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Taking the Plunge

Global Transition Dialogue #2

a multi-stakeholder  
magazine on  
climate change  
and sustainable  
development

# outreach.

20 March 2012



**RIO+20**  
United Nations  
Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development

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## Taking the Plunge

Derek Osborn  
President, Stakeholder Forum

150 stakeholder representatives gathered over the weekend at Pace University for The Global Transition Dialogue #2, to review progress on the road to Rio and emerging thinking about the green economy.

All were agreed that sustainable development remains the goal - development that meets the needs of the present while protecting the health of the planet and the interests of future generations. The greening of the global economy must be understood not as an end in itself, but as a way of creating or strengthening the means or instruments for moving faster towards a more sustainable pattern of development in the future.

There is not one single global economy, but many different interconnected regional, national and local economies. By the same token, there is not one single blueprint for greening the economy, but many different green transitions needed to suit different local and sectoral situations.

Greening the economy may be a relatively new term to describe this process, but the various elements of the concept have also been contained within the sustainable development discourse from the outset - pricing externalities, eliminating perverse subsidies, enforcing regulatory standards, redirecting investment flows, promoting equity and social protection, fulfilling oft-repeated pledges about international co-operation and assistance, recognising common but differentiated responsibilities.

What is new is the growing recognition that the pace of change needs to be stepped up. There are already numerous examples of the sustainable development model working well in particular settings and localities. The concept is well proven, and several encouraging examples were presented over the weekend. But far too many of the world's economies and economic actors are still locked into unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Natural resources are being degraded and depleted. Inequity is increasing.

Poverty still blights the lives of many people and communities. Neither environmental nor social goals are being met. The transition to sustainability must be accelerated. What can Rio do to bring this about? Several messages that have been directed from stakeholders towards the official negotiators were reinforced over the weekend

- Clarify the concept and principles of the green economy
- Establish better metrics and indicators for tracking progress towards sustainable development
- Set more integrated goals and targets for progress on sustainable development by 2030
- Establish a new framework for corporate social responsibility and reporting so as to encourage businesses to operate in a more sustainable way
- Guide the flows of public and private investment in the world to support more sustainable projects and products
- Pinpoint the kind of fiscal and regulatory changes needed to incentivise more sustainable behaviour by all economic actors
- Embed the teaching of sustainable development throughout the world of education and training
- Equity and fairness must be at the heart of any transition to a new and green economy

The current economic crisis is tending to make governments timid and cautious. But the transition to the green economy is urgent and needs bold and ambitious leadership. Properly managed, these changes will themselves assist the economic recovery everyone desires. Business as usual policies can only lead to failure as usual. But in many small and encouraging ways, stakeholders are already showing on the ground that the sustainability transition can, and does, work for the benefit of all. There is nothing to fear about the green revolution but fear itself.

We have been shivering timidly for too long on the brink of the sustainability pool. Now is the time to take the plunge. It is warmer in than out. ■

### OUTREACH IS PUBLISHED BY:



#### About Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholder Forum is an international organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development through enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes. For more information, visit: [www.stakeholderforum.org](http://www.stakeholderforum.org)

Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. Outreach is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena and has been produced at international meetings on the environment, including the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and at COP15 and COP16. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability arena as well as a voice of regional and local governments, women, indigenous peoples, trade unions, industry, youth and NGOs. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

If you are interested in contributing to Outreach, please contact the team ([gmacdonald@stakeholderforum.org](mailto:gmacdonald@stakeholderforum.org)) You can also follow us on Twitter: @OutreachLive

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### MORE INFORMATION



The Global Transition Dialogue #2 on the New Economy was held as part of the Global Transition 2012 Initiative. Global Transition 2012 is an international network of organisations and leading thinkers from the Global North and South. The goal of the Initiative is to achieve an

outcome from Rio +20 that catalyses a global transition to an economy that maximises wellbeing, operates within environmental limits, and is capable of coping and adapting to global environmental change in an equitable manner. [www.globaltransition2012.org](http://www.globaltransition2012.org) ■



# Global Transition Dialogue #2 on the New Economy

Kirsty Schneeberger  
Senior Project Officer, Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholder Forum and nef (the new economics foundation) are working in partnership with the New Economics Institute and the Green Economy Coalition to organise a series of Dialogues on the new economy.

