UNEP/GRID-Arendal

Sharing Knowledge and Building Skills for Resilience - MAIN –

Mitigation Adaptation Information Network for Sustainable Communities

By Anne Solgaard
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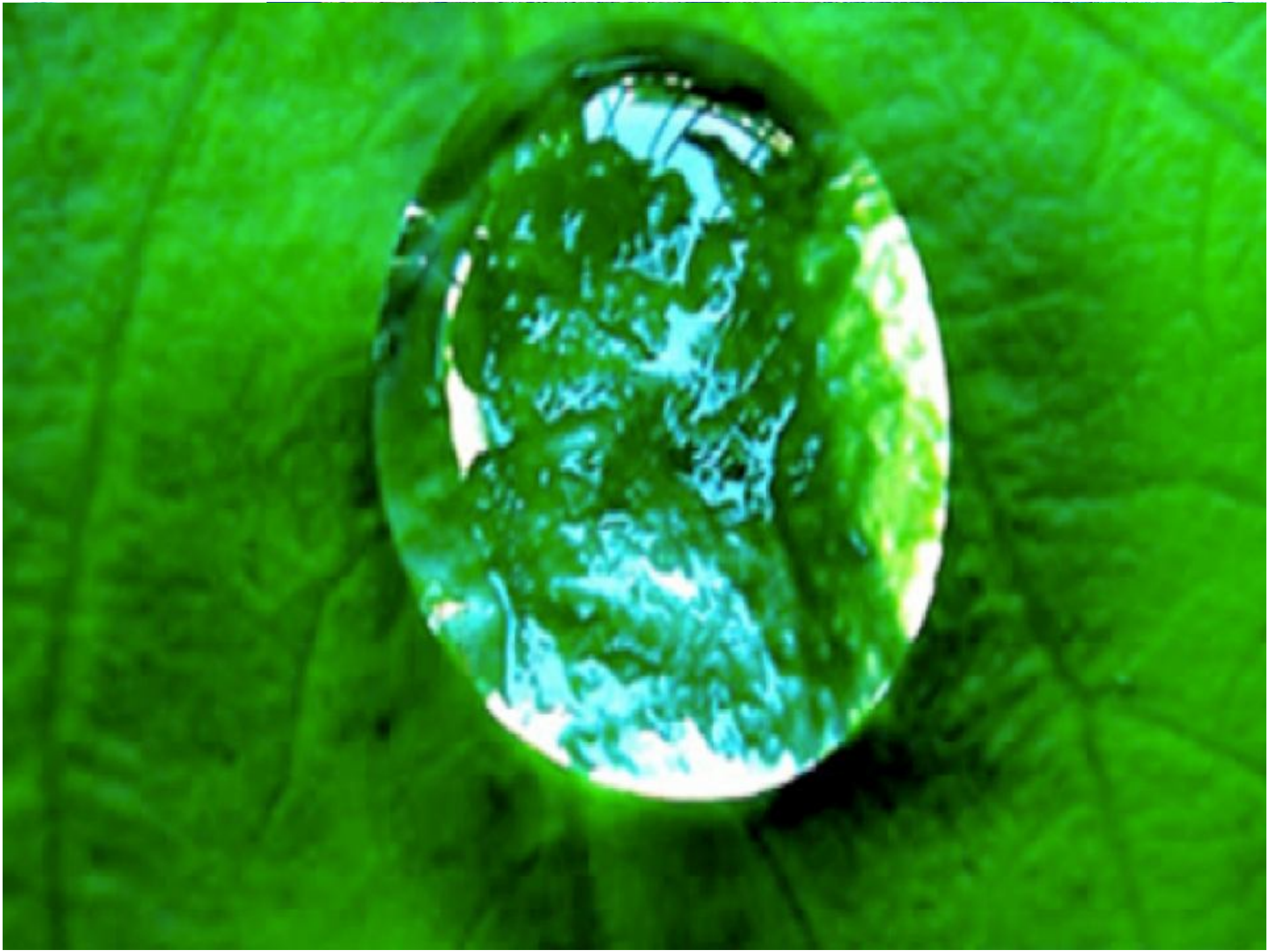
UNEP/GRID-Arendal



Overview

- MAIN for Sustainable Communities
  - Theory – U: Prototyping
    - Building the Network
  - Resilience?
- UNEP/GRID-Arendal

…Creating the future we want to see…

…where there is disaster there is also compassion; where there is devastation there is also restoration; where there is war, there is also peace… What happens when an eight year old child repeatedly sees the Greenland ice melting, piles of dead fishes, huge areas of fire…? This child will probably grow up imbued with skepticism and fear, rather than being inspired to create the future he or she desires."

