



# Code Red for nature & people:

Top solutions for scaling a green and fair COVID-19 recovery

**The Green Economy Coalition Global Meeting**

November 29 – December 3 2021

# We are the Green Economy Coalition.

The world's **largest civil society movement** focused on green and fair economic reform, with a mission to **transform our economies within a generation.**







In **November 2021**, we brought our global network together for **five days of dialogue, debate and action** – together identifying how best to respond to the challenge of COVID-19 and **accelerate a green recovery.**

## 2021 Global meeting by the numbers:

- **12 online sessions** across **5 days**, covering **nature, inequality, narrative, network building, social contract** and **green recovery**
- **28 speakers**
- And **359 unique participants...**
- ...from **+45 countries...**
- ...representing **+200 organisations**
- ...streaming a total of **+730 hours** of content

[Watch all sessions on our YouTube channel](#)

# GEC Global Meeting 2021: Agenda & Video Links

	29 November	30 November	1st December	2nd December	3rd December	
10:00 - 11:00 GMT		<p>WORKSHOP: <b>Challenges and opportunities</b> for local green enterprises to access finance</p> <p><a href="#">More info</a>   <a href="#">YouTube</a></p> 	<p>WORKSHOP: <b>Greenness of Stimulus Index:</b> Assessing national COVID responses</p> <p><a href="#">More info</a>   <a href="#">YouTube</a></p>  	<p>WORKSHOP: <b>Aligning recovery with the energy transition:</b> five principles for a “fossil-free recovery”</p> <p><a href="#">More info</a>   <a href="#">YouTube</a></p> 	<p>Warm Up Session <b>GEC Hubs - a discussion on evolving GEC structures</b></p>	Side
12:00 - 14:00 GMT	<p>CODE RED: <b>What are the top priority interventions to transform a collapsing system?</b></p> <p><a href="#">Watch on YouTube</a></p>	<p>INEQUALITY DAY: <b>How a new social contract can drive the green transition?</b></p> <p><a href="#">Watch on YouTube</a></p>	<p>NATURE DAY: <b>How to catalyse a nature positive economy by 2030</b></p> <p><a href="#">Watch on YouTube</a></p>	<p>MEDIA DEBATE: <b>Green Recovery On Trial: is the policy agenda up to the climate challenge?</b></p> <p><a href="#">Watch on YouTube</a></p>	<p>MEMBER DAY <b>Strategy and shared actions</b></p> <p><a href="#">Watch on YouTube</a></p>	Core
15:00 - 16:00 GMT	<p>NETWORKING <b>Come meet &amp; connect with GEC members and networks</b></p>	<p>NETWORKING <b>Come meet &amp; connect with GEC members and networks</b></p>	<p>WORKSHOP: <b>Stories for Life: How to change narrative through better stories</b></p> <p><a href="#">More info</a>   <a href="#">YouTube</a></p> 	<p>WORKSHOP: <b>Taking our Green COVID-19 Declaration global</b></p> <p><a href="#">YouTube</a></p> 	<p>WRAP-PARTY <b>Come meet &amp; connect with GEC members and networks</b></p>	Side

# Day One: Code Red

## Schedule:

- **Welcome: Our mission and approach**
  - Oliver Greenfield, Convenor, GEC
- **What's the status of fair, green economic reform?**
  - Emily Benson, Director of Engagement, GEC
- **Global and country highlights insights from the COVID-19 Recovery**
  - Chris Hopkins, Policy Manager, GEC
- **What are the key interventions for catalyzing a green, fair recovery from COVID-19?**
  - Kumi Naidoo, Former Secretary-General of Amnesty International and Greenpeace International

## Key messages:

- **“Code Red” for nature & planet:** we are entering dangerous new territory on climate impacts, biodiversity loss, & planetary boundaries
- **A “new poor” from COVID-19:** lockdowns and recession threaten billions with hardship & suffering; progress towards SDGs imperiled
- **Rocketing inequality:** the pandemic has massively accelerated the ongoing growth in inequality between rich & poor
- **Fragile shoots of green recovery:** some policymakers are seizing the opportunity to put their economies on a new footing
- **But progress is patchy and fragile:** we are in danger of squandering this once-in-a-generation opportunity for structural transformation
- **Decision:** Green recovery our key advocacy priority in run up to Stockholm+50 (June 2022)

# Day Two: Inequality / Social Contract

## Schedule

### Morning side session

- *Challenges and opportunities for local green enterprises to access finance*
- Featuring **Development Alternatives**, India; **CANARI**, Trinidad and Tobago; **Libelula**, Peru; and **Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies**, South Africa.

