



GLOBAL PACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN MANAGEABLE INCREMENTS

Including: Global Marshall Plan for the Environment and Environmental Rights

A Report by the Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group
March 2019

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"There is no doubt in my mind that global challenges require global solutions. No country can do it alone." -
Tweet from Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General (January 2019).

The following is being submitted by the Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group whose input is based on that of similar such groups going back to the 1992 Earth Summit's NGO Task Force on Financing.

The first part contains the following options for consideration to address gaps in international environmental legislation, governance, and implementation. We include hyper-links from each of these headings to the specific recommendations which then follow:

- [I Principles of International Environmental Law](#)
- [II Environmental Rights](#)
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- [IV International Environmental Court of Justice](#)
- [V Recognizing Ecocide as a Crime with in Natural Law](#)
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These Options for addressing the Gaps are then followed by a section which focuses on the motivational forces leading to comprehensive and fully implemented environmental legislation and/or a Global Pact for the Environment, and includes suggestions of how this can be introduced in manageable steps. There is also a link to a document listing possible Gaps in Environmental Legislation to be considered.

We support the development and introduction of a Global Pact for the Environment which would act as an "umbrella text" to unify and structure international

environmental law, codifying updated and improved environmental principles in one binding document.

This would help to address the problems stressed by the Secretary General's Gap Report of the general lack of coherence and synergy among the large body of existing sectoral regulatory frameworks. International environmental governance is currently built on more than 500 global and regional instruments, covering topics ranging from the air to land, to marine ecosystems and dangerous waste. There is both sectoral and geographic fragmentation of this governance framework, as well as an overall lack of results - despite some unquestionable achievements. The goal of the draft of the Global Pact for the Environment (Global Pact) is not to duplicate or usurp these existing measures, but to strengthen the implementation and effectiveness of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The Gap Report clearly states the need for a global systemic approach (Para 80): "The proliferation of multilateral environmental agreements and the resultant distinct and separate mandates ignore the unity, interconnectivity, and interdependence of the Earth's ecosystem". The Global Pact for the Environment is conceived and designed to bridge this urgent call to action.

I Principles of International Environmental Law

Precaution and Transboundary Harm

It is essential that the primary principles of international environmental law be recognized as binding and enforceable. The many global environmental challenges that humanity is presently facing, including those of global warming, water scarcity, soil loss, biodiversity loss, deforestation, and environmental pollution, etc., have made it essential that all countries take proactive measures to reverse the course that we are presently on as quickly as possible.

The Secretary-General's Report has identified a number of principles that are not yet being met or lived up to. This must be changed if humanity is going to live well in the decades to come. For example, the Report stresses the importance of Preventing Transboundary Harm saying, "This principle is intrinsic to a core preference in international law for preventing environmental harm rather than compensating for harm that has already occurred. The prevention principle is well established as a rule of customary international law, supported by relevant practice in many environmental treaties and major codification initiatives. In practice, this principle is also related to due diligence obligations, particularly the duty to undertake an environmental impact assessment prior to engaging in activities which pose a potential risk of transboundary harm."

In point of fact there are many things that governments and countries do that worsen the global challenges that we face and/or that impact other countries that are not always accounted for under the risk of transboundary harm. These include the disruption of natural water cycles, the development of dead zones in coastal areas, the dropping of water tables and depletion of aquifers, the spread and use of genetically modified organisms, loss of various migratory species including fish, insects and wildlife, and various impacts resulting from global warming such as acidification of the oceans, rising sea levels, and threats due to flooding, hurricanes, fires, landslides, etc. The precautionary principle must thus apply to all of these types of threats, as well as with transboundary harm.

The Report then goes on to state that the precautionary principle “stipulates that States are required to adopt a precautionary approach when making decisions or in regard to potential omissions which may harm the environment.” However, “while the principle as formulated in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration reflects other critical principles, such as the effective implementation of international environmental law, the legal basis of precaution as a principle is a matter of some controversy and debate.”

This is thus a major gap and clearly a matter which must be resolved when developing the Global Environmental Pact and the Precautionary Principle must be recognized as being essential in order to carry out and ensure the effective implementation of international environmental law.

Polluter Pays

The Secretary-General's Report says that, "States are required not only to take measures against environmental pollution, but also to cooperate on liability regimes. This norm has a firm legal basis as a principle of law deriving from a variety of legal sources, including treaties and regional customs, particularly in Europe. In practice, the principle reduces the regulatory burden on States in achieving pollution control objectives." Unfortunately however in many if not most countries polluters are often not required nor forced to pay for either remediation or restitution. The end result is thus that pollution often continues unabated and the precautionary principle is undermined. In any case our agreed goal and commitment should be to stop and avoid pollution in the first place. Thus it is essential that enforcement of the precautionary principle along with the use of environmental impact assessments be included as key components within the Global Pact and that legislation be implemented requiring polluters to pay under international law.

Cooperation

The Report also states that, "The framing of cooperation as a principle of international environmental law through the adoption of supplementary instruments and norms by conferences of parties serves the progressive development and dynamic evolution of treaty law. The principle has been recognized in foundational instruments of international environmental law, United Nations instruments, texts drafted by civil society and the World Trade Organization (WTO). But unfortunately we still find that many if not most governments are still not taking sufficient action to truly protect and restore the integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. It is thus essential that the Global Pact address the need to ensure that such cooperation is forthcoming and that both enabling legislation along with local, national, and global programs, as well as multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives, be established to ensure that the conservation, protection and restoration of the integrity of the Earth's ecosystem is forthcoming.

Many of the threats to the Earth's community of life are global in nature. For example, pollution to our air, oceans and rivers have impacts which go well beyond national boundaries. To again echo the Gap Report, we need to ensure that "States are required to contribute to the conservation, protection, and restoration of the integrity of the Earth's ecosystem". Thus we also need a framework that requires Member States to cooperate and coordinate on harmonized measures for monitoring and reporting, which incorporates the latest scientific developments regarding knowledge of Earth Systems.