– Rosa Alegria, Futures Group, Sao Paulo University

Photo: Lawrence Hislop

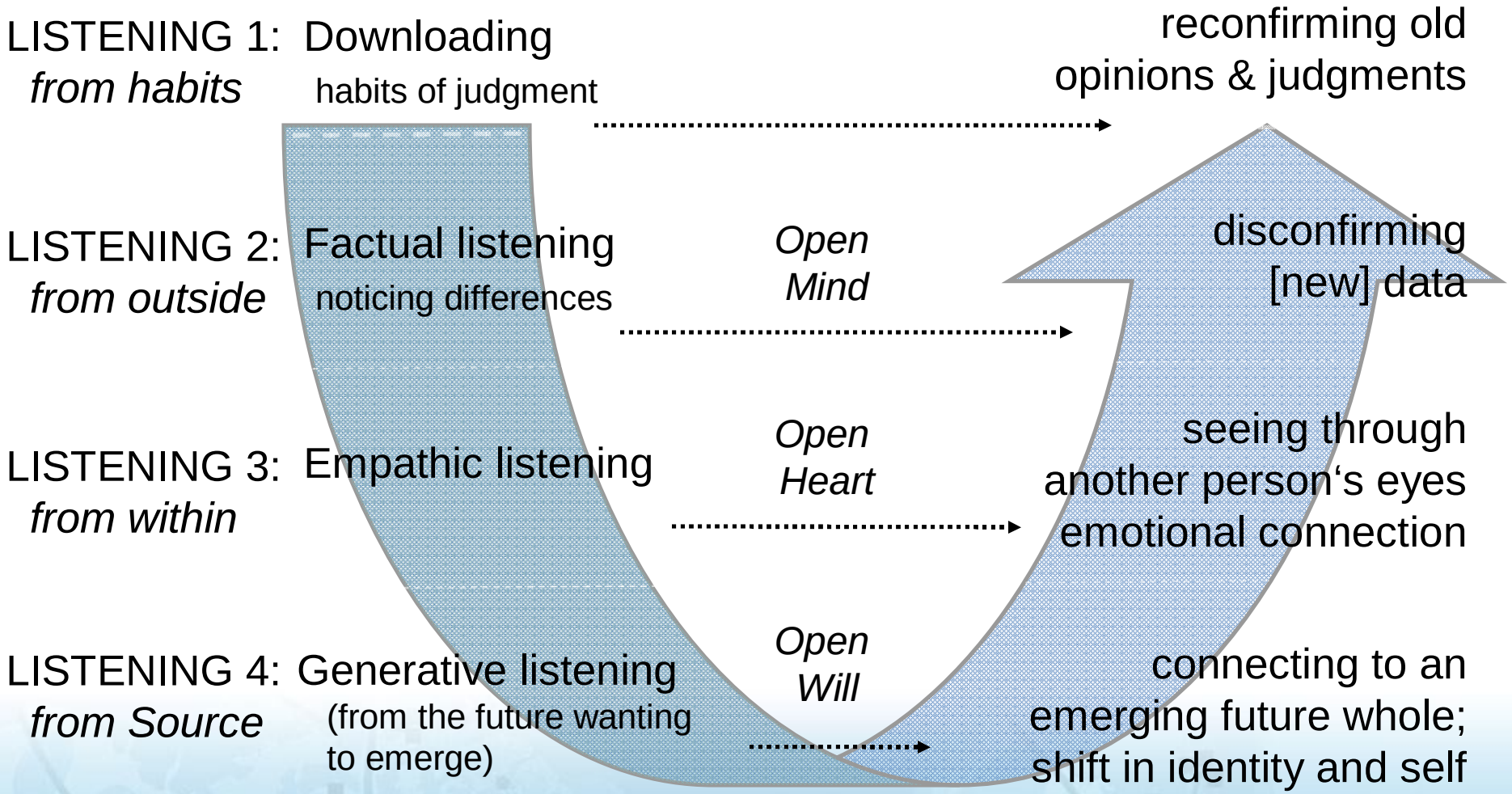
MAIN for Sustainable Communities

MAIN, Mitigation and Adaptation Information Network for Sustainable Communities, is an Information Communication & Technology (ICT) based network designed for exchange of information and experience, promoting innovation, capacity building, green economy and empowerment by and for local communities.