## Dialogue # 1 – New York, 13th October 2011:

This one day event, hosted at the New Economics Institute, brought together 25 of the lead authors and peer reviewers to discuss the ideas and proposals contained in a set of Challenge Papers, and identify principles for the Global Transition to a Green Economy.

Following the dialogue, a core advocacy group presented initial findings from the dialogue to the Rio+20 secretariat – UN DESA – as well as G77 missions to the UN and members of the Rio+20 bureau. This was an opportunity to test the robustness of the outputs of the dialogue and develop the policy aspects of the emerging principles and policy recommendations that were synthesised into the Global Transition-Green Economy element of the Stakeholder Forum submission to the UN zero draft.

## Dialogue # 2

On *March 17th* and *18th* the second Dialogue focused on the 'priority areas', as roughly outlined in the zero draft. The two days were framed by the overall objective of considering how new economic policy can deliver poverty reduction and create resilient and resource-efficient sectors and industries. In addition, roundtable discussions provided a forum for participants to share their experiences of transitioning to a new economy and showcase their own projects.

Presentations were offered by many experts and practitioners in the field, including **Veerle Vanderweerd**, Director of the Group of Energy and Environment, UNDP who offered a very interesting perspective on the ways in which the transition is already underway in many places around the world; and **Liz Thompson**, Executive Coordinator, Rio+20 who reminded participants of the responsibility they had to future generations in leaving a legacy of a new and green economy.

**Other speakers included Tara Rao**, Danish 92 group; **Viki Johnson**, Head of Energy and Climate, new economics foundation; and **Soledad Ghione**, Latin American Center of Social Ecology presenting on how a green economy can genuinely deliver poverty eradication and be a vehicle for sustainable development; reinforcing the view that a business as usual scenario with a hint of 'green' would not be sufficient.

The **Green Economy Coalition** has been engaging in a national dialogue process for the last eighteen months - **Nicole Leotaud**, **Aron Belinky**, **Vijay Chaturvedi**, and **José-Arturo Santos** from the Coalition were all able to offer practical examples and share their experiences and stories of the flourishing new and green economy on the ground.

The first day wrapped up with **Oliver Greenfield**, Green Economy Coalition; **Anabella Rosemberg**, ITUC; and **Rick Clugstone**, Earth Charter, who in their presentations were able to draw upon the experiences offered by the Green Economy Coalition partners and share thinking on the overall principles that should guide a transition. Other panel discussions focused on 'enabling conditions' and **Daniel Abreu**, National Climate Change Council of the Dominican Republic; **Paul Dickinson Chairman**, Carbon Disclosure Project; and **Fulai Sheng**, Senior Economist at UNEP's Economics and Trade Branch, offered thoughts on the action that individuals, as well as collectives of people, can do to build on the momentum that is gathering pace.

**Cameron Allen**, UN DESA; and **Farooq Ullah**, Stakeholder Forum; each offered a presentation on how the shift to the new and green economy can be facilitated by a range of tools such as an online 'knowledge sharing platform' and ensuring that practices and approaches are aligned in the lead up to Rio+20 - and beyond. **Nis Christensen**, Chief Advisor to the Danish Government, shared updates on the EU position going into the informals and **Dr Greg Julian** offered a rousing closing address that hailed the hard work of the participants in building an economy to be proud of.

## Global Transition Dialogue #2 Supporting Organisations

The Global Transition 2012 coordinating team is extremely grateful to all the support that has been shown in preparation for the Dialogue. Many people have contributed their time, expertise, thoughts and suggestions; and the programme and panel discussions were all the more interesting for this shared knowledge.

The first and second Global Transition Dialogues, including supporting participants from the global south, have been made possible by the generous support of the VELUX Foundations; and the broader initiative activities are made possible by the generous support of the Ford Foundation and the EU. The venue and catering was kindly co-sponsored by Pace University, NYC.