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Taking Action to Monitor and Implement the Principles

We feel that the preliminary draft of the Global Pact contains some excellent and useful provisions, and could form the basis of a working draft to be further elaborated by Member States and other Stakeholders. For the Global Pact to meet its objectives, the general principles must be confirmed and translated into justifiable rights and obligations, and be accompanied by guarantees of effective monitoring and

implementation. An ambitious Global Pact could incorporate the principles that are already established as best practices, but also include new ideas for principles proposed by civil society, indigenous peoples, the scientific community and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

There tends to be a lack of international consensus concerning environmental principles as observed by international courts and tribunals. There are significant advantages in clarifying the content and status of these environmental principles, including those which are already incorporated in MEAs which would enhance the implementation of MEAs at the national, regional and international levels. However, in line with the principle of non-regression, it is vital that environmental standards and principles are not watered down to the lowest common denominators in a new and legally binding instrument.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) records the views of Cecile Fruman, former World Bank Group Director for Trade and Competitiveness Global Practices. She says that many benefits would accrue from the adoption of international standards for protecting [human health and] the natural environment, including the achievement of the SDGs. Ms. Fruman mentions the following:

- Support sustainable economic growth and productivity gains
- Help facilitate the adoption of good regulatory practice and create economies of scale that are particularly beneficial for small and medium sized enterprises
- Promote open international trade by reducing technical barriers and building confidence in the quality and safety of traded products, and increasingly also services
- Promote innovation and technology diffusion
- Level the playing field on environmental and societal issues, and codify international agreements
- Provide common ground for understanding and agreement on difficult issues, e.g. social responsibility
- Help to protect communities and consumers from unsafe and harmful products and practices

Below, we have enumerated additional advantages to adopting international standards for protecting human health and the natural environment. **

II Environmental Rights

We support the establishment of specific environmental rights. The most important of these would be:

1. The universal right to an ecologically sound environment which is safe, clean, healthy and sustainable. *This is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, well-being, food, water and sanitation.*

2. The human right to water and sanitation. On 28 July 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights.

3. The rights of environmental defenders and environmental media to pursue their work without physical and verbal threats, harassment, victimization, or damage. *Almost four environmental defenders were killed each week during 2017. Yet international environmental law currently lacks an appropriate legal framework to protect environmental rights defenders. This is integral to the enjoyment of existing human rights, such as:*

3a. The right to freedom of opinion and expression including freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

3b. The right to life, liberty and security of person.

3c. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

It must also be recognized that human rights to a healthy environment can only exist where these go hand in hand with duties to take care of the environment.

There should also be support and encouragement for progressive moves (meaning they encompass social, economic, and environmental dimensions and foresight) within the Global Pact, leading to inclusion in International and National laws to legally protect and respect the inherent "Rights of Nature". Doing so evolves our treatment of Nature from being mere "property" to a co-inhabitant of our shared planet - upon which the well-being of all of life ultimately depends.

Indigenous peoples across the world have recognized Nature's inherent value and rights for millennia. Already, Ecuador and Bolivia recognize Rights of Nature in their Constitutions and at the national level, and dozens of local and regional governments recognize Nature's rights, as well. The rights of rivers in particular are being recognized worldwide, including in New Zealand, Columbia, and Mexico City. A listing of such laws along with establishing court cases can be found at: <http://www.harmonywithnatureun.org>

Rights and duties go hand in hand. Expressed in terms of duties, the Global Pact should recognize that humanity has a duty and moral obligation to honor the inherent right of Nature, as having evolved naturally and organically on Mother Earth, to be respected and protected.

The Pact should also specify that actions must be taken to ensure that we return to and live within planetary boundaries.

III Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment

The Secretary-General's report states that "the relationship between the enjoyment of basic human rights and environmental quality has long been recognized. However, international treaties have not defined the threshold below which the level of environmental quality must fall before a breach of a person's human rights has occurred."

In addition, "only a few sector-specific binding international and regional conventions recognize the right to live in a healthy environment. Existing regional and international instruments on this subject do not universally or completely define the scope and content of the right." And, "Several such agreements do not allow individuals or groups to file individual or public interest claims."

It must thus be recognized that it is the responsibility of all countries to recognize and take action to protect the right to a healthy environment. This should be included as one of the foundational principles upon which the Global Pact for the Environment is based. A commission or working group should be established in conjunction with the UN office on the Rights of Nature in order to develop proposals, guidelines, and recommendations, along with support, to ensure that all countries act to honor and protect this right.

IV International Environmental Court of Justice

Following on from above, we feel that strong juridical and judicial systems are vital. We favor the establishment of an International Environmental Court of Justice to ensure the necessary level of impartiality, expertise and competence.

However, if this is not yet feasible or while preparations are being made, alternative suggestions are to further empower the International Criminal Court and strengthen it so that it may become prepared to deal with environmental challenges or for the International Court of Justice to be further strengthened and directed to focus more on

environmental provisions and environmental justice. The legal structure and framework is just, vital, and needed to give room for compliance to environmental laws, rules and justices by all national, regional and international government and all citizens.

Since stewarding Nature is imperative to our well-being and very survival, it is important that an International Environmental Court be established with the mandate to ensure that the possible Global Environmental Pact is respected and carried out. Until such time as this is possible then at the very least either the ICC or the ICJ should be given the mandate to do so.

V Recognizing Ecocide as a Crime With In Natural Law

Ecocide can be defined as the extensive destruction, damage to or loss of ecosystem(s) of a given territory, whether by human agency or by other causes, to such an extent that it damages the very laws and principles by which Nature operates. It is essential that we recognize the inherent rights of Nature and various ecosystems to exist and thrive as viable entities unto themselves as well.

Ecocide would fit within the ethos of the Pact and provide a clear lens with which to examine human moral obligations and duty to care for Nature within environmental and human rights law.

VI Fragmentation and Lack of Coherency

The Report has identified fragmentation and lack of coherency within and among international environmental agreements to be a major gap and challenge. Clustering is one of the most effective ways to address the risks of creating science silos that miss the essential overlap between science sectors, and the importance of finding the appropriate responses while not impacting other areas by mistake.

We suggest that specific guidance be included in the Pact for how coherency among and across various environmental agreements can and will be developed and implemented. This could include such things as the development of international expert multi-stakeholder working groups with members representing and participating actively in the implementation of each of the various agreements under consideration in order to develop recommendations for increasing policy coherency and integrated means of implementation among and across particular targeted MEAs. The recommendations coming from these working groups could then be considered by a special committee established under the UNEA with the mandate to make recommendations for effective adoption and implementation of the recommendations at both the national and global level.

VII Governance

The problem most stressed by the Report of the Secretary General is the fragmentation and a general lack of coherence and synergy among a large body of sectoral regulatory frameworks.