MAIN cont.

to bring together expertise, knowledge, and local experiences in a common network that empowers communities across the globe to create, share, use, and store knowledge to support more sustainable communities.

From Theory-U



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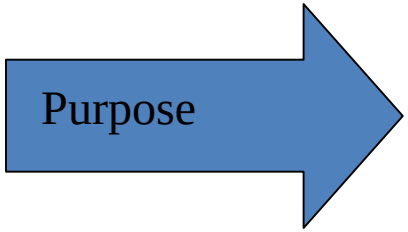
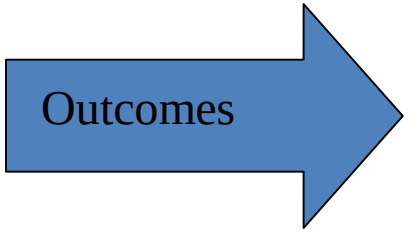
Prototyping : Purpose & Outcomes



The purpose of prototyping is to create a microcosm that allows you to explore the future by doing. Prototypes work on the principle of "failing early to learn quickly." (IDEO)



- Valuable feedback from stakeholders on an idea that helps to refine the concept and its underlying assumptions
- A practical and tested mini-version of what later could become a pilot project that can be shared and eventually scaled.
- Ideas to refine the existing and invent new concepts

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Prototyping : Process & Criteria

1. Is it **relevant**--does it matter to all the key stakeholders involved levels: individually (for the person involved), institutionally (for the organizations involved), and socially (for the communities involved).
2. Is it **right**--can you see the whole in the microcosm that you focus on? Get the dimensions of the problem or project definition right.
3. Is it **revolutionary**--is it new? Could it change the game? Does it change (some of) the root issues in the system?
4. Is it **rapid**--can you do it quickly?
5. Is it **rough**-can you do it on a small scale? Can you do it locally? Let the local context teach you how to get it right.
6. Is it **relationally** effective--does it leverage the strengths, competencies and possibilities of the existing networks and communities at hand?
7. Is it **replicable**--can you scale it?