The full **Dialogue #2 information pack**, including background papers and the full list of speakers and participants is available here: [www.globaltransition2012.org/dialogues/global-transition-dialogue-2-on-the-new-economy-resources](http://www.globaltransition2012.org/dialogues/global-transition-dialogue-2-on-the-new-economy-resources) ■

# Join us in Mapping a Green and Fair World!

Carina Millstone  
Program Director, New Economics Institute

On March 17th, at the Global Transition 2012 dialogue #2 held at Pace University, the New Economics Institute, the new economics foundation (nef), Stakeholder Forum and the Green Economy Coalition launched our Global Transition to a New Economy Map, to an enthusiastic audience of 140 delegates from civil society groups, governments and UN agencies.

The online, open-source map creates a compelling vision of a green and fair economy, rooted in projects on the ground. It opens a space to share information and best practice, to build the future we want, from the bottom up. The map capitalises on the momentum created through the Global Transition 2012 dialogues, and on the opportunities presented by Rio+20, to continue to build a global civil society movement for a new economy.

Our map shows that an economy geared towards the creation of a green and fair world is possible and workable, and that communities and organisations around the world are already putting in place its foundations, through inspiring, replicable projects. The map showcases and celebrates the work of these social change agents and illustrates how small-scale, local, and community projects add up to tangible global change.

Our map showcases a myriad of projects, policy and practices, including cooperatives and social enterprises, local currencies, municipalities measuring wellbeing, community energy micro-generation, green skills training, and many more. Rooted in their locality and responding to local need, these projects vary greatly, and highlight how our common path to a green and fair world takes different forms in the Global North and Global South, and within countries. Common to all the projects is their role in challenging business as usual, and their contribution to the systemic transformation of nine key economic and societal areas, which we see as critical in building a green and fair world. These include: Citizens and Communities, Currencies, Finance, Global Justice, Governance, Local Economies, Models and Metrics, The Commons, and Enterprise and Ownership.

In addition to showcasing new economy initiatives, the map also provides a platform for knowledge-sharing. It offers a space for groups, organisations and activists to signpost resources and share tips with others engaged in similar projects, or those thinking about starting projects in their communities. Through this exchange,



we are gathering extensive information on new economy projects - their aims, location, size and activities. We plan to analyse and share this information in order to celebrate success stories and highlight best practice approaches for the new economy.

Bob Massie, President and Chief Executive of the New Economics Institute said: "Our map shows that an economy built on the principles of sustainability and equity is not only possible, but that it is already coming into being all around us. Hastening its arrival is the task we have set ourselves at the New Economics Institute, and our Global Transition project with our partners in the UK is a key part of this work"

To get the ball rolling, we have put 600+ projects on the map. We now invite all activists, community groups and organisations to share their experience of building the new economy by putting their project on the map. We aim to put 2012 projects on the map to take with us to Rio+20, and show governments what the new economy looks like!

Join us on **Thursday 22nd March** for a drinks reception at our New York office, where New Economics Institute staff will be on hand to provide training about how to use the map, including navigating entries and uploading your own projects.

The event will be held at the **New Economic Institute, 437 Madison Avenue, Floor 37 from 5.30-7.30pm.**

To view and use the map please visit [www.gtne.org](http://www.gtne.org) or write to us at [globaltransition@neweconomicsinstitute.org](mailto:globaltransition@neweconomicsinstitute.org) for more information ■

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carina Millstone is a Program Director at the New Economics Institute, a US non-profit organisation based in New York City that combines vision, theory, action, and communication to effect a transition to a new economy.



# Global Transition Challenge Papers

The Global Transition 2012 initiative has commissioned a series of peer reviewed challenge papers on key themes of the Green Economy.

The challenge paper themes were selected to develop a clear perspective on the emerging priority areas for Rio+20 including: Beyond GDP, Global Inequality, One Planet Living, The Blue Economy, Energy, Food Security, Global trade, Global finance, Employment and skills, and Natural Capital.

