

MINUTES GEC Steering Group, Thursday 13th October 2016

Attendees: Mick Blowfield, Oliver Greenfield, Aban Marker Kabraji, Thibaut Portevin, Steven Stone, Mike Wilson, George Varughese



Apologies: Peter Poschen-Eiche, Steve Bass. **Comments received from both in advance.**

Agenda 13th October 2016:

1. Introductions – Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN, joins the GEC Steering Group
2. GEC strategy sign-off
3. GEC Natural capital strategy – MAVA
4. GEC new partner applications
5. AOB – strategic actions outstanding

1. Introductions

- We are delighted to welcome Aban Marker Kabraji, IUCN, to the steering group.

2. GEC strategy sign-off

- **GEC Strategy attached.** A draft was developed on agreed core activities and 5 policy areas in advance of the GEC summit. The GEC summit was used to engage the coalition and feedback was created both at the summit and for a one month period after. The attached document reflects all feedback received. Steering group sign-off is required for us to post it on our GEC site.

SG comments

- **Overall strong document that represents the GEC summit conversations and consensus**
- **Big gulf between outcome and outputs. This reflects that this is a network vision and long term strategy – not a business plan. But it also needs to position our projects and their outputs – so some more reflection on this needed.**
- **Ways of working could get better clarity, specifically the roles of the secretariat and role of members**
- **Need to more systematically separate ‘targets’ from ‘allies’, actors and partners in the stakeholder column. It is not very clear as it stands.**

Actions: OG to polish along lines of SG advice and then post as signed off

3. GEC Natural Capital Strategy – MAVA

Post Rio 2012 – the founders of the GEC defined its core roles: **to champion equity, inclusion and environmental limits** in the economic transitions.

GEC has successfully prioritised working on Inclusion (with notable results) and it also has an emergent ‘Green Must be Fair’ programme to tackle Equity. Yet, to date, it has not mounted a sizeable attempt to tackle environmental limits within the economic transition.

The foundation MAVA has indicated they are wish GEC to help develop their natural capital strategy and identify some roles GEC could undertake on their behalf. A document was presented which represents an initial scope of the strategy and potential GEC roles.

Note: challenging timeline for submission to MAVA – 4th November, which must include a review.

SG comments

- **Overall strong first draft.**
- **Concerns about natural capital concept – asset classes, discount rates, substitutability of capitals.**

- **More recognition needed on the roles and value of other initiatives (NCD Alliance, TEEB, WAVES etc.)**
- **Therefore, more thought required on unique role of GEC (the voice of conscience, communications, and challenge).**
- **Need to be clearer on theory of change, results chain and how this will work as projects/programme.**
- **Finance important but suggested change may be too broad.**
- **Need to be clearer how this works at subnational levels.**
- **Needs to be clearer how it incentivises private sectors (beyond resource use alone).**
- **More clarity on what agency and institutions are we targeting and for what change.**

OG initial response. Natural capital is Mava's frame. We share concerns, and that 'concern' is one of our added values – that nature is a common good, for which economic tools and the natural capital concept can play a role. Secondly, that our programmes have a communication piece, a global policy piece and a national implementation piece. We seek to ensure natural capital policy addresses legitimate concerns is implemented effectively in national GE transitions.

ACTIONS

1. **OG develop next draft**
2. **SG to recommend 2 people for review and make introductions.**
3. **OG to submit to reviewers 24th October for comments back on the 1st of November**
4. **OG to submit to MAVA 4th November**

4. GEC New partner applications

Firstly, in support of our EC dialogue delivery in Peru (the final country to be resolved) we have held a comprehensive search and tender process, which culminated in two consortia responding to the tender. Our preferred consortium, based both on the strength of their proposal and also UNPAGE feedback is described below. GEC secretariat proposes both organisations for GEC membership (a prerequisite to contracting them under the EC contract):

