

Minutes of GEC Steering Group (SG) 4th February 2016

Attendees: Oliver Greenfield (OG), Steve Bass (SB), Steven Stone (SS), George Varughese (GV), Peter Poschen (PV)



Apologies: Mike Wilson (MW)

Agenda February 4th 2016:

1. Introductions – Mike Wilson from Sustainable Prosperity joins the GEC Steering Group
2. The GEC strategy, the 2016 plan and its opportunities/priorities for GEC
3. IIED – hosting the GEC into a new phase – implications and decisions.
4. New member applications for SG decision
5. AOB

1. Introductions

- **SG Please check [biogs](#) on GEC site.**

2. The GEC strategy, the 2016 plan and its opportunities/priorities for GEC

GEC Strategy: Mainstreaming the green economy, and championing **equity, inclusion** and **environmental limits** in the economic transition.

It has three core activities: mobilising through **dialogue**, building narrative and coherence through **knowledge platforms**, supporting shared action on **five policy areas**.

The five policy areas are **measurement, finance reform, sectors, people, planet**. Our transformative agenda is delivered by championing connected change in all of these five areas, through inclusive action, at all levels: local, national, and global.

We co-create our strategy and refresh it every year in our annual summit. See the [GEC strategy document from Sept 2014](#).

GEC 2016 Plan (provisional)

Main Outcomes planned:

1. Mobilising through dialogues:

- Seven country dialogues launched (India, Caribbean, South Africa, Senegal, Uganda, Mongolia, Peru).
 - i. Ensure national dialogues offer in country collaboration opportunities for all GEC members.
 - ii. **Achieve effective institutional collaboration agreements (UN PAGE, GGGI, other institutions) to support effective national action**

• Building narrative and coherence through knowledge platforms:

- Develop a global campaign around the story of transition, (potential for national GE benchmarking)
 - Update GEC big picture narrative (and website)
 - Make sure this is more prominent on member websites

• Shared action on five policy areas:

1. **SDGs to measure what matters.**
 - Launch follow on Measure What Matters at big HRH London event (provisional date July 12th)
2. **Finance**
 - Recruit Finance partners. Consider UNEP Inquiry – GEC as the watchdog for implementation
3. **Sectors – and SMEs**
 - Take www.greeneconet.eu global – implementing local versions in 7 dialogue countries
 - Set up GEC Energy group – to define our shared energy position

4. People - the three Ins – Inequality, Informality, Inclusion
 - Establish a Inequality group – 26th Feb 2016 kick off meeting
 - Hold Informality event – 25th Feb 2016. [Eventbrite page available here](#). Determine follow-on.
 - Inclusion – build stronger connections to Inequality and Informality
 5. Planet
 - Launch ethics of natural capital with IUCN, SWT and WWF.
- **Funding and IIED relationship**
 - Finalise EC contracts and grants to GEC partners
 - Secure Match funding plus. Funding is needed for: Campaign and Inequality work – target £500K per annum
 - Secure next phase MOU with IIED (covered next as item 3 on the agenda)
 - **Network:**
 - Hold GEC Global summit (provisional date week of July 12 (to coincide with MWM) **to confirm, plan and mobilise strategy with members**
 - Expand membership – from 46 members
 - Expand Steering Group. Currently all male. Finance, Business, Greater geographical spread.
 - Improve network communications (Comms strategy in development).
 - Potential for New CEO and Friends meeting to create/strengthen impetus and ownership at senior levels
 - Respond to invitation from GGGI to be at South Korea – Green Economy week.

SG Questions, DECISIONS and Actions: Is the plan reasonable? Anything missing?

- Too ambitious a plan? OG response – the plan is for all members to deliver. The GEC secretariat is the convenor and enabler – but not responsible for all the work. **ACTION: GEC SG to review plan periodically.**
- Have we enough money? OG response – we will can use EC money to drive forward Dialogue and knowledge platform refresh. We can also use those funds to implement next phase of Measure What Matters and SME platforms in the 7 countries. The other areas require additional funding and resources in kind from GEC members. Additional Funding Target £500K p.a reasonable. **ACTIONS- OG to develop funding proposals. GEC steering group to encourage network in Kind contributions and also review/assist funding success.**
- GEC to prioritise successful outcome for institutional collaboration process (UN PAGE, GGGI, other institutions). **ACTION – OG to create plan and manage next steps.**
- GEC to be at GGGI South Korea Green Growth Week in Sept. **Action OG to confirm with GGGI, GEC presence and role. (Potential roles to include – Inclusion review, Institutional collaboration senior sign-off, and GEC CEO and friends event). OG to report to SG.**
- GEC to progress Ethics of natural capital work, involving NCC. **ACTION – OG to follow up with NCC, and other relevant partners**
- GEC to reach out to UNIDO re SME partnership with their green industry platform. **ACTION – OG to follow up with UNIDO**
- GEC Steering group needs more cultural, content and gender diversity. **ACTION – SG to consider new members (in relation to strategy and plans).**
- Brazil a leader on SMEs and Informality. **ACTION – PP to develop links and introductions for Brazil partners to Informality work leader (IIED).**
- GEC should consider PAGE Berlin 2017 as an important milestone. **ACTION – OG and SS to develop GEC role at Berlin.**
- **OVERALL PLAN complimented and SIGNED OFF – with the above additions/priorities. To be used for GEC network global summit.**

3. IIED – hosting the GEC into a new phase – background, opportunity, rationale, implications and SG decisions.

Background: IIED has changed Director and senior departmental Heads. Therefore some IIED - GEC institutional history is less well known. At the same time GEC is expanding: impact, staff, finances and new risks (such as delivery against EC contracts). This has prompted IIED to wish to refresh the IIED - GEC MOU and create better clarity on governance responsibilities. (This was due to be refreshed in 2016/17 anyway). IIED's main issues/questions are: IIED is carrying most of GEC's risk. What do other partners carry and contribute? Are there fairer ways to distribute risk and decision making?

