



Attendees: Magnus Andre, Zeenat Niazi, Andy Norton, Steve Bass, Peter Poschen, Juha Siikamaki, Oliver Greenfield

Apologies: Steven Stone, Asad Naqvi, Mike Wilson, Holger Schmid

Agenda 24th June 2020:

1. Welcome and introduction to Magnus Andre (EC)
2. April minutes for approval.
3. Reporting
4. GEC June: Big programme reviews and sign-off
5. COVID 19 Campaign outline
6. AOB

1. Welcome and introduction to Magnus Andre (EC). Magnus’s first and last meeting as he is off to Cambodia for SIDA. Thibaut Portevin remains as alternate and copied into all communications. **ACTION EC to define new GEC SG lead.**

2. Draft – April Minutes – attached

- **SG approved. Action OG post on our GEC website.**

3. GEC reporting - SUMMARY – STATUS OF FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Note: At the last GEC SG (April 2020) 3 out of the 4 strategic themes were green and only one amber (social movements), now they are all amber. The previous scoring reflected the ambitions and work plans under normal conditions. COVID 19 has challenged the GEC to respond, and so whilst each of these strategic priorities remains a valid priority, expectations and progress against them grows. In short the COVID crisis demands our collective ramping up – to land transformative recovery policy, achieve urgent engagement with social movements to highlight the required reforms, a stronger more geographically diverse network to sustain a collective COVID response, and because we are project funded, additional resources to achieve an effective Coalition campaign approach. Therefore, under COVID response expectations, our progress assessments are changed to Amber.

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
1	Achieve mainstreaming economic reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy steps successfully launched with • Developed draft campaign offer – attached • EU, China • CBD, COP – links delayed • <i>Note: COVID campaign targets national structural reforms and international commitments declared at COP and CBD. I.e. the campaign is a way to build coherence across all of these targets.</i> 	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign development • Engage partners • CBD and COP activities • Pitch for additional funds
2	New Social movement plan in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general idea of forming a plan over 12 months would not meet the requirements of a campaign involving social movements. • This requires us to ramp up and develop deeper relationships now. • Progress made with: XR Youth, Green deal UK, COP 26, WeALL 	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global campaign invitation
3	GEC Building the coalition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hub co-creation team on board 	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate hub model development

	Strategic Theme	Status Update	Status	Planned activities
	network function co-defined with hubs and being implemented. Partnership growth enabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC Finance Dialogues project specifically supports evolution of hubs and membership. Once started, we have the means. • Draft paper in preparation to define a process. • Prototyping new hubs initiated FAS Brazil, Acode regional hub Uganda. • To support a global campaign – efforts must accelerate to address hubs weaknesses in US and EU 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – through Uganda regional hub and Amazon hub • Accelerate US and EU hub prospects
4	New funding pipeline strong with Tracker funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Funding Campaign – with Tracker at its heart, is paramount to rise to the COVID moment • Developing Brazil FAS-GEC Alliance around Amazon Bioeconomy; with outline proposal in development • Relationships being built with 3 foundations 	AMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focussing team on COVID campaign funding pitches and relationships

SG questions and answers:

- What are the operational impacts of COVID on our programmes and partners?
 - Limited direct negative impacts except for some hubs, that are not very equipped for homeworking, notably new Brazil hub, so it is difficult to initiate new work.
 - Some positives – in that it has forced innovation of online working, such as Africa Forum, which can be more inclusive of more stakeholders that would otherwise not be able to travel. We should learn lessons of this for future events.
- With the escalation of social movements work SG need to see what are the terms of this engagement, and process. **ACTION OG to develop a framework for social movement engagement and bring to next SG.**

4. GEC: Big programme reviews and sign-off

This agenda item is from our GEC Forward calendar¹. Two main programmes to review: Economics for Nature (funded by MAVA) and Dialogues (funded by EC).

- Note: Due to the time constraints of the SG meeting the main question for SG is ‘how to ensure SG have an effective governance role on our big programmes?’
- **SG general conclusions and recommendations against this question for OG ACTION:**
 - **Bring programmes to SG at key moments such as mid-term reviews – with lessons learned and progress tracking – such as traffic lights reporting.**
 - **Share key documents such as TOC.**
 - **Ensure key products get some SG representative review**
 - **Assign a SG member a more detailed overview role on behalf of SG**
 - **Ensure appropriate GEC programme director prepares these materials and is at the SG meeting to represent the programme**

4.1 Economics for Nature – a 6 year programme run by GEC, with partners Capitals Coalition, WWF France, GGKP.

Main aim is to bring together green economy communities and natural capital communities to support the national adoption of natural capital based green economies. [Project summary](#).