- **Libélula Comunicación Ambiente y Desarrollo**. **Libelula** is the leading Peruvian consultancy firm and think tank created in 2007 which specializes in Climate Change management and communication. Libelula works closely with a wide range of public and private actors, identifying climate change associated risks and opportunities to inspire sustainable policies and activities at all levels towards a low carbon future, the efficient use of resources and to build resilience in the face of climate change. Libelula has demonstrated experience in international cooperation fund management, international climate change negotiations, synergy generation between key actors in climate change at the national and international levels.
- **FORO Nacional Internacional**. **FNI** is a think + link + act organization, based in Lima, Peru. As a think-tank, it combines integrative and applied research using innovative methodologies. Consulting both with experts and citizens, FNI links and connects a diversity of actors, to facilitate decision-making processes and improving public policy design. FNI helps other agencies in the process of implementing strategies for sustainable development, acting as a catalyst of joint actions between the public sector, private sector and civil society at the local, regional and global levels. FNI has over 20 years of experience in managing and implementing research projects; providing technical assistance to public institutions, international cooperation agencies and private entities in policy design and implementation; and in supporting strategic planning and management processes. In addition to inclusive and sustainable development FNI works in the fields of science, technology and innovation; international financing and development cooperation; development strategies and strategic planning in the public sector; and social development and poverty reduction.

SG action – Review the application forms. Highlight any concerns or give approval

SG Comments:

- **What do Peru PAGE say about partners?**
- **What alternatives have been considered?**
- **Foro as a consultancy is less easy to contract under EC rules.**

OG responses:

- **PAGE Peru consulted**
- **Rigorous due-diligence and tender process – resulted in two consortia. This the strongest overall** but it was an exceptionally tight call. This was primarily due to our perception of their communications skills, as websites and engaging materials are a big priority for the project. However, their civil society engagement skills and knowledge of Green economy was considered a bit weaker than desired. This was challenged post bid in follow up conversations. They made a good response to this challenge.
- **This is about running an EC project** – which does not suit all organisations. Other key organisations were identified during the tender process but they did not apply. However, we have expressed the desire to work with them as key stakeholders. This includes the losing consortium.

SG decision: membership sign-off

Secondly, there are 2 other new partner applications. One of which, OXFAM GB, has been strategically pursued for the last few years. The second is CUSP, an influential research network pioneering the Prosperity theme. **The GEC secretariat proposes them both to the Steering group for GEC membership.**

- [Oxfam GB](#) is the largest affiliate in a confederation of 19 partners. Since 1942 it has worked to support those experiencing poverty and tackle the root causes of injustice. Through its work Oxfam sees the impact of a changing climate on the most vulnerable people – how development is being undermined by the pressures a small part of humanity are putting on the planet. Oxfam’s work is grounded in robust research (bringing a human face to this evidence) and its activities encompasses humanitarian response, long term development work to reduce vulnerability and campaigning activities to change the policies and power imbalances that lead to poverty. It works to raise the voices of marginalised men and women and engage the public in a movement to create a world without poverty.
 - **OXFAM are a key partner in GEC’s Green Must Be Fair – Equity theme.**

SG decision: membership sign-off

- [Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity \(CUSP\)](#). CUSP, led by Prof. Tim Jackson, is a major investment by the UK Economic and Social Research Council and is developing a 5-year programme of research into foundational questions concerning the development of a sustainable economy and society. CUSP’s focus on the nature of sustainable prosperity is highly relevant to GEC. The CUSP network brings together a wide range of partner organisations from academia, civil society, public sector and business, and will develop a diverse range of opportunities for knowledge exchange and co-creation of research agendas and projects. Tim Jackson’s on-going work on ecological macroeconomic modelling and mapping a sustainable economy is of major relevance to the GEC. The CUSP team is committed to continuous dialogue and learning with partners across sectors.
 - **GEC’s Aim – ‘Prosperity for all within one planet limits’ – prompts us to be more specific on what Prosperity means and how it can be achieved. CUSP can offer value to this question**

SG question: CUSP is a network. What does this mean for the applying universities?

OG action to ask CUSP.

SG decision – SG overall supportive of CUSP membership but clarify university question first

5. AOB – strategic actions outstanding

- **Institutional collaboration.** The theme of collaboration between key institutions (GGGI, UNPAGE, GEC, GIZ, IIED, ILO, OECD, GIZ) for green growth and green economy national action, has been successful.
 - **OG to develop ‘what next’.**
- **Distributed delivery model.** GEC steering group asked OG to create a paper on ‘GEC Planning for Growth - the Distributed delivery institutional model’.
 - **OG to deliver it to Steering group in early 2017.**
- **GEC at PAGE Berlin –**
 - **OG and Steven Stone to discuss off line and revert to SG with proposition**

NEXT GEC Steering group MEETING: Friday 20th January 2017, 12.30pm-2pm, UK