Snapshots of the challenge papers can be seen below.  
The full papers can be accessed on the Global Transition 2012 website:  
[www.globaltransition2012.org/challenge-papers/](http://www.globaltransition2012.org/challenge-papers/)

## Green Economy: Charting the path to the global transition to a green economy

Tim Jenkins and Andrew Simms

Two decades after the Earth Summit in 1992, attempts to govern, sustainably, the global environment and manage the world economy without destabilising crises, are hopelessly disconnected. Since the original Earth Summit conference, we have lived with an economic model based on debt-fuelled over consumption that co-exists with vast levels of poverty and inequality. Comparable dynamics are visible in most economic sectors. Many working in the fields of environment and development now find that systematic problems require a systemic solution.

This paper puts forward 6 challenges to lay the foundations for systemic change: Develop a national

transition plan that puts countries on paths to operate within planetary boundaries, and on timescales sufficiently quick to preserve key, ecological life support functions; don't start from a growth perspective; agree to develop and implement new measures of economic success; commit to reduce income and wealth inequalities between and within nations; put fiscal policy and public expenditure centre stage in managing economic transition; and recapture the financial sector for the public good. Other worlds are possible but the task is to shape and fashion them in the course of the next decade before 'business-as-usual' locks in catastrophic climatic upheaval. ■

## Beyond GDP: Measuring our progress

Charles Seaford, SORCHA Mahoney, Mathis Wackernagel, Joy Larson, Réne Ramirez Gallegos

For decades governments have allowed a single indicator, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to assume dominance as the critical measure of a nation's progress. It is now widely accepted by politicians and officials across the world that we must move beyond GDP and recognise it for what it is – a measure of economic exchange

- Amend their national accounting systems to align what they measure with what really matters, and
- Use those measures as a guide for policy and political action.

This paper focuses on ways of measuring environmental sustainability and well-being, and offers a view from the global South which combines both of these. The authors call for governments around the world to:

Once governments move beyond GDP to measure what matters, they can turn their attention to the equally important business of ensuring that these new measures are used as the basis of policy and political action. Then, the global community can be hopeful that lives really will improve and that improvements are made within environmental limits. ■

## Global Inequality: Why we need a plenty line

David Woodward, Saamah Abdallah

This paper proposes the establishment of a 'plenty line' as a counterpart to the poverty line, as a means of focusing public and political attention on the issue of over-consumption. In other words, is there a level of income such that people with incomes above this level have minimally greater well-being than those with incomes at this level?

The paper presents indicative evidence for the existence of 'plenty lines' ranging between household incomes of \$35,000 and \$107,000 in six Western European countries (and at \$20,000 in one Eastern European country), where well-being is defined in terms of life satisfaction. While the reliability of these findings for individual countries is limited by the sample sizes, the fact that in only one of 22 countries (Switzerland) do the data appear clearly inconsistent with the existence of an (overall income) plenty line at some level of income would appear to suggest that such a line exists in at

least some European countries. So, while we cannot yet identify where the plenty line lies with great precision, it seems clear that there is one. This is consistent with research in the United States which showed that there was no increase in well-being (defined in terms of affect) once household incomes reached \$75,000.

This suggests a case for policies designed to limit the growth of incomes beyond societal plenty lines – primarily higher incomes in developed countries (but also those of elites, particularly in highly unequal middle-income developing countries). However, the implications of the plenty line concept potentially reach much further. By highlighting – and potentially allowing us to quantify – the divergence between total income and societal well-being, the plenty line has the potential to provide a basis for a whole new economics, directed towards the achievement of our ultimate goals as society and not merely the maximisation of total production. ■



## One Planet Living: How to transition to a green and fair economy and stay within planetary boundaries

Sue Riddlestone

If everyone lived the global middle class lifestyle of London or Shanghai, we would need three planets to support us. And yet, the average citizen of Bangladesh consumes the equivalent of just a third of a planet. In this paper we argue that what we need is One Planet Living, a way of life that engenders happy healthy lives within a fair share of the world's resources, whilst leaving sufficient space for wildlife and wilderness. Sustainable communities and businesses around the world show how One Planet Living is attractive and achievable. And, a simple approach and framework makes it easy to deliver. We argue that at The Earth Summit 2012, world

leaders should agree to recognise planetary boundaries in world with a large, growing human population and commit to take action through a multilateral framework to enable the world to define and deliver a safe operating space within the time frame that science and morality tell us is necessary. Key components of this multilateral framework would include: Global and national roadmaps to enable citizens to achieve One Planet Living supported by a new 'Intergovernmental Panel on Resources'; a peer-reviewed 'Solutions Bank'; and a raft of policy solutions to support the transition to a One Planet Living with a fair and green economy. ■