****This was echoed by Felix Dodds when he announced his candidature for Executive Director of UN Environment. Dodds pointed out that as MEAs have been established with their own governing councils, these have weakened the role that UN Environment should be playing as the global advocate for the environment. He suggested grouping related environmental conventions together into clusters – to create more synergy, ensure more effective reporting, and provide a clearer picture of the state of the environment. This work was begun under Mr. Steiner, in relation to chemicals and, in part, biodiversity, and should continue in order to increase sectoral coherence and create management efficiencies.**

Clustering is one of the most effective ways to address the risks of creating science silos that miss the essential overlap between science sectors, and the importance of finding the appropriate responses while not impacting other areas by mistake. Clustering should be accompanied by a broader strategic oversight function, considering Earth Systems, using latest scientific knowledge to provide holistic analysis and overview of the state of the world's environment. ******

There should also be a process of identification of the sectors which cause the most environmental degradation, followed by analysis of root causes/drivers and preventive measures. Where this process identifies new sectoral gaps, then consideration should be given to the development of new conventions and treaties. This should include new and emerging issues of concern, including food and energy security and systems and, the impact of new technologies. This could be done as a part of the GPE development process or in a separate process afterwards.

Strategic oversight could also facilitate a review of best practice in environmental treaties/conventions, and subsequent consideration for adoption in other areas.

The person or entity responsible where ever pollution and degradation of the environment has already occurred, should be required to bring it back to its original state. This should either be in the form of restorative actions and/or reparations. Preventative action is particularly important in the case of cross-boundary impacts. Here Pigouvian Taxes can be applied.

If we are to equitably share the common resources found on our shared home, then it is essential that we use no more than our own fair share of the full but limited assortment of resources that are available- both individually and collectively. We must do our best

to fully sustain pure precious resources for future generations. Thus, the Pact ought to stipulate that both people and governments, at all levels, use no more than their fair share of the planet's resources.

In addition, if we are to live within the carrying capacity of the Earth and respect the planetary boundaries then we must maintain and sustain a favorable state of the Earth System as a whole. This favorable state, which has existed throughout the current geological epoch - known as the Holocene epoch - is unfortunately now under considerable threat and should be recognized as the Intangible Common Heritage of Humanity. It is thus essential that the Global Environmental Pact recognize and respect this favorable state of the Earth System as an intangible common heritage and global legal asset that must be protected and preserved for all time.

For more on this see: www.commonhomeofhumanity.org; or you can read an informative article entitled: "Common Home of Humanity: A Legal Construct Based on knowledge." See: <https://globalchallenges.org/en/our-work/the-new-shape-prize/finalists/planetary-condominium-the-legal-framework-for-the-common-home-of-humanity>

VIII Protecting and Restoring Natural Water Cycles

The Secretary-General's Report suggested that, "Current international law largely aims to protect freshwater resources, including ground waters, through a patchwork of global, regional and basin agreements, with certain general principles and customary rules applicable to the normative and institutional gaps therein, including SDG 6." Unfortunately, however, this patchwork body of law and customary rules and principles has proved insufficient for protecting both water bodies and our local to global water cycles. As UNEP reports, for example, 90% of human waste water in the developing world flows back into the watershed untreated and our mountain ecosystems have been so degraded as to have dramatic impacts on our local to global water cycles.

Target 6.6 clearly states that: "By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes." The question then becomes how are we going to collaboratively do and achieve this? Certainly the Global Pact ought to address the need for more effective programs and legislation that will address all aspects of the protection and restoration of our watersheds, water bodies, and natural water cycles.

Michal Kravčík is an internationally recognized Slovak water scientist who has led integrated river basin management and restoration projects throughout Slovakia and has done amazing work with Tamera Ecovillage to restore the natural environment in an arid dry region of Portugal through the use of water retention landscaping. He has

produced, with Jan Lambert, an excellent full scale proposal for A Global Action Plan for the Restoration of Natural Water Cycles and Climate, which ought to be considered and supported as a part of the Global Pact. See: www.tamera.org/article-the-secret-of-water-as-a-basis-for-the-new-earth and https://bio4climate.org/downloads/Kravcik_Global_Action_Plan.pdf

Active Remedy LTD also suggests that it is vital that the global water cycle be given appropriate attention. As the US National Research Council has said, "Water is at the heart of both the causes and the effects of climate change." The Water Cycle Study Group of the U.S. Global Climate Research Program developed a plan for a new science initiative on the global water cycle. The first chapter explains how the water cycle functions and works.

See: http://www.hydro.washington.edu/pub/CE/HYDRO/WaterStudyGroup/CH1_0201.PDF

Restoring natural water cycles and the natural environment upon which they depend is integral to both rectifying extreme climate changes and is central to achieving the SDG's and needs to be fully implemented and activated while still possible. A feasible action plan which has been accepted by the UNFCCC as a potential tool for Climate Adaptation, produced by Active Remedy, is in the link below.

https://www.activeremedy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/A_Model_for_Utilising_Local_Indigenous_and_Traditional_Knowledge_and_Practices_to_Address_Global_Climate_cover_v2.pdf

VIX Global Marshall Plan for the Environment

Given the current environmental crisis, it may be time to revisit the plan first devised by former American Vice-President Al Gore in his bestselling book: "Earth in the Balance", which gives specific ideas on how to save the global environment. A Global Marshall Plan must focus on strategic goals and emphasize actions and programs that are likely to remove the bottlenecks presently inhibiting the healthy functioning of global systems. The new plan would require wealthy countries to contribute funding and capacity building for the transfer of environmentally beneficial technologies to low and middle income countries and to help least developed countries to stabilize their populations and accelerate their sustainable development. To work, however, any such effort would also require wealthy nations to make a transition themselves. The plan could encompass five strategic goals:

- Stabilizing of world population
- The rapid development of environmentally appropriate technologies
- A comprehensive change in the economic "rules of the road" by which we measure the impact of our decisions on the environment

- Negotiation and approval of a new generation of international agreements
- A cooperative plan for educating the world's citizens about our global environment.

A World Marshall Plan also worth considering seriously is that which was devised by Pieter Kooistra in two books financed by the Dutch Government. It was supported by Nobel Prize Laureate, Jan Tinbergen and some 60 other experts on the economy including Hazel Henderson. It involves a supplementary global economy, a basic income for all people, and a Marshall Plan for the Earth. For the summary, please see it here <http://www.allwinnetwork.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/WorldMarshallPlan-Summary.pdf>

IX Financial and Economic Measures

The most important thing about financial and economic measures is that these should not just embed the status quo of environmental degradation, with a cost attached. The precautionary principle must be applied, with regulation of the market, banning environment damaging products from entering the market in the first place. If there is no proof of their compatibility with environmental regulation/requirements, then “no data, no market”.

