

GEC Steering Group, Wednesday 12th December– MINUTES

Attendees: Steve Bass, Oliver Greenfield, Thibaut Portevin, Peter Poschen-Eiche, Holger Schmid, Zeenat Niazi, Juha Siikamaki (IUCN alternate for Aban Marker Kabraji), Laura Kelly (IIED alternate for Andy Norton),



Apologies: Aban Marker Kabraji, Andy Norton, Kamal Gueye, Steven Stone, Mike Wilson.

Agenda 12th December 2018:

1. Introduction – Laura Kelly
2. September Minutes for approval.
3. 10-year (2019) outline plan
4. Consultation for new Strategy – SG review and debate – Steve Bass
5. AOB and outstanding actions

1. **Introduction: Laura Kelly.** Laura is IIED's new designated alternate (Each organisation has two representatives to help ensure representation). We welcomed [Laura](#) to our group.
2. **Draft – September Minutes – attached**
 - **SG signed-off. ACTION - The minutes to be posted on GEC website.**
3. **GEC at 10 – relaunch outline plan**
 - GEC's 10th anniversary is a watershed moment. It is an opportunity for the GEC to look back at achievements (and failures) since it was formed, take stock based on what it has learned and what has changed; and review its position and approach going forward in wide consultation with its members and stakeholders. The paper outlines the process for consultative strategic review and relaunch with products, events and milestones
 - **SG comments:**
 - More focus on the process on the strategy creation process with a particular focus on encouraging stakeholder contributions beyond events.
 - There is not much time for strategy or management discussion at Global meeting. GEC global meeting should have more time for review and consultation.
 - Explore an online consultation to run early 2019.
 - Worth gathering feedback from outside the circle of friends and partners
 - GEC need a graphic of ten years of GEC development and its contributions and impacts (different phases and their impacts) – GE catalyst, setting agenda, creating debate, framing, international circuit, broker of truth, consensus 5 themes, getting national.
 - **ACTIONS**
 - **OG to update the 10 year plan to reflect SG comments.**
 - **OG to ensure global meeting gives enough time for strategy review at global meeting. This should be split between hub partner's day and broader event days as appropriate**
 - **OG to develop online strategy consultation**
 - **OG to create wider strategy testing - perhaps focussing on business**
 - **Secretariat to develop graphic of GEC development phases and impact**
4. **Consultation for new Strategy – SG review and debate - SB**
 - Steve has led a thorough consultation with 31 interviews across a range of staff, partners and other organisations. This is a baseline of feedback for input into the GEC 10 year strategy. These interviews have been condensed into 10 strategic issues for in-depth exploration and strategy revision:

1. *Conceptual coherence on GE*: How to secure coherence and overcome segmentation among the ever-expanding number of GE concepts such as circular, blue and low-carbon economy
2. *Stretch ambition beyond GE*: As global agenda-setters, how far to aim in changing social expectations of the economy: expanding GE? halting brown economy? wider economic reform?
3. *Collective responsibility*: How to mobilise members and others to complement Secretariat-led programmes; and where to expand leadership e.g. appointing ambassadors
4. *Entry points for GE*: How to access SDG and NDC policy spaces, and how to improve the GE 'offer' to the challenge of halting biodiversity degradation and enabling its sustainable use
5. *Action for impact*: What kinds of catalytic action best generate demand for GE, and meet demands in countries and/or sectors (possibly hub-led and MSME-linked)
6. *Monitoring, evaluation and learning*: How to achieve a more systematic approach to learning in GEC countries and programmes, improving feedback
7. *Geographic expansion*: Building on hubs, with more strategic country selection based on potential impact, openness and readiness; improving strategic links between LICs, MICs and HICs
8. *Institutional status*: Increasing distributed delivery by GEC members; and preparing for GEC's institutional independence if and when its project status limits effectiveness and scale
9. *Nature of coalition*: rethinking the mix of knowledge, convening, empowerment, advocacy and in-country action based on experience of the 'connections that work'
10. *Growth of the GEC*: options for programmatic and financial expansion, informed by 1-9 above

- **SG comments:**

- Hub energy and decentralisation and empowerment is important for GEC resilience, growth and success
- Hubs can and should lead/contribute to GEC global issues, as appropriate to their areas of most concern/interest. Hubs create knowledge solidarity.
- There should remain a GEC 'learning focus' and this should link to the GEC tracker
- GEC and broader GE movement should have a learning log to improve learning and interpretation
- GEC needs to review the Big picture as the world has changed (protectionism, populism, yellow vests) and this prompts an evolved response from the GEC.
- We need to be clearer of the drivers of change and how this connects to GEC's TOC.
- GEC should reflect on the role of new technology for change.
- GEC needs to ramp up its business involvement
- For funding GEC's Impact is key. GEC should build on mid-term EC review, and keep the focus on 'what is GEC's impact?'
- GEC needs to be clearer on its network value and how this helps the participation of partners
- GEC needs to be clear - We are doing economic reform.
- GEC strategy needs to be clear how it will Generate resources
- GEC strategy needs more for activity at different levels, i.e. focus on local authority
- GEC needs to clarify how it works on sub themes - e.g. urban
- GEC needs more on equity and connecting to social movements

- 5. **AOB**

- GEC Global meeting, media debate and PAGE conference – in hand
- Institutional collaboration meeting in hand
- GEC's E4N at Davos 23rd Jan 2019

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Thursday, 28th February 12.30pm-2pm, UK.