

The Global Dialogues Mauritius



The Harvest Report

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GLOBAL DIALOGUES INTRODUCED

Around the world dialogues are being held and organised to support people in coming together to envision the future they want and to explore collaborative actions for moving our society towards an equitable and thriving future. These dialogues complement a number of initiatives already existing, such as the '[Wake Up Call](#)' of February 21st, and the '[Future we Want](#)' campaign from the United Nations. Through the Global Dialogues, participants not only express what they feel is needed, they also start to 'be the change' that they collectively identify is needed, and thus create partnerships for actions.

Currently the Global Dialogues are being held in Mauritius, Burundi, India, Spain, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Egypt, Sweden, Italy and New Zealand, and more are on their way. The outcomes of these dialogues are being compiled into a Country Report. The report included here is part of the Mauritius Country Report, which will be finalised end of May 2012. The Mauritius Country Report will be presented to the official Rio+20 government delegation early June 2012. The Country reports of all the countries who have participated in the Global Dialogues are being compiled into one Global Report, which will be presented to national and international leaders at Rio +20 UN Conference.

Rio +20 is a UN Conference which will take place in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The conference will focus on two themes: the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and a unifying institutional framework (governance structure and decision making process). The Conference will result in a focused political document that will be a reference point for international agreements addressing challenges such as creation of green jobs and sustainable energy for all, the future of our cities, sustainable global food and agriculture systems, fresh water provision, protecting and maintaining oceans' ecosystems, and building disaster resilience capacity. For more information see <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

THE GLOBAL DIALOGUES HARVEST EXPLAINED

The harvesting is conducted by a harvesting team composed of individuals, able to listen in, connect the dots, see patterns, synthesise and tell stories and visually represent the collective ideas, knowledge and feelings. In Mauritius, a team of 12 harvesters has been trained and provides a pool of harvesters to call on for each individual Global Dialogue event being held. The number of harvesters needed per event is dictated by: the number of participants and groups planned, the length of the event and distribution of breaks. Ideally, each event has one harvester for each table of participants, and when this is not possible, the ratio of 1 harvester: 3 tables is applied.

Harvesters have been trained to listen out for the things being said as well as for things not being said. What are the key themes emerging in individual groups as well as across all the conversations? What are the emotions being displayed? How do conversations flow? Are people getting straight to the point or are they 'tippy toeing' around the issues? Are there any outliers, any rebellious and extreme ideas? Are people finding it easy or hard to talk about what they want for their future? Is there too much talk about problems rather than solutions? If there are disagreements, what are they about? Harvesters have also been trained to look at relationship patterns: are there new friendships and /or collaborations being created in the room? Is there a feeling of trust and hope? Are people walking away with a changed perspective? Did people share and did you yourself experience any new insights?

During the event, harvesters collect the data they afterwards process and synthesise. There are five data groups used in compilation of a harvest:

1. Answers to the four questions asked during the workshop: shared vision for the future we want, and lists of things we need to learn, change and act on to get from our current reality to where we want to be, as well as the action groups formed.
2. Participant's feedback/ testimonials and suggestions to help improve the upcoming Global Dialogues.
3. Contact details of participants to feed into the Global Dialogue Network for ongoing peer support and inspiration to take action.
4. Photos of event on the day and high resolution photos of mind maps and other material produced
5. Videos of the event

The first set of data requires most processing and synthesis. For this, harvesters use:

- the mind maps created by participants capturing their conversations and answers to the questions posed with key words and doodles, and
- harvester's own notes and their observations.