## Blue Economy: Fishing Public Resources For Public Benefit

Rupert Crilly, Aniol Esteban

The marine world has been a cornerstone of human economic activity for centuries. Once the realm of inexhaustible abundance, the Blue Economy has become one of scarcity and unsustainable human impacts. Fisheries, for example, are plagued by endemic overfishing, discarding, and an increasingly inefficient and subsidy-dependent fishing industry. Marine resources, from fish to broader ecosystem services, should be used for public benefit. Using profits or financial returns alone rarely serve as complete indicators of an activity's public value, and can in some cases be entirely misleading. Alternative uses of marine resources must be independently

weighed against each other based on their economic, social and environmental impacts, particularly with an emphasis on sustainability. To make them comparable, it can be helpful to monetise these impacts using an extended cost-benefit analysis framework. We illustrate this with a case study of cod fishing in the North Sea, where the principles are equally applicable not just in global fisheries but all marine resources. With a complete picture of their associated impacts, economic activities and their public resource, requirements can then be planned to ensure the most beneficial ones are prioritised with access to marine resources. ■



## Energy Resources and Services: Achieving universal access to energy and a low carbon, high well-being economy

Viki Johnson, Niclas Hälström

Three perspectives frame this challenge paper: 1) energy is at the very core of sustainable development, and not just a sector among others; 2) the combined challenges of inadequate access to energy among the world's poor, the imperative to avoid climate catastrophe and the need to deal with rising and volatile energy prices require an unprecedented, fundamental transformation of the world's energy system, and 3) that there are technological solutions that already exist that can effectively tackle these challenges over the course of 10-15 years.

The wide development benefit from access to modern energy services, specifically electricity, implies this is a vital social investment. As such, increased access to modern energy services should not be assessed on just the financial costs and benefits alone, but rather a framework that takes into account the multiple additional benefits and/or costs of different energy sources. In this paper, we argue that it is not simply access to energy services that matters, but how that access is delivered from the planning, installation and operation stage.

Further, we propose a bold, transformative approach to set up a global programme of national feed-in tariffs formulated by UN-DESA and supported by an increasing number of organisations. We argue that:

- Public policies can help produce a decline in the global price of renewable energy that will make it affordable within a decade.
- A 'big push' in investment to scale up renewable energy will lead to rapid cost reduction, technology improvement, and learning by doing. This will generate a 'virtuous cycle' of additional investment, economic growth, employment generation, etc.
- In the first decade, investments will have to be subsidized through globally funded guarantees or price supports (e.g. feed-in tariffs). The 'virtuous cycle' will then make renewable energy the default option for new energy investment worldwide.
- Price supports will be complemented by a global extension program: research, technical, and policy support designed to accelerate the process.

Energy, and the kind of solutions outlined here, must be at the centre of the Earth Summit 2012 process. ■

Snapshots of the challenge papers can be seen below.

The full papers can be accessed on the Global Transition 2012 website:

[www.globaltransition2012.org/challenge-papers/](http://www.globaltransition2012.org/challenge-papers/)

## Managing Natural Capital: One part of a big picture Oliver Greenfield

The natural world has a lot to teach us. Above all, it teaches us about systems and cycles; that altering one component of a system, however small, can have wider implications within and beyond a given cycle. Human society, the planet and the economy are all systems and are all bound together in intricate relationships. Only when we begin to understand this bigger picture can we tackle the systemic problems facing us.