### Core Session

- *How can a new social contract drive the green transition?*
- Featuring **Stuart Worsley, Dialogues Director**, in dialogue with the GEC Peruvian hub, and **Najma Mohamed, Policy Director**, on new social contracts around the world

## Key messages:

- **MSME's are asking for support on** finance, governance, capacity building, access to markets, education and technology
- **Growing inequality** is a common problem across our dialogue partner countries
- **The social contract is broken:** unrest and populism are growing as COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated political and economic inequality
- The transition to a green and fair economy **requires deep social support.**
- The GEC are building a **progressive, intersectional alliance climate, environmental & inequality champions** to highlight pathways, procedures and mechanisms for renegotiating a new social contract in practice.
- **Decision:** GEC's approach to inequality will centre around social contract, approved for collaborative development

# Day Three: Nature

## Schedule

### Morning side session

- *Greenness of Stimulus Index: Assessing national COVID responses*
- Featuring **Vivid Economics** and the **Global Green Growth Institute**

### Core Session

- *The Big Picture* - **Juha Siikamaki**, Chief Economist IUCN
- *Economics for Nature* - **Martin Lok**, Executive Director, Capitals Coalition
- *Nature at the Heart of Recovery: Country Perspectives from Brazil, France, India and Uganda* – **Gitika Goswami**, Programme Director Development Alternatives
- *30 Voices for Nature* - **Najma Mohamed**, Policy Director, Green Economy Coalition

### Afternoon side session

- *Stories for Life: How to change narrative through better stories*
- Featuring the **Stories for Life** project, **Spaceship Earth**, and the **Wellbeing Economy Alliance**

## Key messages:

- **Massive COVID-19 stimulus packages** present the opportunity to accelerate the green transition
- But nature and biodiversity have been **mostly neglected in stimulus packages**
- **Investing in nature pays off:** with green jobs created, natural disaster damages averted, mitigation costs reduced and SDG goals achieved
- **“Nature is everyone’s business”** – but the private sector still largely blind to impact on nature
- A new, clear vision for biodiversity based around the value of nature is urgently needed: **transformation, not conservation**
- Economics for Nature is changing the rules, the conversation and the calculations towards **a nature-based green economy**
- **Decision:** Work with E4N and other partners around Stockholm+50 moment to further embed nature’s value in economic decision-making, and make it a political imperative

# Day Four: Green Recovery

## Schedule

### Morning side session

- *Aligning recovery with the energy transition: five principles for a “fossil-free recovery”* – **International Institute for Sustainable Development**

### Core Session

*Media Debate: The Green Recovery On Trial*

- **Brian O’Callaghan** - Lead Researcher, Oxford University Economic Recovery Project
- **Kumi Naidoo** – former Secretary General of Greenpeace and Amnesty International
- **Alice Ruhweza** - Africa Region Director, WWF International.
- **Alison Tate** - Director of Economic and Social Policy, ITUC
- **Benoît Lallemand** - Secretary General of Finance Watch

### Afternoon side session

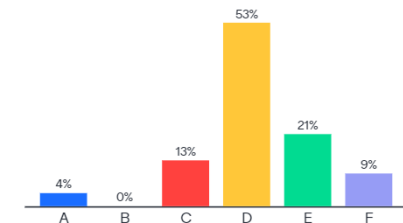
- ***Taking our Green COVID-19 Declaration global:*** a GEC-led workshop to refine and draft the joint declaration on green recovery

## Key messages:

- The G20 has pledged at least **\$325 billion to support fossil fuels since Jan 2020, compared to \$279 billion for clean energy**
- Clean energy investment upscaling needs to happen right now to achieve 2050 net-zero. **“Green Keynesianism” is needed to guide investors & consumers alike**
- **53% of participants** in our Green Recovery on Trial event rated the current state of the global recovery as a D – “Underwhelmed but still have a glimmer of hope.”
- **Decision:** “Declaration on a Green COVID-19 Recovery” finalized together with attendees and ready for public sharing

GREEN RECOVERY ON TRIAL

How would you grade the "Green Recovery" so far?