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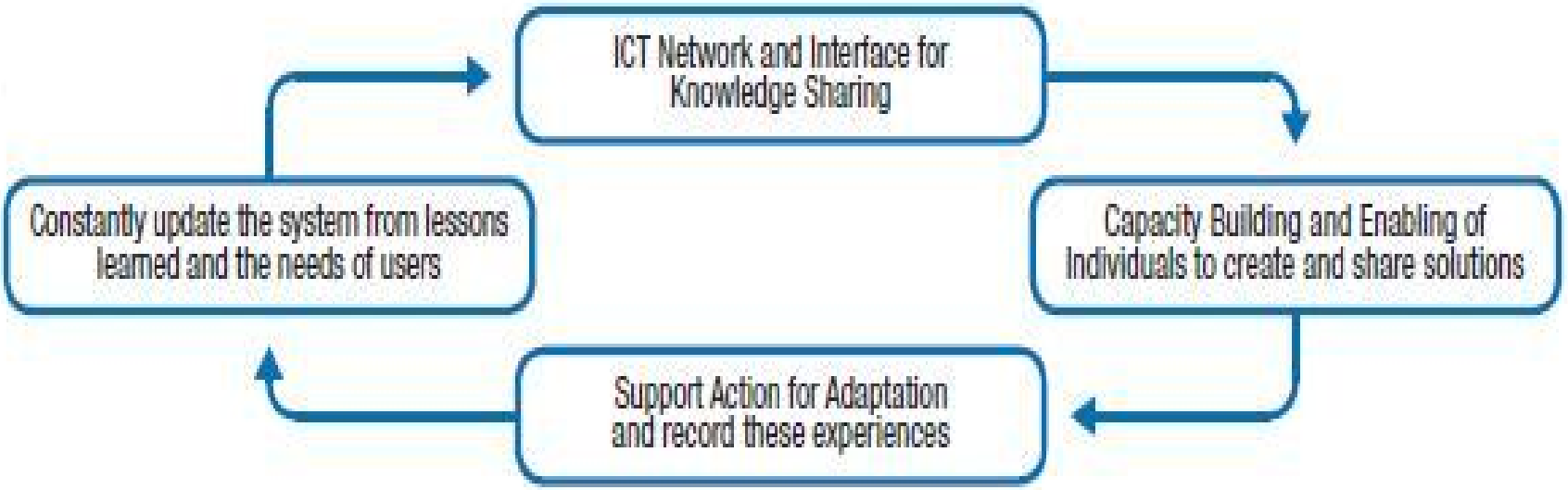
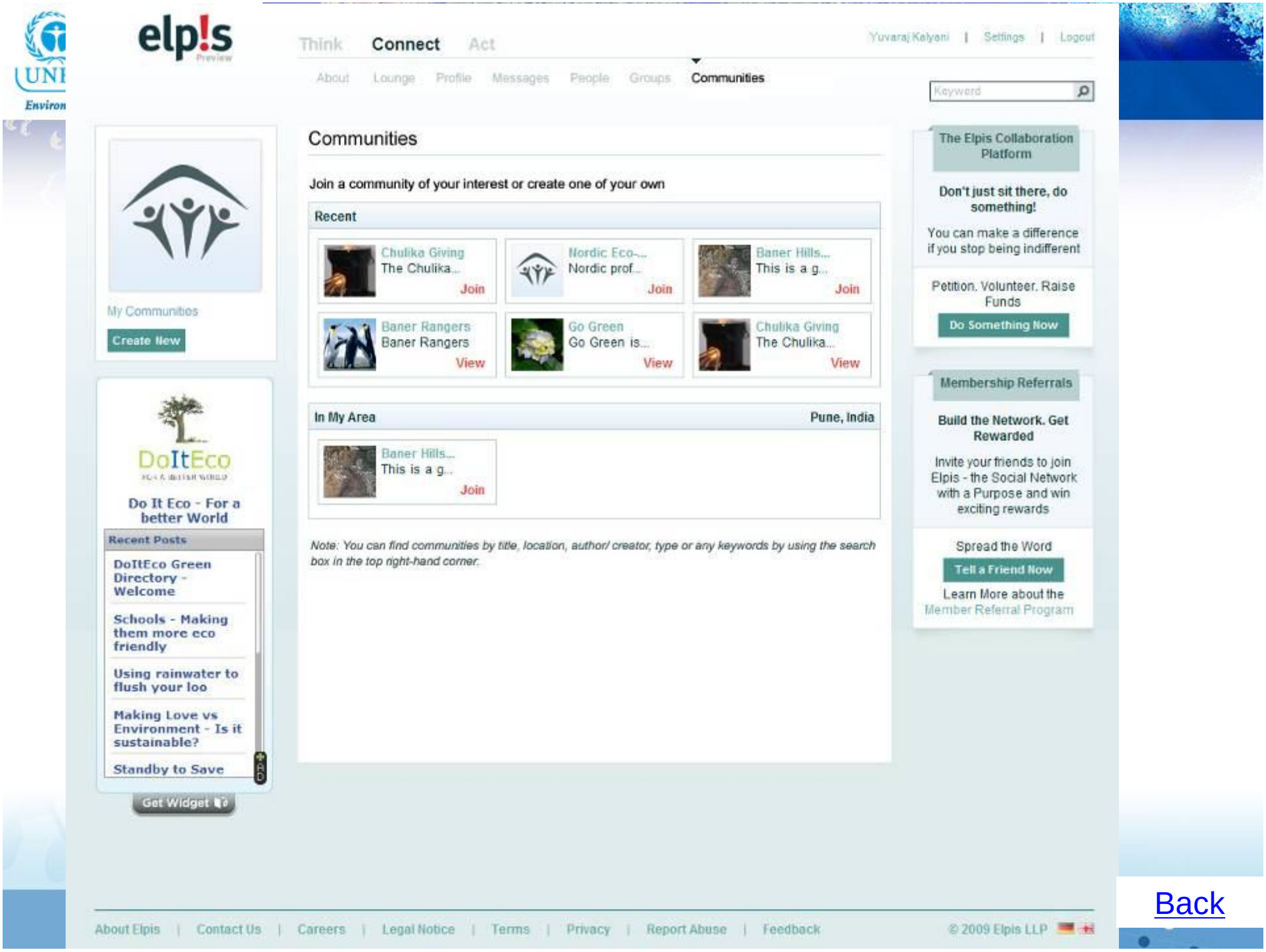