Economic theory (and common sense) tells us that when something is valuable, and it is free, its use tends to infinity - this explains why trees, biodiversity, freshwater and atmospheric space for carbon are all being used 'like there is no tomorrow'. It also assumes that when something is exhausted (or too expensive), a substitute is almost certain to be found.

Economic theory then takes this substitution concept up to a macro level and thinks of the 'trade-off' between

environment and economy. The logic is that we can have 'more environment' if we are prepared to put up with 'less economy', or we can have 'less environment' if we want a bigger economy. The traditional economic world view that dominates the political spectrum is based on infinite resources, substitution, and ultimately this trade-off between environment and economy.

In this paper we take a systemic view of natural capital and the role that it plays in sustaining the human species and our economic system. Taking stock of the solutions being offered by current economic thinking, the paper posits the role of green economy in transforming the current trajectory and considers what is necessary to ensure that the operating system on which we all depend continues to provide people, communities and all economic activity with a safe space in which to exist. ■

## Global Trade & Outsourced Emissions in the Green Economy Guy Shrubsole

Outsourced emissions are a major loophole in current efforts to tackle climate change and build a green economy. International flows of carbon embedded in trade have grown considerably since the original Rio summit, with developed northern nations benefiting unjustly from effectively outsourcing pollution to developing southern states.

At Rio+20, the world needs to agree to the principle of Clean Trade Agreements. These arrangements, negotiated

between states and regions, would come to replace Free Trade Areas and build mutually-agreed carbon constraints into the terms of trade.

Clean Trade Agreements would aim to halt the 'race to the bottom' witnessed as globalisation has unfolded - where industry invariably migrates to regions with the least stringent environmental regulations - and reverse the growth in outsourced emissions. ■

## Food Security: The earth summit 2012 should give strong support to small scale sustainable agriculture Aksel Nærstad

Agriculture is the main problem in the nexus of food security. Industrial food systems and other unsustainable practices are causing dramatic environmental damage, including reduction of biodiversity and soil fertility, overuse and pollution of water, and are substantially contributing to climate change. These kinds of food systems and food production undermine the possibilities for producing enough healthy food for current and future generations. At the same time these industrial food systems impoverish millions of small-scale food producers, create increasingly large waves of poverty, hunger and migration, and cause health problems at a large scale. There are one billion people food insecure, but at the same time abundant, unhealthy foods and diets are affecting at least 2 billion people, causing obesity, heart disease, cancer, type 2 diabetes and other diseases, and serious pandemics are likely to occur in the near future.

Agriculture can also be the main solution. Viable food systems have evolved and adapted over millennia,

through traditional forms of agriculture, and are now more relevant than ever. They can be combined, if appropriate, with latest knowledge on agro-ecology and other forms of sustainable production. Small scale food producers provide the food for about 70% of the population today, and small scale agro-ecological and other forms of sustainable agriculture and food production, developed in the framework of food sovereignty, can

- eliminate most of the hunger and poverty,
- drastically reduce climate change and its impact, restore biodiversity, soil fertility and water resources,
- improve livelihoods and provide rewarding employment for billions of people,
- produce enough, high quality, diverse and nutritious food for 9 billion people or more. ■

## Global Finance and Banking: Shaping a public fiduciary for financial markets

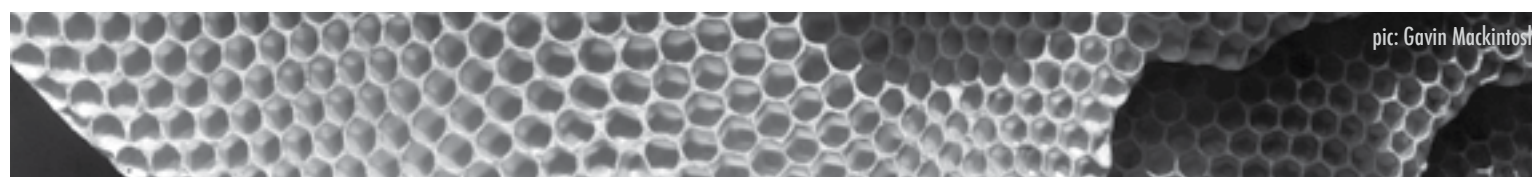
Simon Zadek

Current financial market reform efforts have focused on securing stable and resilient financial markets. The public purpose of financial markets, however, concerns the resilience of the broader economic, social and ecological systems within which financial markets operate, a purpose largely ignored in the current policy debate and practice. Sustainable investing has demonstrated proof of concept but will not have systemic impacts in its current forms and trajectories. Needed is a 'public fiduciary' for financial markets that reflects more effectively the interests of existing, intended beneficiaries and also those without influential voice: future generations, excluded communities and natural capital.