# Day Five: Strengthening the Coalition

## Schedule

### Morning side session

- *GEC Hubs* - a discussion on evolving GEC structures together with our dialogue partners: **ACODE, Libelula, FNI, CANARI, IED Afrique, EPCRC, Development Alternatives, FAS, TIPS**

### Core Session

#### Strategy and shared actions for 2022 and beyond

- **Advocacy and story:** Collective messaging, advocacy and shared narrative
- **Policy:** Which policy debates are going up and down the agenda?
- **The Hubs:** How do we continually grow, but operate as one movement?
- **New members:** Introduction to our progress

## Key messages:

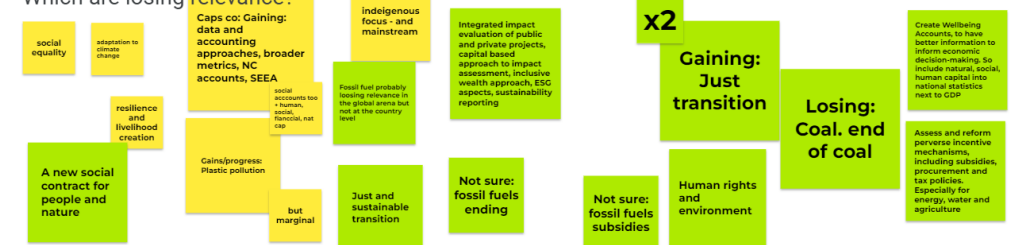
- Develop working groups around key areas – eg: finance, policy, communications, fundraising etc – to leverage impact across the Coalition and boost value-add of membership
- Emphasize the global network but don't lose the local
- **Decision:** GEC partners agree outline of coalition growth along 3 groups – policy, funding, comms.

### Discussion: Policy

Board 1 of 2

What policy debates / trends are gaining momentum in green economy space?  
Which are losing relevance?

Leads:  
Najma Mohamed,  
Chris Hopkins



How should the GEC update / evolve its policy positioning around green economy?

[natural capital, social contract, inclusion, Nature based solutions, 'Local green enterprise', net-zero, green structural reform, just transitions etc]





# Declaration on a green COVID-19 recovery

**We the undersigned call for a green and fair recovery from COVID where no one is left behind.** We declare that this will not be achieved without structural transformation to ensure our economies are nature-positive, net zero, fair and inclusive for all.

**Decision makers are squandering the opportunity to build back better from COVID-19.** Current recovery policies are entrenching inequality, propping up fossil fuel industries and doubling down on the destruction of nature.

**COP26 has failed to respond to the Code Red facing people and planet.** We are still on course for more than 2 degrees warming – subjecting millions to starvation, conflict, and poverty, while nature is being forgotten. We know that environmental and social injustices share the same root causes – and activism as usual is no longer an option.

**Experience has show us that governments will not go far or fast enough without citizens demanding urgent reform.** Business cannot move ahead of societal demand for change. And investors need strong social signals to shift their myopic, short-term horizons.

**Therefore, we are uniting as a civil society movement across the world because we see that people, not power, are driving positive change.**

**We commit to building a mass movement of informed citizens** to engage decision makers, and each other, to raise green recovery ambition, broker links with power and share solutions and experience from around the world.

**We pledge to hold governments and businesses to account** on their promises to build back better – scrutinizing their responses, driving transparency, and delivering justice.

**We promise to connect with other movements and networks,** amplify the voices of activists around the world, and accelerate social change being led by movements of women, youth, indigenous people, marginalised communities and more.

**But civic action is not alone enough.**

We demand that those in positions of power prioritise structural and transformative measures to build a green and inclusive recover from COVID.

- **DELIVER** a green recovery finance package for the global south, on top of existing climate finance commitments;
- **INVEST** in nature, green infrastructure, green jobs and green reskilling;
- **REWRITE** the institutions and rules that govern us so they prioritise participation via citizen assemblies and juries, civic dialogue, and inclusive policy;
- **END** fossil fuel investment, fossil fuel subsidies, and financing that is exploiting nature;
- **BUILD** an inclusive, just social contract fit for the 21st century that leaves no one - no person, no small business , no community - behind.