BUILDING THE NETWORK

...prototyping...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Recent Posts
DoItEco Green Directory - Welcome
Schools - Making them more eco friendly
Using rainwater to flush your loo
Making Love vs Environment - Is it sustainable?
Standby to Save
Get Widget
Communities
Join a community of your interest or create one of your own
Recent
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In My Area
Pune, India
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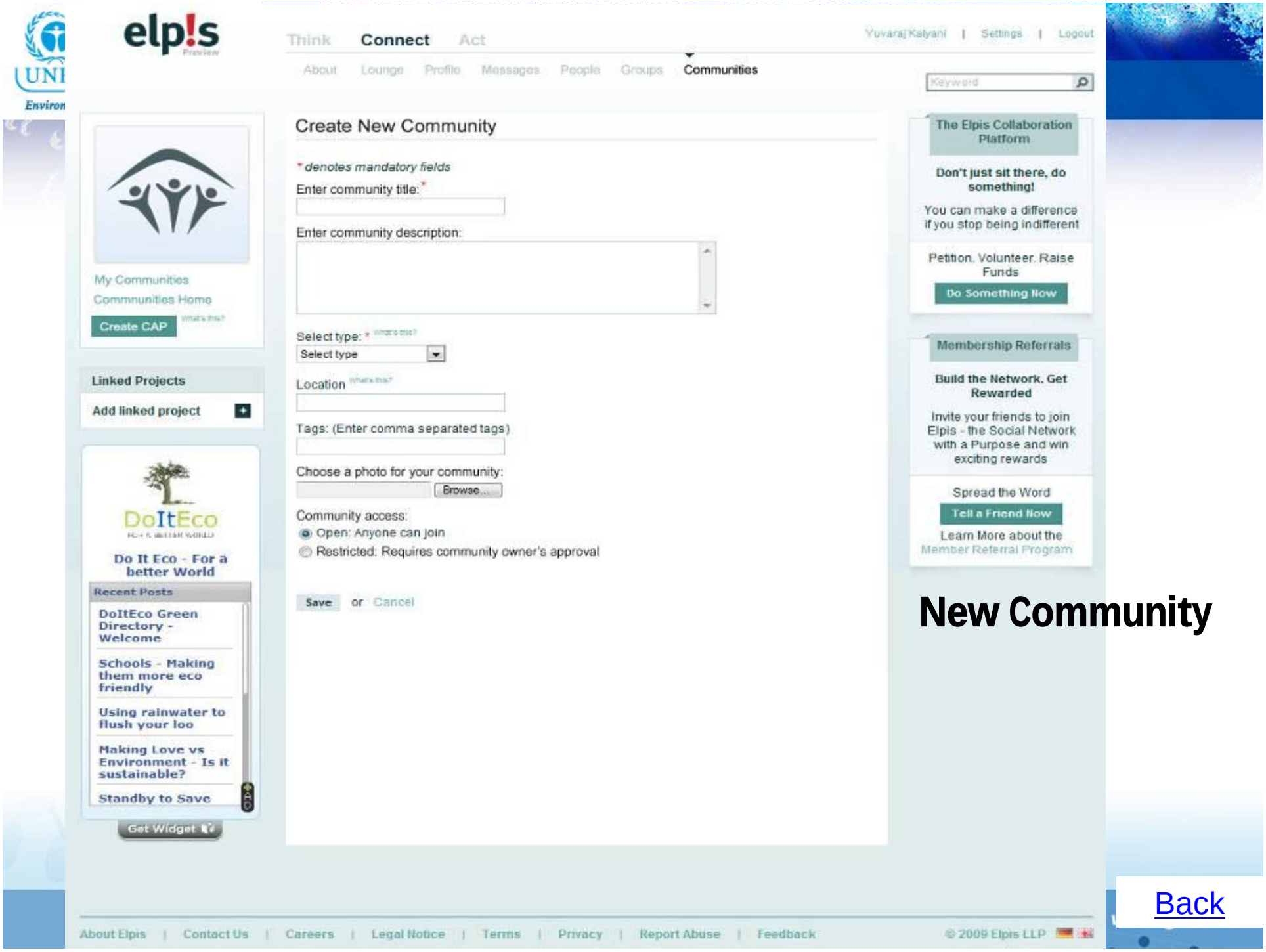