Advancing a public fiduciary for the world's invested financial assets would require a multi-faceted programme of policy interventions, including fiscal, regulatory and voluntary. Described here are six high-potential policy proposals focused on changes in fund managers' basis

of remuneration, investors' fiduciary arrangements, investment principles of sovereign wealth funds, sovereign and corporate credit rating methods, fiscal interventions and transparency requirements. These proposals are all based on existing practice that demonstrates technical feasibility and indications of likely impacts.

Advancing such an extensive, high-impact programme to secure an alignment of financial markets to sustainability outcomes clearly requires further debate and analysis. Crucially, its implementation raises profound governance issues resulting from the political influence of financial market actors, and associated and competitive constraints to co-ordinated action. Financial market reform requires action on governance internationally if serious progress is to be made in the face of plain-to-see threats and practice of regulatory arbitrage by leading actors in today's financial markets. ■



## Green and Decent Jobs and Skills: a step towards sustainable development

Anabella Rosemberg with Philip Pearson

When leaders meet in Rio de Janeiro for the Earth Summit in June this year, unemployment, precarious work and inequality will be central to their domestic agendas. At the same time, global environmental change is increasing stress on the most vulnerable, affecting all domains of society. If the Summit is going to deliver for people, it needs to take all these elements into account. It will also need to take concrete steps that will lead to changes on the ground.

The proposal presented in this Challenge Paper calls on all governments to take a country-based 'policy package' to Rio+20. This should include a target on decent job creation in the next 5-10 years, achieved by environmentally-friendly investments and regulations accounting for 2% of GDP, and a series of social and decent work policies which will ensure green jobs contribute to workers' and communities' prosperity.

Generating millions of new green and decent jobs and transforming existing ones into more greener and more decent ones could be one of the most positive consequences of a Rio+20 summit. This agenda could kick start the Global Transition, giving people hope about the positive impacts of a more sustainable society, particularly those suffering from poverty, precarious employment or unemployment.

A green/decent job pledge would also be part of a solution to environmental and social imbalances created by the current unsustainable production mode. This would occur by driving a new kind of investments in developing countries whilst giving them access to a new model of development. ■



Robert Bakiika

**What are the key elements of the green economy project or initiative you are involved in?**

Inclusion, awareness and poverty reduction.

**Based on your experience at the national/local level, in what ways are green economy initiatives helping the lives of the poorest communities?**

The economies are showing potential to provide more decent jobs and improve livelihoods, though public investment in these initiatives is still low.

**Nationality:** Uganda

**Country of residence:** Uganda

**Current Position:** Deputy Executive Director, Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement Bwaise Facility

**What are the key elements of the green economy project or initiative you are involved in?**

I'm the former Sector Coordinator for a civil society group of NGOs under Environment and Agriculture, and currently a Board Secretary of Botswana Community based organisations network. Our role at BOCOBONET is to domesticate community

based natural resource management with rural communities, doing hands on projects with fisheries, organic horticulture and sustainable agriculture, as well as conservation of water features and other extractive industries. In Botswana, outreach on the Green Economy has just formally begun - two major workshops have been held with the most relevant stakeholders, including Government, the private sector and civil society. ■

Keneilwe Moseki



**Nationality:** Botswana

**Country of residence:** Botswana

**Current Position:** Chief Executive Officer, Somarelang Tikologo



Ajay B Mathema

**Nationality:** Nepali

**Country of residence:** Nepal

**Current Position:** Executive Director, Asian Center for Environment Management and Sustainable Development, Nepal

**What are the key elements of the green economy project or initiative you are involved in?**

One of the prerequisites of the green economy is safeguarding environment. We at AEMS/SchEMS have started a process of reviewing Nepal's initiatives of integrating environment into the development process and procedures. Environment was officially addressed by the Government of Nepal about 30 years ago. We think it is the right time to look back at Nepal experiences and build further on more efficiently addressing the environmental issues.