A key driver of environmental destruction and degradation (as well as growing social inequality) is the current development paradigm whereby the focus is on economic growth as measured by GDP, which when emphasized is to the detriment of social and environmental concerns. However, sustainable development is meant to be a “three-legged stool”, with social and environmental concerns of equal importance to economic issues. There is a need to have significant budgetary reform to support the new development paradigm which has been consistently called for by the NGO Major Group – one which prioritizes the flourishing of people, animals and the environment. After all, true sustainable development is qualitative, not just quantitative.

The UN reports that the world economy is growing, but the benefits are not reaching those who need them most. We need a new economic system that will place well-being and the environment forefront, and deal with our urgent planetary priorities. This could be a “restorative economy”, with options for financial measures for prevention and change. This would include aspects such as “polluter pays plus” – disincentives for unsustainable or polluting practices/products, incentives for transition to more environmental and sustainable alternatives, the removal of subsidies for unsustainable production, and moves towards a circular economy. There should be an urgent need to establish consensus funding for structure social and environmental research to encourage innovativeness and new information based on statistics for advancement.

Commons Rent shifts taxes off of labor and productive capital and onto land and natural resource rents. Thus, municipalities can collect the surface land rents within their jurisdiction. Regional governing bodies, the resource rents from forestlands, mineral, oil and water resources. A Global Resource Agency could be established to collect user fees on such transnational commons as satellite geostationary orbits, minerals mined, fish caught in international waters, and the electromagnetic spectrum, etc.

The world is impressed by the leadership role played by Bhutan's international promotion of the concept of a Gross National Happiness Index which inspired the UN's General Assembly in 2011 to pass the resolution: "[Happiness : towards a holistic approach to development](#)." Now New Zealand is moving towards a new economic system based on well-being. This is based on what the Maori language calls "kaitiakitanga", or guardianship. This looks beyond the usual short – three or four year – electoral cycles, towards a kinder and more sustainable future. It is based on the acceptance that the race to grow our economies makes us all poorer if it comes at the cost of our environment, or leaves our people behind. The New Zealand example should be recommended for scale up and duplication by all nations of the world.

One of the identified gaps in the UN Secretary General's report for the Global Pact for the Environment was corporate responsibility for environmental damage. This has been spoken about for decades, with no significant action as yet. There is now an urgent need to introduce measures to ensure that corporations respect environmental rights.

Similarly, the Global Pact should address the need to adopt legislative action and policies to ensure corporate responsibility and accountability. In this regard, close cooperation would be needed with the intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises and human rights, which was established at the 26th session of the Human Rights Council (26th June 2014).

Whilst not detracting from the need for firm regulation as core protection, it is vital that such measures should include "a supportive and open international economic system ... to better address problems of environmental degradation" (as per the Rio Declaration). Other economic measures need to be carefully considered to provide strong disincentives to environmental degradation and incentives to support the development of environmentally-friendly and sustainable systems, methods and technologies. For example, taxes such as Pigouvian Taxes, Commons Rent and a self-financing Global Marshall Plan (as above). Pigouvian Taxes are levied on actions that degrade or deplete the environment. Through such taxes, products that pollute or degrade would become uneconomical, and businesses would be inclined to steer away from them, and develop more sustainable alternatives.

Instead of using concepts such as "trade-able permits" which allows those with more resources to profit rather than those with less, the use of depletable natural resources

would be strictly capped and the cap enforced. At the same time countries/localities would be compensated for stewarding these. Permits could then be sold to the highest bidder for use of what is available each year and then these natural resources can be used to make products with the cost of the permits being passed on to those who buy the products. In this way, the cost of the use of natural resources can be spread among the users. This concept can be combined with a number of financing mechanisms.

Such financing mechanisms ought to be recommended as a part of the Global Pact and efforts should be made within the international community to support governments in enacting such policies and mechanisms.

The effect of environmental degradation on the Niger Delta region of Nigeria and other places where multinational oil companies have exploited humankind and Nature without adequate compensation has been the cause of epidemic poverty and hunger. Had these companies been held accountable through taxation and penalties for violating environmental protection policies, such exploitation could have been thwarted.

Where there has already been pollution/degradation of the environment, then the person or entity responsible should be required to bring it back to its original state. This should either be in the form of restorative actions, or reparations. The Global Pact should thus include this as a fundamental principle for ensuring environmental protection and well-being while ensuring that all stakeholders act as responsible global citizens. It would remain up to each state to adopt legislation and policies in this regard, however once it is set as a basic principle of international law, courts would also begin to recognize it as a key tenet of customary law as well. In any case, it should be stipulated that all stakeholders should follow the precautionary principle and avoid environmental harm and related health concerns in the first place.

Quoting Felix Dodds again: "We saw from the banks that where they privatized the profits and socialized the losses and we are all suffering from the impacts from a lack of regulation." Preventative action is particularly important in the case of cross-boundary impacts.

Maxwell Gomera, a Director of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Branch at UN Environment has made this case in a recent article. He stressed that our food systems need an overhaul. Agriculture emits more greenhouse gases than all our cars, trucks, trains, and airplanes combined. It consumes a whopping 70 percent of all freshwater on earth. Runoff from fertilizers pollutes lakes, rivers, and coastal ecosystems. Agriculture also causes approximately 80 percent of forest loss. With human population growing and life expectancy increasing, these impacts are set to worsen.

But these impacts are not inevitable. They result in part from the failings of our

economic development process. In pursuit of wealth creation and economic development, we are ironically destroying the very Nature that underpins our survival and existence. Solutions will only come when we confront the economy that is enabling this and likewise change the way we produce our food. The Secretary-General's Report mentions that soil loss and our failure to maintain healthy soils is one area that has been pretty much ignored by our system of international environmental legislation. It is thus essential that efforts be made as a part of developing the Global Pact to ensure that there is support for transitioning to various means of regenerative agriculture, including such processes as agro-ecology, agro-forestry, analog forestry, organic agriculture (which FAO has determined is 2 - 4 times as productive as conventional agriculture in the developing world), and carbon farming, water retention landscaping, and holistic livestock management, etc.

Similarly, we could price water used for agricultural purposes at a rate that would severely limit or reduce its use for such purposes. The Global Pact could include the placement of surcharges on scarce commodities and natural resource usage and a global commission could be established to assist governments in enacting legislation to try to achieve such goals. All countries could be required to protect their soils and ecosystems and to sustain a certain percentage of soil fertility - such as France and a number of other countries have done with the 4/1000 regenerative agriculture initiative. The establishment of a unique Organic Agricultural Promotional Extension Service could train people and encourage and support implementation of organic gardening and practices across the board.