New Community

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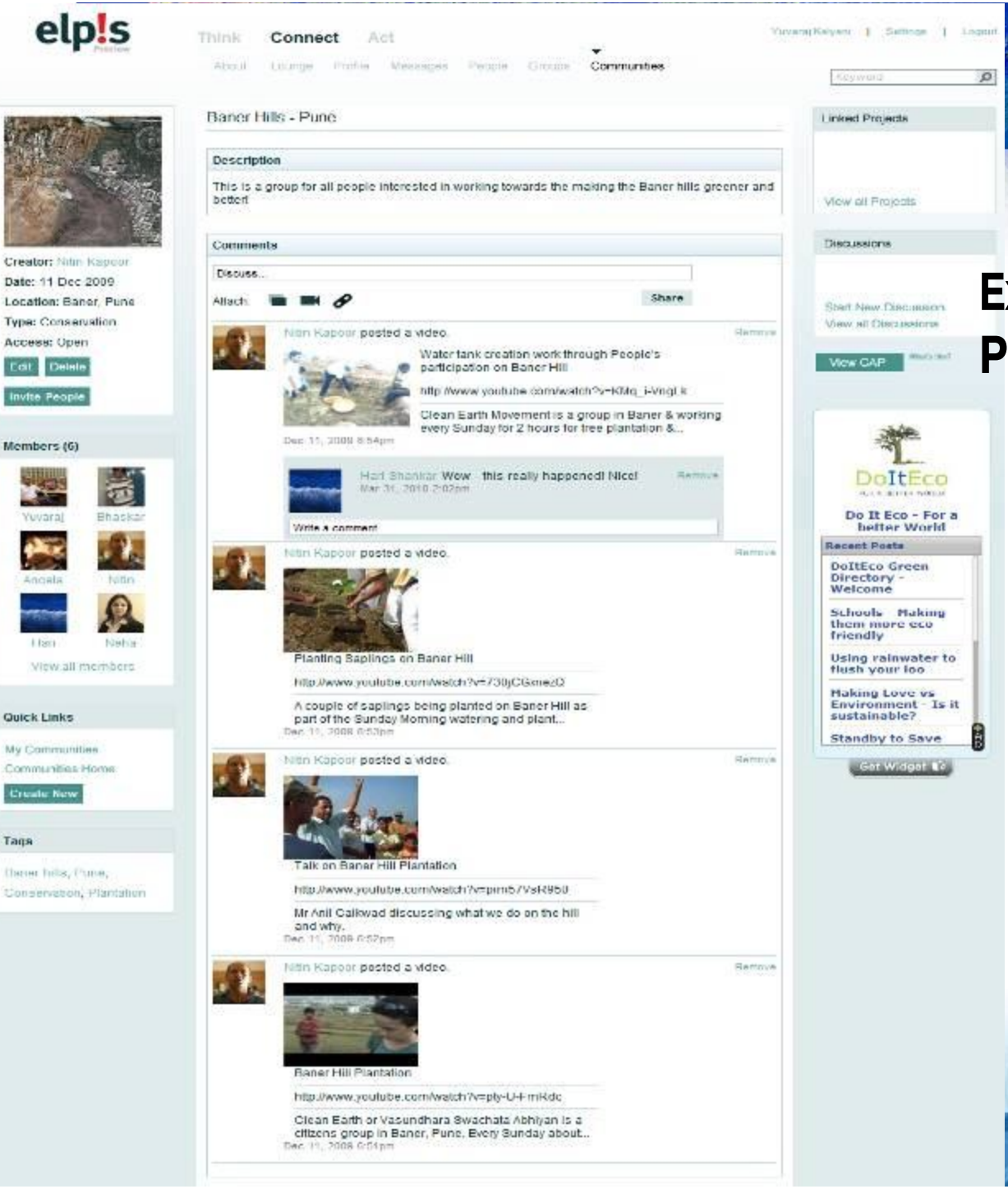
Ex. Community Profile page