¹ Forward calendar for SG meetings approved in December 2019

NOTE – SG only had a summary conversation on this programme as HS absent. The programme is to be brought back on his return and at an appropriate moment

Snapshot of main achievements of the team to date:

- The programme visibly started by introducing Green economy at the [World Forum for Natural Capital in 2017](#)
- Pushed the idea of limits to nature in economic models through the [wealth of nature report](#)
- Hosted a TV debate at the 2019 UN PAGE opening session – on [what is wealth](#)
- Hosted a 2019 [DAVOS debate on what is wealth](#)
- Supported increased emphasis on nature as part of the green economy framing by main Green economy organisations through the creation of [“Principles, priorities and pathways for an inclusive green economy”](#) —
- It worked with 13 governments to progress natural capital understanding in green economy by co-creating [Natural Capital for Governments – What, Why and How](#).
- Developed and launched at DAVOS a comprehensive a green economy policy framework, the [Green Economy Tracker](#) placing natural capital as a central policy area and ultimately conveying the message of economic development being dependent on nature and natural capital policy
- Developed EU debate and policy paper on how [finance serve nature](#)
- Currently hosting [African Forum on Green Economy: Investing in Natural Capital for a Resilient Africa](#)
- **Programme management:** GEC successfully coordinated the process for the Mid-Term Evaluation with all the programme partners. Collectively we improved our Theory of Change for the second phase of the programme, with strong buy-in from all partners and a clearer sense of contributions to outcomes. This is now funded till the end of 2022.
- **Main programme direction** – influence targets rebalancing between global, regional and national actions: global – CBD, regional EU, Africa, China, through iconic country policy areas: Brazil, Uganda, China. Trying to get practical actions in place – such as AFDB.
- **Main Programme Lessons:**
 - Collaboration is difficult, success takes considerable effort on behalf of all partners, commitment to two weekly calls and further bi-lateral.
 - A co-created theory of change and impact route map has been essential to orientate all partner’s work and support collaboration
 - Moving from influencing global communities to in-country stakeholder requires considerable efforts and is best achieved within project timescales by building on already active country partnerships – to this point GEC leverages connections to the EC funded GEC hubs.

SG debate:

- **General: – SG review to follow general recommendations**
- **Explore strong links to COVID campaign - Promoting the value of this programme to the GEC members and hubs and towards influencing CBD.**
- TOC demonstrates the balance between global, regional and national activities, such as Brazil hub,
- Starting to see E4N leverage and benefit from the EC programme and vice versa – i.e. E4N leveraging GEC hubs, and EC leveraging E4N Tracker
- Overall, very useful update but deeper programme review requested at appropriate moment.

4.2 EC dialogues programme: Initially a 3 ½ year 9 partner, 7 country programme to develop national GE debates and action, coordinating action and insights to global GE debates. [Programme summary](#). The logic of the programme was to create civil society spaces and debates on green economy, which would help those countries (predominately PAGE countries) – to have informed stakeholders who could support effective **inclusive** national green economy policy making and implementation, and to ensure this was empowered by a global network and global influence. The first phase was therefore titled ‘Creating enabling policy conditions for the transformation towards and inclusive green economy’. The programme is now starting a phase 2: a 2 year programme in the same 7 countries partners, this time focussing on making finance flow to stimulate inclusive green economy action. The programme now includes our GEC finance lead, Brussels based [Finance Watch](#), to contribute to EU international GE finance policy.

Snapshot of main achievements of the team to date:

- National and global programmes, websites and partner hubs established with ongoing activities and content; [India](#), [Mongolia](#), [Uganda](#), [South Africa](#), [Senegal](#), [Caribbean](#), [Peru](#), [Global \(UK\)](#)
- Barometer series – taking stock of national and global GE transitions: [Senegal](#), [Peru](#), [Eastern Caribbean](#), [India](#), [South Africa](#), [Uganda](#), [Mongolia](#), Global: [2016](#), [2017](#), [2020](#)
- GEC Global meeting and learning events: [Trinidad 2017](#), [South Africa 2019](#), [India 2020](#)
- Contributed to the network development and co-created evolution of GEC global strategies. [GEC 2016](#), [GEC 2020-2030](#)
- In countries, GEC hubs connected to PAGE or Switch-to-Green policy initiatives; e.g in Senegal GEC hub GEC hub now chairs the subcommittee of the National Green Economy Platform. DA (GEC India hub) now on PAGE India board. With the Switch-to-Green initiatives, GEC hubs in India and Uganda have worked together to support local green enterprises. The GEC-India partner, DA, have collaborated on sustainable production systems (SPS) and resource efficiency and have formed a partnership with Switch Asia to create a road map for Indian resource efficiency. In Uganda, ACODE is a member of the Switch Africa Green (SAG) National Technical Coordination Committee and has supported the monitoring of SAG programme SMEs in north Uganda.
- Developed joint policy positions and feed them into key debates: [UN PAGE ministerial](#), Small business [Santa Cruz declaration](#), Delhi Statement on Small Green Enterprises.
- The PAGE GEC relationship helped catalyse the broader Institutional Collaboration group and their publications [Principles, Priorities and Pathways](#) and [COVID Recovery Policy](#)
- Overall, the EC dialogues programme has been the foundation of GEC’s dialogue approach to change, it set up our network of hubs and global learning together, it contributed to inclusive strategy development and our global influence. This dialogue approach will be captured in our important publication, **‘Accelerating Green Economies by putting people first.’**
- **Programme management:** GEC UK hub successfully coordinated the programme, achieving the above results, but most importantly turning contractual relationships into GEC members who wish to own the GEC global work programme and define its new distributed delivery structure and growth. This work has been rewarded by a further EC contract till the mid 2022.
- **Main programme direction** – address key constraints to investments and promote good governance among small green enterprises. As the green economy policy frameworks mature in our partner countries (in part thanks to our first phase of work), it is now important to get ever more practical and focus in on how to stimulate small green enterprises and specifically their access to supportive policy and investment. The lessons for investors will be fed back directly into EC policy via Finance Watch. Through this process the hubs will continue to work together to develop the GEC distributed delivery model, securing both a more resilient, inclusive GEC network and sustainability of their own actions.
- **Main Programme Lessons:**
 - Setting up country hubs takes at least a year. Establishing shared approaches (dialogues), empowered local teams, and ensuring the right access to national policy processes also takes time.
 - Frequent regular catch ups are essential, however, shared whole team catch ups are almost impossible because of the breadth of timescales covered.
 - This programme had been more successful than reports can do justice, because there is now a global network of colleagues who trust each other, learn and act together and want to own and deliver the GEC’s future.
 - This has now spurred GEC’s expansion ambitions and methods – including setting up FAS Brazil Hub, and expanding Uganda to be a regional hub.

