

Minutes of GEC Steering Group, Thursday 14th December 2017

Attendees: Steve Bass, Oliver Greenfield, Aban Marker Kabraji, Thibaut Portevin, Holger Schmid, Steven Stone, Mike Wilson, George Varughese



Apologies: Peter Poschen-Eiche

Agenda 14th December 2017:

1. October Minutes for approval.
2. GEC 2017 Global meeting feedback and implications
3. Overall review of the 2017 and draft plan for 2018
4. AOB

1. October Minutes – Approved. ACTION – OG To be posted on GEC site

2. GEC 2017 Global meeting feedback and implications

On Wednesday 1st to Saturday 4th of November 2017, the coalition gathered for its annual global meeting, held this year in Trinidad, with co-host, GEC partner, CANARI.

George Varughese, Development Alternatives, represented the GEC Steering Group. 'I couldn't be happier – to see the diversity, the substance and credibility of the coalition, and how it has progressed from its first meetings.'

The purpose of GEC global events are to strengthen GEC partner relationships, to review update and create more ownership of the GEC strategy, and to propel collaborative work areas, existing and new.

This was the first GEC global meeting outside of Europe, so it focussed on our dialogue partners and national and regional activity. All GEC dialogue partners were represented and a very active Caribbean network. The meeting purpose was achieved for the hub partners and Caribbean network.

However, the location meant we were largely unsuccessful in engaging our traditional GEC partners (None were prepared to travel). This needs to be addressed in both next year's meeting and in activities to strengthen partner engagement in 2018.

Overall, this was a successful meeting. It's most memorable achievement was the co-creation of the Santa Cruz declaration. In addition, our dialogue partners have spent time together, understood the GEC strategy and benefitted from seeing the progress of CANARI's Caribbean work, a leader in our EC funded programme.

The baton (or actually basket) was passed to South African partners to host the next global GEC meeting in proximity to the PAGE ministerial (**Sept 4th to 6th 2018**).

The main implications for GEC strategy and work plan – are the acceleration of SME outreach.

3. Overall review of 2017 and draft plan for 2018

Summary of review presented:

HEADLINE IMPACT: GEC has successfully widened the agenda of international organisations to focus on the inclusiveness of green growth models

Key Achievements: Overall, 2017 heralded the growth of the GEC in terms of profile, impact, projects underway, funding, staffing and capacity. Clusters of member organisations are now acting together with purpose and funding to forward the strategic aims of the Coalition and act as catalysts for change. The number of hubs active in the GE dialogues project expanded, the Natural Capital Programme was successfully launched, with thought leadership emerging from Measure What Matters II and work on Finance Reform underway. We also saw much more evidence of demand for GEC during 2017 (e.g. The Principles Priorities and Pathways doc produced through 'Institutional Collaboration').

SG review of GEC 2017:

“GEC has arrived, now in demand, strong flagship communications such as Barometer, and horizon scanning. Has clear role as a Platform. Strong secretariat team. GEC has also a role as a catalyst with breakthrough products – Wealth of Nature. Agree with review that one niche is ‘Informal and SME’.

“GEC has structure and foundations for growth now. Positions visible on global stage. Consolidated funding, and programmes. Global meeting – I could not be happier – diversity, substance, credibility.

“Good year. Visibility strong. Economics for nature already impactful. Wealth of Nature report important contribution. Website and communications strong. Role of speaking truth and challenging orthodoxy very helpful.

“Assessment of GEC dialogues positive. Programme has design relevance, and structure is clear. Hubs becoming valuable.

“Network and secretariat functions strengthened. Economics for Nature programme has had a successful first year.

Overall Steering Group were happy with progress made in 2017 and special thanks was made to EC DEVCO and the MAVA foundation for their roles and support.