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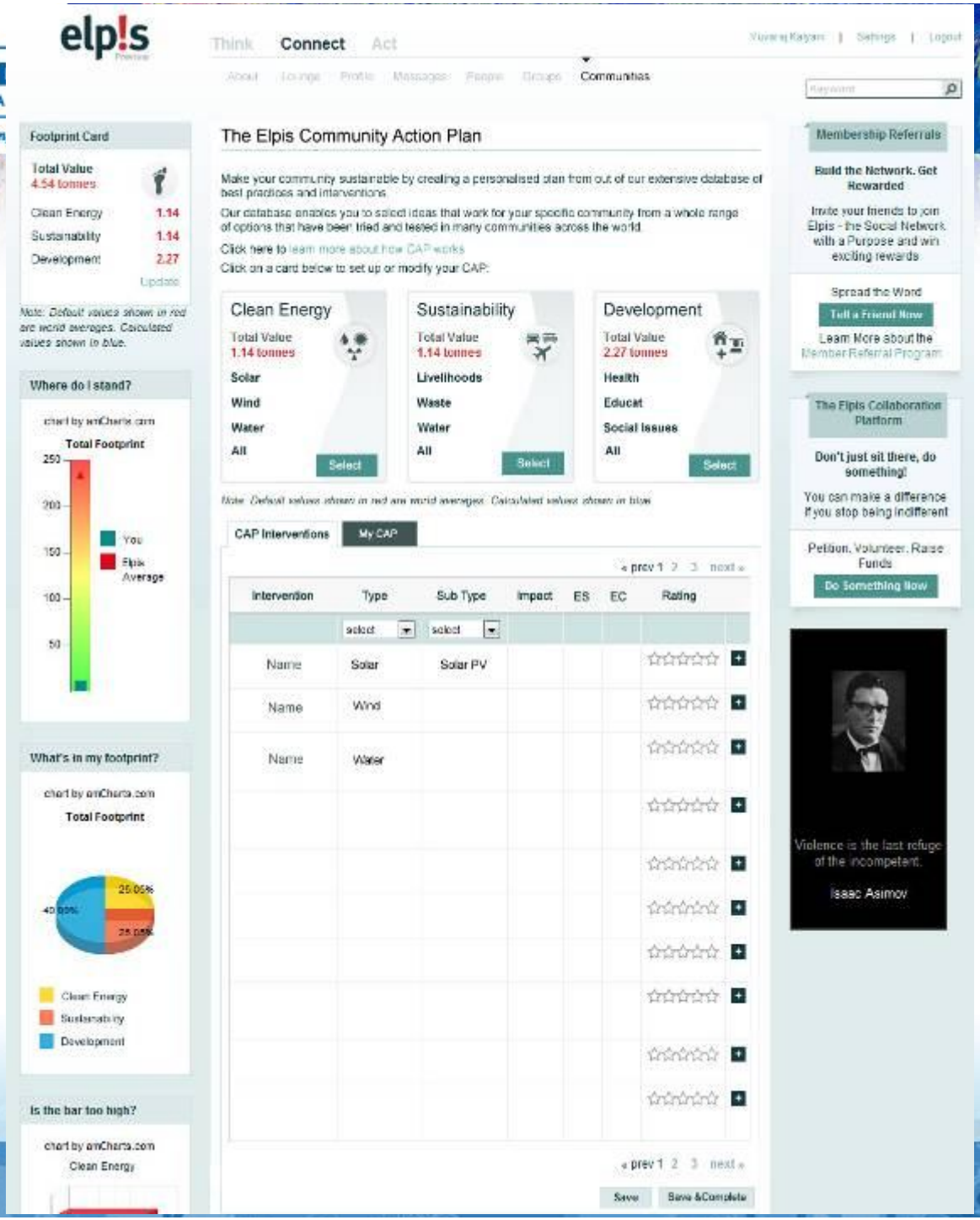
Community Action plan



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Resilience? => Green Economy