The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, the IUCN, World Wildlife Foundation and others are calling for the UN to hold a High Level Summit Meeting and adopt a New Global Deal for Nature and People during the review of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020. The aim would be to protect and restore half of the planet for Nature, thus halting biodiversity loss, slowing down the damage we are doing to Nature, and ultimately restoring it to the level science says we need. Efforts to create the Global Pact should be aligned with, lead towards, and support the development of the New Deal for Nature and People.

This New Deal would also attempt, in part, to ensure that every day economic choices do not undermine nature. It will guide policy by measuring and accounting for Nature's contributions to our economic systems, an approach that was recently championed by UN Environment's Inclusive Wealth Report and UN Statistical Division's System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. This approach attempts to measure Nature's previously invisible benefits, taking a first step towards managing Nature for both its own good and for human welfare. However, such steps need to be very carefully considered, to ensure that they do not degrade the importance and intrinsic value of Nature by monetizing this. At the end of the day, we need to aim for the recreation of a widespread respect and reverence for Nature, not commoditization.

World Leaders should be developing new solutions to transform our relationship with Nature even before 2020. These should include the transition to sustainable sources of protein, improved agricultural productivity, the elimination of unnecessary and harmful subsidies, and the use of incentives for citizens to eat and live more sustainably. Other measure could include:

- Implementing legal strategies to incentivize limiting the total environmental impact of our production system, such as Integrated and Extended Producers Responsibility schemes, by making the manufacturer responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product and especially for funding the take-back, recycling and final disposal.
- Redefining the shareholder value law/regulation to avoid production based on 'maximized profit' and instead to promote production based on 'societal benefit and environmental benignity'.
- Internalizing social and environmental costs (at the source) and the application of fair pricing.
- Using financial instruments: tax shift from income tax towards environmental use/global taxes such as the border adjustment tax to tax products from those countries that are causing climate change.

We must take a step-wise path moving towards a Circular Economy that must be toxic-free and fossil-free (absolute decoupling/from efficiency towards sufficiency), and measured and enabled through:

- Energy and resource management at all levels of production.
- Sector strategies associated with targets for resource productivity and circularity.
- Avoiding exploitation of geographic externalities: in weaker economies with weaker standards, lower labor costs should not be disproportionately burdened by environmental harm.
- The circular economy cannot be used as rationale for externalizing costs of proper waste management by export to weaker economies for unsustainable or sham recycling.
- Standardizing products, setting up basic/minimal environmental criteria for products, including information on the products and the implementation of the right to know.
- Including mainstream resource efficiency and eco-innovation in national Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) support strategies and programs, including financing mechanisms.

A scientific and experts policy committee should be set up, possibly under UNEP and similar to the International Resource Panel, or more like the Asian Productivity

Organization, in order to develop policy recommendations, guidelines, legislative options, etc. in order to transition to such a circular economy. In the meantime the Global Pact should include recommendations for states to implement such policies and actions as these; and a global process or partnership initiative should be established to assist countries in making such a transition and in a cooperative and cohesive manner.

X Monitoring and Implementation

UN Environment's major limitation is the lack of implementation and enforcement powers at the national level. Real inroads could be made into the current environmental crisis simply by implementing all existing MEAs and UNEA resolutions. However, experience has shown that this is not going to happen without clear legal frameworks and responsibilities, national regulation and rule of law, government and corporate accountability, backed up by an obligatory reporting system, monitoring and openness/transparency. Please find below under Monitoring a description of a global structure involving GIS and local population in a global monitoring effort that can also supply local to global solutions.

This would take the development of considerable political will. Also, to be successful, it would necessitate a Nature-centered approach, which measures and prioritizes the indications coming from Nature herself. Scientists have developed a set of nine planetary boundaries that must be respected if the Earth System is to be maintained in a stable state that is hospitable for human societies to survive and thrive. This model should be incorporated in any environmental monitoring system. Modelling and monitoring the system is needed, as a whole versus reductionist or sectoral practices, since Nature consists of many subsystems that are all interconnected. Lifecycle analysis of products and practices further enables greater visibility into the root causes of the threats to planetary boundaries.

We have already exceeded four of these planetary boundaries, and action needs to be taken to ensure that we return to and live within all the boundaries. Such action could include defining and quantifying national-level targets, indicators and benchmarks for management of natural resources.

To ensure effective monitoring and analysis, we would need:

- Vigorous reporting requirements.
- Beefed up scientific technical analysis capacity.
- Mapping existing conventions/treaties – against planetary boundaries framework.
- In-depth analysis of crisis areas: aspects which are not yet adequately covered.
- Analysis of other aspects which are not currently covered.

Many of these could be developed during the lead period that would be calculated in to the enforcement of a Global Pact for the Environment and other incisive environmental legislation.

XI Education and Awareness

The proposed environmental legislation and Global Pact for the Environment should also be formulated in language that can be understood easily at all ages - first in the six official languages of the UN and then together with future coordinators of the Global Pact and/or other environmental legislation from each language section of all UN and UNESCO Member States. With the help of UNESCO National Commissions a training at the global level would take place on the nature of the legislation involved and how local people can contribute to its implementation. Those from each language section of each country would return to their individual localities and teach the new requirements and how all can help with their implementation within schools, and help localities form partnerships and collaborative projects with their peers in other parts of the world. One of the most effective tools in the armory of prevention against environmental damage and resource depletion is the development of respect and reverence for Nature. This can be developed through education and awareness; provided effective methods and messaging are used, and an action-orientated approach adopted.

There needs to be a stronger commitment to ensuring that effective environmental education is taught to members of the younger generation, and education and awareness campaigns directed to adults, in order to inspire all individuals with the sense of responsibility and action-orientation needed to protect and improve the environment. This would mean new obligations for member states, and new ways of working with UN Environment.

As regards adult education and awareness, this should include:

- The provision of clear environmental information on consumer products to enable informed choice
- The development of assessment tools to compare the environmental impacts of product and lifestyle choices
- Targeted information and awareness campaigns
- And the dissemination by mass media of information of an educational nature on ecosystems and on the need to protect and preserve the environment.

As regards school education, there is already a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on education, and this requires (Target 4.7.) all learners to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, thorough

education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, etc. Education for sustainable development and global citizenship education are to be mainstreamed at all levels of education policies, curricula, teacher education, and student assessment. Further ideas are worked out towards the end of our document under Environmental and Humane Education, Education and Awareness, and a Treasure Trove for the Environment below.