ACTION OG – to send Aban a note on a potential role for IUCN for Economics for Nature

SG debate on GEC Priorities for 2018 and draft plan:

In preparation the SG had an initial discussion about the challenges of **GEC positioning** (breadth versus depth) and **GEC operating context** (the role of the secretariat versus coalition members). This was done online and is captured here:

Positioning context. The evolution of GE – the first question was - what is it? This required us to define it using the 5 themes to ensure it wasn't defined too narrowly. We then needed to champion this broader definition (particularly as a counterpoint to narrower v1 Green Growth) – explicitly champion that it is inclusive, fairer and defined by environmental limits. The implication of holding this broader definition space was the next round of development questions: OK – explain how we do fairer, inclusive and environmental limits Green economy? GEC therefore have an inherent and ongoing challenge of breadth versus depth – but the overall priority has been breadth (at the risk of technical depth credibility). This is because we need to maintain our efforts to define GE broadly as a counter point particularly to GG being too narrow. Secondly, because our understanding of transformation is that GE will not be delivered by a silver bullet on any one of the 5 themes – but by a systemic interaction between them all – e.g., new measures of success, stimulating different money flows, new and changes sectors, more inclusive equitable ownership and participation, and a different relationship with nature. The implication of this strategic choice (breadth before depth), and our systemic intervention change model rather than a more focused poke on one area is that we continually need to make progress on all fronts.

Operating context. Recognising GEC priority has and remains breadth but we need to be more precise on each thematic area as well, the operating context of our coalition partners adds another layer of complexity. i.e. we can create the thematic depth spaces for our partners to take forward, but we cannot compel them to make as much progress as we would like. Our overall approach, set within our systemic strategy is therefore pragmatic – create the breadth, clarify the political opportunity for focused content intervention (i.e. Green Must be Fair – GEC’s inequality approach), seek funds and when the partners are ready and money won, support them to take forward one of the areas. This GEC breadth versus depth challenge and the dependency on the secretariat for leading on particular programmes – remains the rationale for the GEC’s distributed delivery model - where one partner is nominated to lead on behalf of the coalition e.g. IIED’s dialogue on behalf of GEC, or CAFOD leading Green Must Be Fair. The distributed delivery should help us make more progress across the whole system and remove some of the dependency on the secretariat. It is intended to also help each partner feel they are playing to their strength whilst being part of a ‘systemic coalition programme’.

SF feedback on GEC 2018 plan:

- Agree depth versus breadth key GEC challenge, progress as an inclusive platform – scanning and coherence building. Further focus on the depth now needed.
- Consider developing Hubs in regions, further progress needed on distributed delivery model. Informal and SMEs. Develop annual flagship products – such as barometer which might become tracker. Need to continue to test assumptions of both platform and catalyst role, improve M&E and ensure we are a learning network.
- Social capital work relevant to GEC. GEC to link to it.
- Main themes for GEC development: a. Building the institution, b. developing five thematic areas, c. Grow finances. The secretariat is the palm from which comes the five themes. Secretariat has the core functions and partners take forward the themes. M&E important,
- Importance of GEC being back to back with PAGE conference. GEC to organise its global meeting in SA in proximity to 4-6 September PAGE ministerial.
- 2018 UN HLPF and PAGE focus on SCP and sustainable lifestyles. Can GEC contribute?
- Economics for nature and measurement agendas (Inclusive wealth report) important for UN, and useful to see how GEC can contribute.
- GEC to ensure delivery of Economics for nature and MWM.
- Green finance a priority on the global stage. GEC to engage through civil society.
- SMEs an EC priority. GEC to be visible and adding value to this.
- Need to consolidate the contributions of the big partners- GEC to develop a ‘leverage the current partners plan’ before a growth strategy (particularly in context of 2017 global meeting).
- Need to leverage the partnerships and products more aggressively. Higher use of GEC comms.
- Better clarity on what secretariat drives and what the partners drive.
- Consider the role of SCP and lifestyles narratives/policy as an Inequality lens.
- Get Green Must be Fair funded
- Grow GEC national dialogues – more countries

ACTION OG to revise plan with above points.

4. AOB

- **Steering group.** A proposal that each Steering group member should nominate a second, but as the Steering group membership is on a personal basis, that nominee can be either an organisational deputy or other.
 - **Steering Group decision – to appoint seconds.**
 - **SG ACTION to inform OG of second.**
 - **OG Action to send note to Aban about the role.**

AOB - strategic actions outstanding

- Principles concept – to be published in 2018
- OG to develop global SME plan
- OG to develop Partner Growth strategy. Partnership growth strategy – outstanding and needs to be accelerated. It needs to be clear on its approach to growth in developing countries, as we need to urgently address the north south balance of the GEC.

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Thursday, 15th March, 12.30pm-2pm, UK.

ACTION OG to put SG meetings in diary for 2018