In October 2012, together with the Government of Nepal, IIED and UNEP, we carried out a national environmental mainstreaming workshop in Pokhara, Nepal. We have also prepared a country paper 'Environmental Mainstreaming in Nepal: An overview of initiatives and experiences' and a workshop report 'Safeguarding the future, securing Shangrila' have been prepared. Now we are preparing to organise a Regional Workshop of Environmental Mainstreaming for Green Economy in the first week of May 2012.

**What do you believe should be achieved at Rio+20 in terms of the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication?**

- Commitments from governments with concrete plans to implement green economy in their respective countries.
- Formation of an efficient/effective multilateral body that could support governments in implementing green economy.
- Adaptation of academic programs to include the green economy as part of their curricula – in order to prepare skilled human resources – as well undertaking of on-the-job training.
- Implementation of 'Green GDP' to monitor the progress of green economy.
- An awarding system for the countries following this path, (and also punishments for those who ignore it). ■



# Can principles unite armies, roadmaps and waves?

Emily Benson

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'Transition' is defined as 'movement, passage, or change from one position, state, to another'. So, what might the transition pathway from our current economy (one characterised by our dependence on fossil fuels, dominance of the financial markets and increasing inequality) - to an alternative economic model (founded on renewable energies, a different relationship to the natural world, and one that explicitly tackles equity), look like? This was the question at the heart of the Global Transition Dialogue held last weekend in preparation for the UNCSO Intersessional. For some, the transition is a 'battle ground' and, as revolutionaries, we need to arm ourselves with weapons of war to cut off the life blood of the enemy lines. For others, the transition is a more orderly, more strategic, affair - like a roadmap. While for others, the global transition is more akin to a groundswell of energy, a 'crest of a wave', which will propel us into a better future. So, with less than 100 days to Rio, is there any evidence of a transition?

Our national dialogues have shown us that something exciting is already underway across the world. From rural electrification - using renewable energy in remote parts of India or solar energy solutions for social housing in Brazil (My House/My Life) - to innovative natural resource management schemes in the Caribbean. Communities may not see themselves as the armies of a global transition but they are certainly leading the charge for more resilient and equitable economies.

Every country around the world has its own set of ecological, economic and cultural contexts, so the pathway towards achieving a different economic structure will be unique. The range of policy tools under discussion at Rio+20 - from fiscal reform, sustainable public procurement, fossil fuel subsidy reform, payment for ecosystem services, to full cost accounting, capacity building initiatives and green job targets - is testament to the sheer diversity of different approaches that can be taken.



The Rio+20 negotiations are unearthing fault lines - old and new. Thorny issues, such as fears of trade protectionism on the part of developing countries, the implications of subsidy reform for different sectors or the role of the private sector as a threat or a delivery agent of sustainable development, are at the forefront of the negotiations. Many of these issues do not have easy or win-win solutions. The recent example of fossil fuel subsidy reform in Nigeria - which resulted in riots amongst the poorest of society for whom these subsidies were vital to making ends meet - provides a vivid example of the complexity of the problems we face.

So, if the transition to a green and fair economy involves many different pathways, with some very bumpy sections and a multitude of different threats, then how can we stay united and focused? If do need to steel ourselves with 'maps' or 'weapons', then let those be a shared set of principles. A green economy must be one founded on equity, justice, ecological limits, inclusion and poverty eradication. Such principles can help forge a shared vision of progress and a common understanding of an alternative economic order.

The Green Economy Coalition is running an online consultation to hear what you think about the principles of a green economy - do check it out and do add your voice: [www.greeneconomycoalition.org/updates/9-principles-green-economy-online-consultation](http://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/updates/9-principles-green-economy-online-consultation) ■

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