XII Capacity Building and International Development

As Felix Dodds has stated, there is still much work that UN Environment must do to strengthen capacity building around the environment for developing countries. This should be undertaken within the new development framework as pioneered by the Secretary General by working with the UN family and the UN country teams to address the needs that developing countries have identified, but should also be accomplished by more effectively identifying and working closely with stakeholders. For example, many NGOs are already working to support environmental development.

There is also much more that could be done in environmental capacity building and ecological development in international development work. Some countries' (and NGOs') international development work continues to focus on resource depleting or environmentally degrading practices. This cannot continue. We need new policy approaches, and constant monitoring, to ensure that development is sustainable and ecological.

Such capacity building should include technical assistance and support for the implementation of existing MEAs and UNEA resolutions. This would begin with developing countries incorporating such implementation within their national development plans, to enable this harnessing of international development support.

As stated in the Rio Declaration, "States shall co-operate in a spirit of global partnership to **conserve, protect and restore** the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem". We agree with the draft Global Pact for the Environment (Article 20) that "the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special attention." However, we are concerned about the reference to "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances." We do not feel that there should be double standards between developed and developing countries. The crisis we are facing calls for ambitious reform, not political "opt-outs". There is a clear moral responsibility for the developed countries that have caused resource depletion and environmental degradation to help and support developing countries.

Lack of political will is probably the single largest barrier to the environmental reform that is needed to save the planet. Member States should make commitments, including:

- Introduce **effective** environmental legislation (as per the Rio principles) and enforcement mechanisms, including environmental impact assessment (which puts the onus of proof on the applicant).
- Include the agreed environmental principles/rights of nature in their constitution (where a written constitution exists).
- Include the agreed environmental principles in their national legislation, implementation and enforcement mechanisms, and environmental impact assessments.
- Mainstream the agreed environmental principles across all government policies and programs.
- Fully implement all international environmental agreements to which they are parties.

There should be a requirement for the appointment of an international and national Ombudsman for the Environment.

There needs to be express recognition of the need for **governments** to take action to reduce human impacts on the natural environment, to protect the environment from future damage, and to remediate past impacts.

XIII Stakeholders and Partnerships

A 21st century governance structure is needed for all environmental measures, whereby civil society has a “seat at the table”, rather than token and cursory consultation as an add-on to authenticate proceedings. Civil society/NGO participation/partnerships should be included in all MEAs. The approaches we now see in the Committee for Food Security and UNAIDS, should be adopted, where Major Groups and Other Stakeholders are actually part of the governance structure.

Other suggestions for improved stakeholder engagement include:

- Capacity building of civil society to ensure they can make informed and effective contributions. See below for a system using GIS that could be instituted
- The establishment of an Environment Multi Stakeholder Group to address pressing issues related to environmental reporting.

There should be a new ***Stakeholder Group for Nature and Animals***. The current Stakeholder Groups represent primarily economic and social interests, but there is no representation on behalf of Nature and animals: These cannot represent their own interests, and need voices to speak on their behalf.

Part 2

MOTIVATION OF GOVERNMENTS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO ACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND A GLOBAL PACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PROVIDED THESE ARE COMPREHENSIVE AND FULLY ENFORCED

I Governments at All Levels

Ia A comprehensive and strictly enforced Global Pact for the Environment Would Have the Following Advantages

II The Private Sector

Ila Advantages of a Comprehensive and Strictly Enforced Global Pact

Ilb Advantages for Civil Society and Individual People for Having a Comprehensive and Strictly Enforced Global Pact

III Environmental and Humane Education for Sustainable Development

IV How a Comprehensive and Strictly Enforced Global Pact for the Environment Can Be Introduced in Small Steps through the Creation of a Capacity Building and International Development Phase

IVa Preparatory Period

IVb Governments, Corporations and Civil Society

IVc Education and Awareness

IVd A Monitoring and Implementations System

Very few governments, businesses, civil society organizations or even individuals have been able to foresee the many-sided threat to human well-being and survival now posed by the cumulative effect of our actions with regard to the environment.

Throughout the decades since the Industrial Revolution, these seemed mostly to be innocuous actions. Now that we are beginning to suspect the substantial toll this has taken in terms of human life and well-being and the impact this is having on the Earth subsystems and the prospects for human capacity to thrive and even to survive, a Global Pact and effective legislation that is fully implemented may seem to some as such an infringement on so much of what we have become habituated to, as to be, for them, almost out of the question.

And yet, our present course threatens to have consequences that far outweigh any uncomfortable changes we might have to make. We are already on a course whereby the Earth's temperature might well no longer support the lives of many of our very own children. We have transgressed at least four of the nine planetary boundaries within which the Earth System can support human life: climate change, the pH and Nitrogen cycles, and biodiversity. (Please see: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/1259855>)

And if we take a close look at which changes we shall have to make to have an effective Global Pact for the Environment and other necessary, fully implementable environmental legislation, the benefits far outweigh the disadvantages for governments at all levels, the private sector, civil society and individual people, provided the Pact and other legislation is comprehensive and can will be strictly enforced.

Let us take a closer look both at the situations governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals are in today and how the issues they face would be affected by a global pact, and then look at what might be involved to have a comprehensive, strictly enforced Global Pact for the Environment and, if need be, other supporting legislation.

I Governments at All Levels

Challenges Governments at all Levels Face Today:

Besides environmental challenges, governments each confront mounting gaps between rich and poor, growing unrest, streams of foreigners who could potentially bring greater prosperity but which at present are adding to the social unrest, dwindling natural resources, growing pollution and waste that are affecting the availability of clean drinking and other water, the health of terrestrial and ocean systems and negatively affecting the economy in general as well as the availability of decent work for all. Governments--rightly or wrongly-- are being held responsible for the problems their people face and it is thus important that, to avoid further social unrest, the deadline they realize they must meet, for the longer they take, the more the above problems aggravate one another and the farther they spiral out of control.