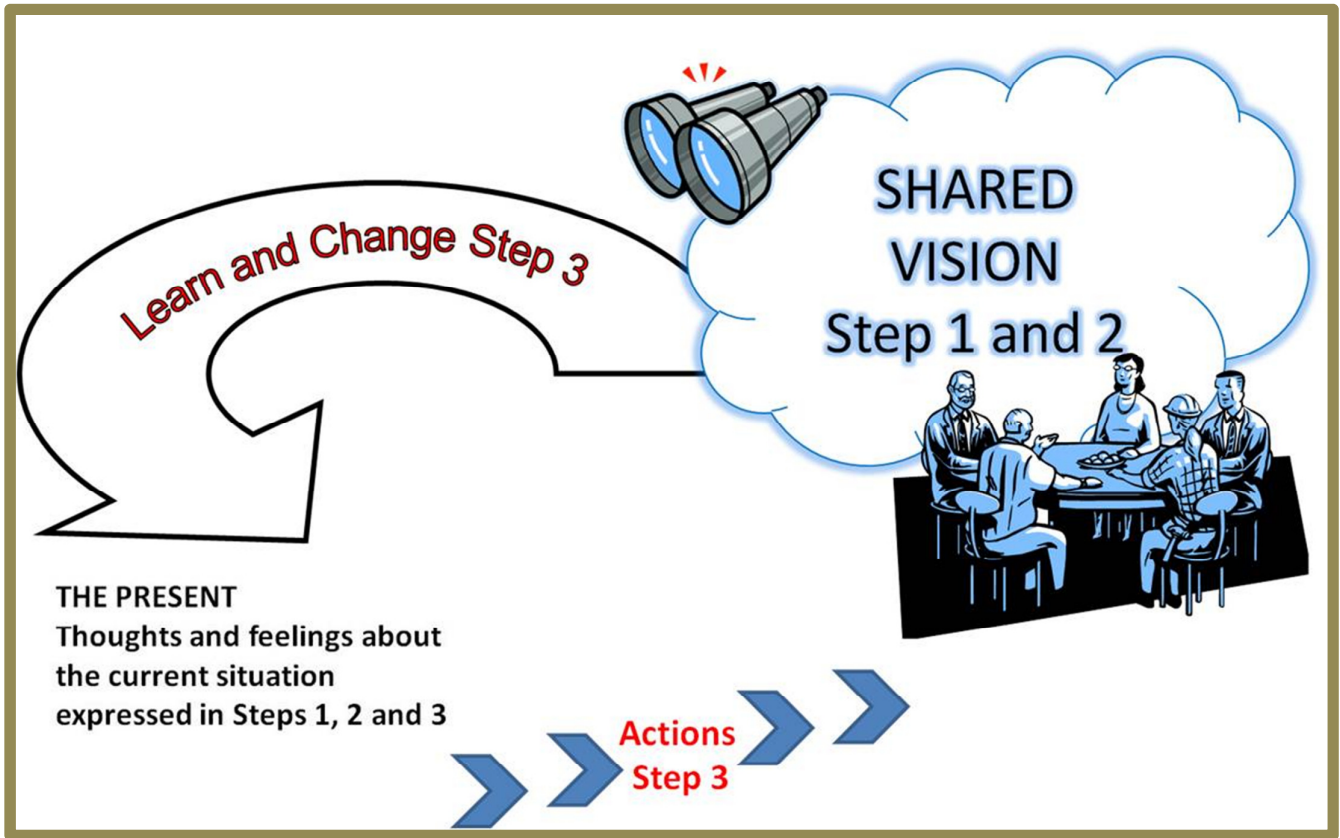
The harvesting process is as follows:

During the event harvesters make their own notes as well as collect the mind maps made by participants. In the time allocated to them during the event, harvesters come together to fill out the "Visual Harvest Template" (see image below) by clustering the topics discussed, and discussing their own notes on relationship patterns emerging, the learning taking place and surprising insights during the process. They present both to participants in the last step of the Global Dialogue Process: Step 5 – Share. The participants are then given the time to add their own observations to the "Visual Harvest Template" that they feel have not been captured yet by the harvesters.

After the event, before leaving the venue, The Harvesting team splits the mind maps: one harvester takes all the "future we want" mind maps, while the other harvester does the same for "What do we need to learn", and the other two take "What we need to change" and "What we need to act on" mind maps. Each of the harvesters has the responsibility to look at The Harvest Report content under their question and to then look at the mind maps from the most recent event, adding to the report the new emerging ideas and emphasising themes that are being repeated. In addition, the harvester observes the commonalities and differences between the small groups on the day.

For the sake of remaining objective, each harvester uses the wording and terms as written on the mind maps themselves. If harvesters have the time, they will transcribe and cluster the themes from the mind maps, using the excel sheet. Alternatively, the high resolution photos of mind maps are available for public to see, thus holding harvesters accountable for Harvest Report content.

THE VISUAL HARVEST TEMPLATE



THE HARVEST REPORT – MAURITIUS



This is a report accumulating the Global Dialogues participants' answers to what is the future we want, and what it is we need to learn, change and act on to bridge the gap between where we are now and where we want to be. The report also presents the harvesting team's observations of emergent relationship patterns; actions initiated and shared learning made possible by the Global Dialogue's participatory process. The Harvest report is of the evolving nature and thus far includes insights and observations from events held in Mauritius.

Participants were individuals from various groups as indicated by the chapters below, and were of mixed ethnicity and age.

Contents

- Chapter 1 – General Public**
- Chapter 2 – Children & Youth**
- Chapter 3 – University Students**
- Chapter 4 – Private Sector**
- Chapter 5 – Prisoners**
- Chapter 6 – NGOs**
- Chapter 7 – Poor Communities**

Chapter 4 – Private Sector, GML Foundation -11 April 2012



The future we want

During the first exercise “connect,” compared to the previous dialogues, the word “management” was recurrent: Food management, land and space management, management of environmental risks, water management, management of the sea resources... The participants also talked about planning of constructions, optimal use of natural resources and leaders being closer to the reality.

Several participants saw the future they want similar to what they experienced in the past, like how they lived in their childhood. In some groups, the discussion about “the future we want” turned to a discussion about the present reality. There was a strong belief the industrial and technological evolution has not been and is not helping in creating a better world. It is instead contributing to the alienation of individuals. In some groups, there seemed to be too much frustration about the present that it was hard to disconnect and switch to the vision of the future.