Opportunity:

This prompts an opportunity to consider the structure and ownership of our network, in order that it can both grow, be more influential and capable and raise more funds, whilst managing better the risks associated with this success, and distributing them more fairly across the network.

Some GEC Secretariat Network thoughts:

The GEC experience shows that our success is dependent on some core attributes. These are: member **ownership** of GEC network, content **leadership** on particular GE themes, a strong commitment and belief in **collaboration, and ultimately money**. The questions of how to cultivate this ownership, leadership, encourage collaboration and raise funds have been central to GEC secretariat's challenges.

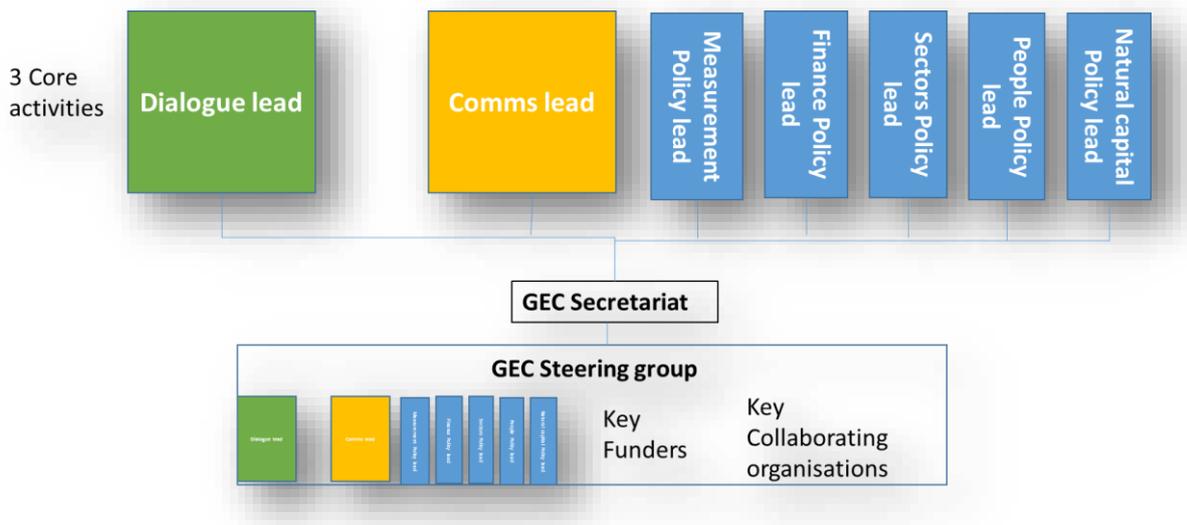
Our conclusions are:

- Ownership:
 - Members must see their agenda represented in the group, they must feel a share of the risk and reward, the opportunity to shape, decide and be given the opportunity to be part of network governance. Hence: yearly strategy refresh. Other options – more steering group representation.
- Leadership:
 - Each member can see that their specialty can be their leadership strength in the GE debates (e.g. IIED's – dialogues, and three 'Ins' – Inequality, Informality, Inclusion; or WWF and IUCN on natural capital). We need to ensure members take a lead on these issues and use the GEC platform to amplify their knowledge. To do this the GEC secretariat must spend a lot of time with each member to ensure they both see and take the content opportunity and cultivate member content confidence.
- Collaboration:
 - The whole broad story 'Big picture' and refresh it collaboratively orientates members and their particular specialties and bonds us as a group. GEC secretariat should refresh regularly in collaboration with all members.
 - Make collaboration PAY. By bringing in funding that depends on multi-organisational projects, where each partner is paid to deliver their part and collaboration becomes a natural GEC approach.
- Funding – each organisation has its funding sources. It is therefore logical that if further funds are needed that are most pertinent to their skill base, that they could be effective in raising those funds.

The Conclusions to this thinking as try to match the GEC network organisational structure better to GEC strategy. i.e. we consider creating a multi-organisational GEC operating model defined by housing particular themes with member's who have the most relevant expertise, and they lead on the funding and execution, with GEC secretariat support.

- This would mean – different coalition partners lead on different themes using the GEC brand. For example and **only illustratively**: IIED – Dialogues, NEF – Story Campaign, 5 Policy themes spread around–etc.

Figure 1. Potential GEC Phase 4 Network operating model.



Implications and SG decisions.

1. Steering group – in the immediate term:
 - a. **IIED Director of Sustainable Markets (Mick Blowfield) to join GEC Steering group. ACTION – OG to invite to next meeting.**
 - b. GEC steering group benefits from the ongoing role of Steve Bass – for continuity and GE knowledge. **SG decision: Steve Bass to continue on GEC steering group**
2. New IIED GEC MOU – **ACTION OG to develop IIED GEC governance agreement**
3. Insufficient time to discuss - a new multi-organisational GEC operating model. **ACTION – OG to find new opportunity to discuss**

4. New member applications for SG decision

- a. [Africege](#)- Existing relationship – ran a SA hub for the GEC. Now needed for the EC - SA HUB work.

SG approves Africege admittance to GEC

5. AOB

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED Thursday 7th April 2016. 1pm UK.