Ia A comprehensive and strictly enforced Global Pact for the Environment would have the following advantages:

It would strengthen the environmental pillar of the SDGs and in so doing, positively affect the speedy implementation of **all** of the SDGs and targets at the same time, since the environment is one of the pillars/aspects that affect **all** SDGs either negatively or

positively. And since each of the SDGs are interlinked with all others in a complex of interacting challenges as we saw above, anything that affects even one of the SDGs positively will have a positive effect that will fan out and positively affect the others. An example of this happening took place in an area between Hawaii and California - a mass the size of France containing an estimated 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic called The Great Pacific Garbage Patch Cleanup. Here the local population of the region was actively involved in the cleanup and the restoration of the natural systems. As a result, a fertile natural environment was created from a wasteland and this is having the following advantages:

- Local population because they were fully involved in the process have come to understand the principles of Nature involved in restoring and diversifying the region. They are now able to build on this understanding into the future and maintain the health of their lands.
- The population as a whole is experiencing the benefits from their own work,
- Large tracts of land that were previously wasteland have become available to produce food;
- This is helping to combat poverty,
- Revived natural systems in a previously arid area now provide clean drinking water,
- By using natural ways of restoring the land, the agricultural runoff does not eventually flow into the oceans and add to their pollution.
- This together with the community collaboration that led to this success, is contributing to social stability.
- Has contributed to meaningful work for women and men alike.
- Since life in the area has now begun to prosper, food and clean drinking water is available to all, people are no longer inclined to leave the area where they grew up and their families reside and with modern technology they can increasingly branch out into other forms of work and remain fully in touch with colleagues and professionals throughout the whole world.

In the same way, local governments can invite urban populations to help “green” their cities by cleaning up parks and vacant lots and using these as well as rooftop gardens to produce food for school children and the local population; while contributing to the attractiveness of their towns.

By adopting a comprehensive, strictly enforced Global Pact for the Environment, Governments at all levels will, by focusing on the environment be making significant progress in coming to grips with many other challenges while facilitating the implementation of all SDGs at the same time.

II The Private Sector

Challenges the Private Sector Faces in Today's World

Many corporations are contributing to social well-being through socially responsible practices. For example, cooperatives with one billion members worldwide, as a part of their Cooperative Identity give back to the communities where they are based and also contribute to global development. Many corporations and others are becoming members of the UN's Global Compact.

The requirement for businesses to become socially and environmentally responsible is growing and although environmental legislation is at present often not enforced, there is significant pressure to comply. This pressure is coming among others from civil society.

- Since the Earth Summit, civil society organizations from developed and developing countries have increasingly become familiar with one another's problems. The developed organizations are increasingly standing up against abuses of people's human rights.
- The discrepancy between the very rich and the very poor and the decreasing middle class is causing increasing hardship and resentment among people in general and being seen, rightly or wrongly, as an abuse of those with money and power among which corporations are often seen as the culprit, which is repeatedly causing civil unrest and action.
- Civil society is increasingly in touch with one another world wide via the Internet and the social media, which often on a whim can cause social movements to arise seemingly out of nowhere, to wit the Arab Spring.
- Where poverty and despair reign, there is the tendency to blame and a scapegoat is easily found among those corporations that dominate the market, including the very powerful ones.
- The specter of the action against Nestles baby milk still lives on as a corporate nightmare and as an increasingly realistic scenario only played out in a much greater global arena.
- At the same time, pressures to perform well financially loom large for many, especially large corporations which are beholden to their investors, for competition for investment is fierce. And most corporations either require raw resources from the environment or they pollute or otherwise degrade the environment through their activities, including transportation of their goods. To survive in the face of increasing competition, corporations often feel “driven” at

great social and economic cost to degrade and deplete the natural environment often at the expense of local people and the unlawful possession of lands that belong to Indigenous Peoples. Corporations are caught between a rock and a hard place while they are in competition for natural resources with other corporations.

IIa Advantages of a Comprehensive and Strictly Enforced Global Pact

A comprehensive and strictly enforced Global Pact would place scarce and irreplaceable natural resources beyond their reach and also out of the reach of their competitors. It would level the playing field for all concerned by compelling corporations to find a way of producing goods and services that are more sustainable, while possibly contributing to a more solid and harmonious relationship with civil society where this has been disturbed by (perceived) abuses of Nature.

To really help the private sector it is however imperative that any Global Pact be both comprehensive and strictly enforceable and enforced.

IIb Challenges Civil Society and Individual People Face in Today's World

Environmental challenges are affecting ALL people no matter where they live, independently of their wealth, power and/or status. It is increasingly realized that these challenges must be addressed in everyone's interest. Taking concrete action will therefore increasingly be embraced as in the interest of people individually and collectively and thus the ground is becoming increasingly fertile for comprehensive and strictly enforced action. At the same time, we are living in a period where conflict seems to be increasing and collaboration decreasing.

Movement between integrative globalization and isolationism tends to be subject to a pendulum-type swing. During the negotiations leading to the 2030 Agenda, there was a strong sense of working together for a better world and the SDGs were enthusiastically tackled by all levels of society. For many people this movement has gone too fast and they are now putting their feet on the brakes. We are now experiencing a strong swing toward isolationism and the fears of "the other" and "what is different" that tend to accompany this more isolationist way of seeing reality. Fear is contagious and with mounting fears of environmental disasters, we seem to be caught in a downward spiral.

IIc Advantages for Civil Society and Individual People for Having a Comprehensive and Strictly Enforced Global Pact

It is in the interest that comprehensive and effective environmental legislation be put into place for all on an equal basis, including for those who are more prone toward isolationism, and their governments which are confronted with solving the same complexity of global problems as other governments. Having comprehensive, **universally** enforced Global Pact accompanied by clear descriptions of how this will benefit all people without benefiting some more than others will go a long way to allaying the fears posed by the environment without giving any nation the impression they are being treated unfairly.

Many are acutely aware of environmental threats to human well-being and survival. There are many popular movements, often including the private sector and with governmental support that are working toward a healthy and resilient environment. These are inspiring and having such environmental legislation in place will enable them to come into their own as a constructive resource.

Where fear is adding to a negative stance with regard to a possible Global Pact, the fear can be decreased where people are shown manageable steps they can take to decrease the environmental challenges. Fear decreases where it is accompanied by actions to do something about what is feared.

Although isolationism tends to lead people to look inward to their own group, it is to the advantage of governments to get people involved in helping to reach the SDGs. Very many people are now connected with one another via the Internet and most also via the partnership economy and here they will hear about positive action being taken for a more healthy, resilient environment and thus be able to support their governments in implementing the adopted legislation..

III Environmental and Humane Education for Sustainable Development

As UN Environment recognizes, environmental education – including learning, research and innovation – is fundamental to sustainable development. Environmental education and training promote attitudes and value systems that influence environmentally ethical behavior. It also empowers people to build societies that are both ecologically sustainable and socially just. Likewise, awareness-raising and training are essential to UN Environment’s mission to “inspire, inform and enable” nations and peoples to live more sustainably.