We could also see similar patterns of ideas from the previous dialogues: peace, love, tolerance, respect, unity, harmony in human relations, collaboration, re-equilibrium in distribution of resources-no poverty, better quality of life, feeling of togetherness, community living. Participants expressed their desires for a return to the roots (the basics) in the future: people closer to nature and value family life. The future they want also consists of people growing their own gardens as well as community gardens where the harvested products are shared; people have more time and work from home.

Similarly to previous dialogues ideas like use of renewable resources, green future, use of environment-friendly products, recycling, protection of biodiversity, more trees, protection of lagoons: seasonal fishing (no over-fishing), no pollution and less traffic jam, came up. In this future, people are fully blossomed and they feel valued. One participant also shared human teleportation in the future: “Crazy Idea? I’m sure that’s what people thought when, in the past, someone expressed the desire to be able to fly! Now we have airplanes.”

After the envisioning exercise, some participants were very eager to share their experience of the future. Participants experienced the future as walking through a forest and seeing children playing near a river. Building were sustainable: they had no negative impacts on the environment. In this future there is indeed lots of green, flowers, rivers, no pollution, no telephone, electrical vehicles. The human relationships felt different- there was a very strong sensation and a feeling of happiness. There is also no need to go to work. Systems have broken down: there were no businesses and there were integrated communities. We also created big things with little resources.

As opposed to the general vision of a brighter, better future, one participant shared about his experience of darkness while starting to step into the future. He saw neglected building and empty streets. Also, for some people, going in their future was going back to the past- they re-lived their childhood.

Harvesters Observations

During the first exercise “connect,” when asked about the future they want, a lot of the participants had difficulty to project themselves into the future. Talks about the problems we have now, in the present were predominant: it was hard for them to see a future where these issues were solved. As observed in previous dialogues, the envisioning was a key exercise in the whole process as after that, the participants felt more at ease to share.

What do we need to learn and Change?

More emphasis should be placed on family values. We should learn tolerance, compromise, respect and learn from our past experience and how to face the truth. Learning how to collaborate and work together for a better purpose. People should get to know each other, and develop an effective communication.

The world should be ‘re-humanised’. We should devote more time to family life, where emphasis is placed on bonding, relationships and concern for others. There should be more love in human relationships. Appreciate simple things in life. We should go back to basics, in terms of behavior, life, and work.

People should be willing to change old mindset and habits. We should learn how to be open to change and eventually develop a mindset for it. *“There is enough for a man’s needs, but not enough for a man’s greed”*- Redefine what *“use less”* means and optimise on consumption. We should be able to discriminate urgent things versus important things, to be able to better set out priorities. We should re-learn the barter system and implement it within communities. Break barriers like social status, or hierarchy, manage and share our resources. Reduce competition in education systems.

The government and authorities should learn to be more efficient and effective. We should have pollution education, whereby the consequences of our polluting actions on the ecological status is put forward. We should reduce the use of paper and be more aware of the importance of recycling.

Learn the three **R**’s: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**. We must learn to economise on natural resources and optimise its use.

What do we need to act on?

We need to review our needs and to **Reduce** our waste by **Re-using** **Recycling**. 2nd Hand Shops could provide options for people to re-use. Paper waste can be reduced by recycling and using more online systems and softcopies. Rainwater should be collected and used in households and big buildings. Small actions such as switching off appliances to save energy should be implemented by one and all.

We need to innovate and develop new ways of harnessing energy and focus on quality long-term returns as opposed to immediate savings. At the same time, we need to return to a simpler way of life where sharing and family time are emphasized.

It is felt that the Government should also initiate actions and implement policy to facilitate actions undertaken by the private sector. Government should subsidize renewable energy projects such as Thermal, Solar, Wind, Wave and Rainwater Harvesting. There also needs to be appropriate monitoring and follow-up on actions taken. Education and coherent language is needed to describe issues around sustainability, awareness plays a role. A change of mindset is needed to implement these actions. Values such as respect and sharing are emphasized.

Harvesters Observations

Many participants did not feel empowered to act and when asked what they should act on, they expressed that the initiative should be Government driven and that there should be more incentives by the Government. Some participants felt that optimizing our technology was essential whereas many expressed the desire for a simpler way of life based on the world they had experienced as children. When asked about a model for 'green businesses' many did not know how to answer this.

There was not a clear vision about how business will look like in a sustainable society. There was some discussion about different definitions of 'profit' and to shift away from defining progress in terms of financial profit only, and include in the business model also indicators for wellbeing and happiness. There was a strong emphasis on looking for technological solutions for sustainability challenges. The social system for sustainability and the concept of the Learning Organisation for Sustainability was almost absent. Some participants did indicate that a culture of sharing and recycling was important, yet when asked how best practices can be documented and shared with other organisations not many knew how to answer.

Recommendation

It would be recommended for the GML Group to do more work on what a green business looks and feels like; including the development of a Learning Organisation and to develop more understanding about a whole-systems approach to sustainability. The concept of business as a living-system is essential for business to become ecologically aware and leaders of sustainability. It was observed that this concept is still somehow new for the participants, and when participants were asked from the visioning "how does business look like in a sustainable future" none of the participants could really answer this question.