secretariat Network thoughts:

The GEC experience shows that our success is dependent on some core attributes. These are: member **ownership** of GEC network, content **leadership** on particular GE themes, a strong commitment and belief in **collaboration, and ultimately money**. The questions of how to cultivate this ownership, leadership, encourage collaboration and raise funds have been central to GEC secretariat’s challenges.

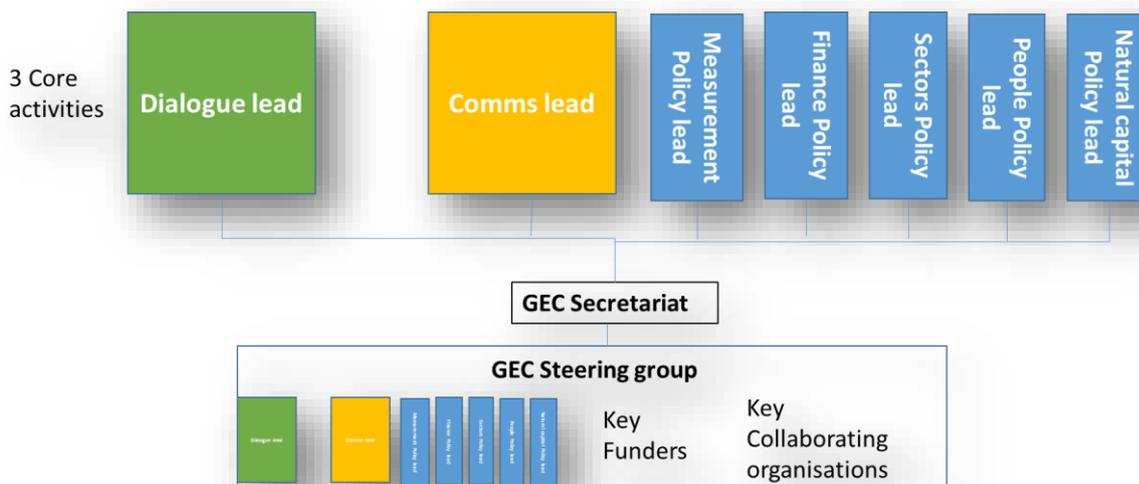
Our conclusions are:

- Ownership:
 - Members must see their agenda represented in the group, they must feel a share of the risk and reward, the opportunity to shape, decide and be given the opportunity to be part of network governance. Hence: yearly strategy refresh. Other options – more steering group representation.
- Leadership:
 - Each member can see that their specialty can be their leadership strength in the GE debates (e.g. IIED's – dialogues, and three 'Ins' – Inequality, Informality, Inclusion; or WWF and IUCN on natural capital). We need to ensure members take a lead on these issues and use the GEC platform to amplify their knowledge. To do this the GEC secretariat must spend a lot of time with each member to ensure they both see and take the content opportunity and cultivate member content confidence.
- Collaboration:
 - The whole broad story 'Big picture' and refresh it collaboratively orientates members and their particular specialties and bonds us as a group. GEC secretariat should refresh regularly in collaboration with all members.
 - Make collaboration PAY. By bringing in funding that depends on multi-organisational projects, where each partner is paid to deliver their part and collaboration becomes a natural GEC approach.
- Funding – each organisation has its funding sources. It is therefore logical that if further funds are needed that are most pertinent to their skill base, that they could be effective in raising those funds.
 - One additional challenge is presented by 'taking the SME platform global'. Our EC experience show that SME's most want is: access to markets, access to investment, access to skills and peers. Our offer currently only offers skills and peers. We should consider if we want to create a 'not for profit social enterprise' so our SME offer could be more market focussed and any operating value created feed back into the GEC policy work. (DA – experience of this?)

The Conclusions to this thinking as try to match the network organisational structure better to our strategy. i.e. we consider creating a multi-organisational GEC operating model defined by housing particular themes with member's who have the most relevant expertise, and they lead on the funding and execution, with secretariat support.

- This would mean – different coalition partners lead on different themes using the GEC brand. For example: IIED – Dialogues, NEF – Story Campaign, 5 Policy themes spread around–etc.

Figure 1. Potential GEC Phase 4 Network distributed delivery operating model.



- **SG Decision agree to pursue distributed delivery model**
- **OG action to develop a paper**

6. AOB –

NEXT MEETING: OG to schedule new series of steering group meetings after the summer.

Steven Stone – highlights the opportunity of Berlin PAGE meeting March 2017 coinciding with Germany’s presidency of G20. GEC to be present and visible.

Action OG to develop ideas with Steven about appropriate GEC Berlin presence