The main problem is that most of the targets of SDG4 are drafted based on traditional educational content and methodology. A much more progressive, holistic and developmental education is needed to transform students to deal with an increasingly complex, interlinked, rapidly-changing global world - with more emphasis on participatory pedagogy (as opposed to the traditional imparting of facts and figures). This is particularly true given that the next generation will need to address a world

where human actions are rapidly destroying our environment, degrading human rights, and causing immense suffering and wholesale extinctions of animals. Much more is needed than just learning about sustainable development. We need a new generation with very different values, and an adaptive and “solutionary” approach to earth’s many problems.

The decade 2005-2014 was the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), and UNEP had a full strategy for Environmental Education and Training. However, when you travel to schools in various continents and countries, you still see lack-luster environmental education, which deals only with environmental problems, rather than developing respect and reverence for Nature. This simply causes learners to “switch-off”, instead of firing them to action.

Much more progressive thought and political Will is needed to ensure school curriculums which will be fit for future global society and future world problems and crises. The development of human capital is the root intervention for future sustainability. But many education authorities are carrying on as if “business as usual” is an option.

One new innovation has been the effective development of “Humane Education”, which is defined as: “A process that encourages an understanding of the need for compassion and respect for people, animals and the environment and recognizes the interdependence of all living things”. Here greater familiarity with basic understandings provided by Life Scientists can help to shift human relationship with Nature from one based on opposition to one based on collaboration. One such basic principle is that while all matter is conscious, life distinguishes itself from matter by being conscious and also having emotions and the capacity to act. Truly recognizing all life as sentient makes it harder to “objectify” other living beings.

This is particularly valuable in our increasingly interdependent and interconnected world. Furthermore, Humane Education has been found to have a raft of positive benefits including the development of compassion and empathy, emotional intelligence and tolerance, pro-social attitudes, ethics and values. It can play an important role in creating a compassionate and caring society which would take benign responsibility for ourselves, each other, our fellow animals and the earth.

There is now an International Coalition for Humane Education, and an Institute for Humane Education which describes its ultimate outcome as the creation of a generation of “solutionaries” – altruistic people who are committed to doing the most good and least harm; and Humane Education is increasingly being introduced into curriculums and school programs.

In the words of Andrew Goldring, speaking about education in the 2016 Virtual Dialogue on Harmony with Nature, with Earth Jurisprudence as its theme: *“In conclusion, learners of all ages should have access to learning experiences that develop their understanding of the inter-relationship of environment, society, and economy, of the ecological limits to development and the interdependence of ecological and human wellbeing, plus opportunities to develop the skills required to become an active participant in the co-creation of an ecological and ethical human society.”*

IV How a Comprehensive and Strictly Enforced Global Pact for the Environment Can Be Introduced in Small Steps through the Creation of a Capacity Building and International Development Phase

It would be unrealistic to try and implement a Global Pact immediately, although it would also be possible to have some sections of a Global Pact come into force immediately while others follow the development of a preparatory process. Having a preparatory process of several years for most of the Global Pact would allow all concerned to prepare for the enforcement, in their own individual ways, for all have a diverse set of challenges, each of which they share with diverse others.

IVa A **preparatory period** could be used as follows:

IVb By Governments, Corporations and Civil Society

1. All governments, corporations, civil society organizations and individuals would be party to the Global Pact for the Environment and other environmental legislation to be comprehensive. Each would have individual challenges and these can be met together in groups and/or individually. Each would have time to prepare a strategy for complying with the Global Pact and/or other environmental legislation, including each class in primary through tertiary educational institutions in this way all would be prepared at the earliest possible time from a very early stage of their education to participate in the Pact's implementation.
2. This would outline the specific challenges that would have to be addressed by each, and enable each to research steps it must take and how to manage these in the time frame available.
3. Each can at the same time work with others with similar challenges so that they can share ways in which their individual challenges can be addressed. Regular meetings among peers and those with similar challenges so that best practices can be exchanged.

IVc Education and Awareness

1. The proposed environmental legislation and Global Pact for the Environment would be formulated in language that can be understood easily by all ages, first in the official languages of the UN and then together with future coordinators of the Global Pact and/or other environmental legislation from each language section of all UN and UNESCO Member States. With the help of UNESCO National Commissions a training at the global level would take place on the nature of the legislation involved and how local people can contribute to its implementation. Those from each language section of each country would return to their individual localities and teach the new requirements and how all can help with their implementation in schools and help localities to form partnerships and collaborative projects with their peers in other parts of the world.
2. A Treasure Trove of Nature-based Best Practices can be created to which all have access and all can contribute.

These would be Nature-inspired because innovations in Nature tend to come forth from ways in which Nature has functioned for eons, from developments that have been well-tried out and have proved themselves over long periods of time. Choosing projects that are proved to be Nature-based will overcome the flip-flop effect of many inventions where they seemed to promise significant benefits but in time were discovered to have negative consequences that outweighed their benefits in many cases. (Idea to involve schools contributed by BIRD.)

This collection of best practices can be contributed to by Member States, Corporations, CSOs, individual people and students at all levels. Every year Nobel-type prizes can be awarded – one for each category and one for students at every phase of education: primary, secondary and tertiary as well as post graduate levels, including of course scientific and technological research.

3. **Financial and Economic Measures** can be developed in this preparation time. These would discourage destructive environmental practices, many of which have been recommended over many years requiring those who harm the environment to pay. When it comes to Pigouvian taxes, for instance, monies from fees paid to restore all environmental damage and pay retribution to affected populations can be placed in a fund. It is suggested that this fund is then to be used for a number of measures that

can decrease people's felt need to abuse the natural environment. For example:

IVd A Monitoring and Implementations System can be set up that would take place from local to global levels. This can involve GIS technology whereby ordinary people at the local level, including schools would give input to a monitoring body together with suggestions for improvements on implementation of environmental legislation and a Global Pact as appropriate in that particular area. Such suggestions can be fed into the Treasure Trove of Nature-based Best Practices. Preparing the GIS technology and the communication lines needed for such communication from local to global levels would aim to be completed by the end of this preparatory period.

A Global Pact would have the components mentioned in the document: ***Essential Elements for Developing an Effective and Coherent Global Pact for the Environment***(http://www.allwinnetwork.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Essential-Elements-for-a-Global-Pact-for-the-Environment_Commons-Cluster1.pdf)

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