SG debate:

- **General: – SG review to follow general recommendations**
- **Specific:**
 - Define better how the SG governance adds/fits with the existing EC programme governance structure.
 - Noted that the value of a project that specifically helps build a network.

- Examples of hub network learning and co-development – such as the Canari SMME tool now being used in India.
- Ongoing - Improving in country collaboration with PAGE, GGGI, Switch to Green initiatives.
- **Action – this work to invest in SMMEs is very relevant to COVID campaign and should be considered.**

5. COVID 19 Campaign – draft campaign outline

As a first step, GEC helped convene the Institutional collaboration group (Partners for Inclusive Green Economies) and [published our joint 10 options for a green and fair recovery paper](#). Following up on this, as agreed in GEC SG April 2020 – OG was actioned to bring a 2 pager on GEC COVID 19 campaign. The paper is attached and covers:

- What intervention is needed and why?
- Why GEC?
- What do we propose to do?
 - Based on existing resources
 - With additional funding
- Additional supporting information
- The proposed campaign elements

Note: This has been a difficult exercise; mostly because we recognise the moment demands a significant intervention, and yet GEC is project funded and so unless we win additional funds, we risk raising unrealistic expectations.

SG discussion on the 2 pager, decisions and advice:

SG Decision: Unanimous– GEC must lean into this moment and offer an intervention.

Areas for improvement/consideration:

- Is this a campaign? Do we have campaign skills? Some approval of the campaign as a short spike of work attracting partners into a clear time-bound action
- The demand and need for this work are urgent – so GEC’s unique attributes of structural reform clarity (tracker) and ready-made network are considerable assets.
- Like the logic, the GEC USP, the campaign purpose and vision. The biggest question is around the campaign objective.
- More clarity on the proposed targets of change and what will be the proposed evidence that they have been made?
- Campaign need to target both countries and global processes – CBD and COP, but also G7, G20 etc.
- Theory of change partially evident in the 2 pager – needs to be stronger. The TOC is a condensed GEC strategy TOC – supply side ambitious structural economic reforms measured by tracker, (EU Green Deal is as prototype of success) and demand side – ensuring a bigger, broader, deeper and clearer societal demand is articulated in some shape TBD – but social contract is one idea.
- Framing – should be clearer on delivering jobs and livelihoods.
- More specifics on the proposed activities – without additional funds and with.
- General role with or without extra funds is to facilitate national action. National contexts are key here so the programme needs to support rather than drive.
- Need to highlight shovel ready projects that have data and evidence of success
- The paper as an invitation to collaborate needs sharper questions – eg. How is our recovery money spent?

- Follow up with PIGE group, as they may wish to support.
- **SG ACTION to offer track changes on the 2 pager asap, and OG to revise.**

6. **AOB**

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Wednesday, 26th August, 12.30pm-2pm, UK.

Appendix: GEC Forward calendarⁱ that maps above agenda items to a year of SG activity:

December: Annual review of strategy and partnership. - Global meeting agenda

February: Annual plan – calendar of events – priorities and targets for the year

April: Building the coalition – including funding

June: Big programme reviews and sign-off

August: Influencing, Tracker, E4N review, other policy areas

October: Telling the story and Barometer - context

December: global meeting strategy, partnership, annual plan review

Each meeting could have 5-minute standing agenda item on ‘horizon scanning’ – to identify big strategic issues

Individual SG members could volunteer to take the lead for particular items in the calendar. The advantage of a forward calendar is this should enable members’ forward planning.

ⁱ Forward calendar for SG meetings approved in December 2019