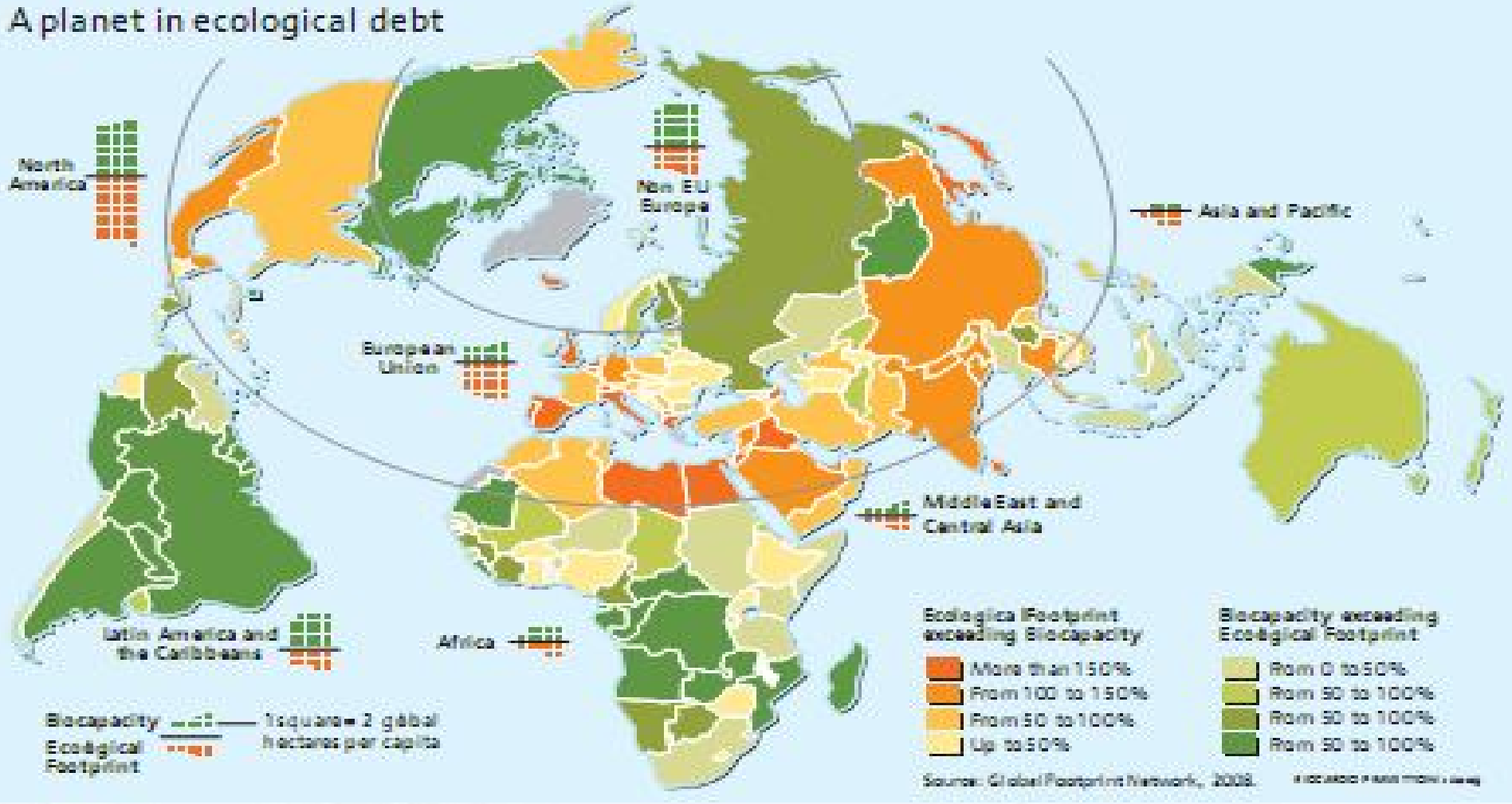
"A green economy is an economy that imitates green plants as far as possible."

- Herman Daly

Photo: The Living Centre

UNEP GRID ARENDAL
Environmental Knowledge for Change

UNEP/GRID-Arendal



"All I want to do is to be able to feed my family and send my kids to school. If this means I have to cut trees, I will. If I can make more money by not doing so, then I wont."

- Ardianto, farmer, Sumatra Indonesia

"MAIN in a Nutshell

- ICT platform of change-agents
- GEOiq (simplified GIS) to collect and present environmental data and information.
- For NGOs and grassroots organizations in both a rural and urban context, spanning North and South
- Social networking, project facilitation, environmental data collection.
- MAIN will work with partners and existing networks to optimize outreach, creativity and co-creation.

UNEP/GRID-Arendal

- Dedicated to making a difference.
- We explore how environmental information impacts on decision-making and the environment
- Seeking to bridge the gap between science and politics

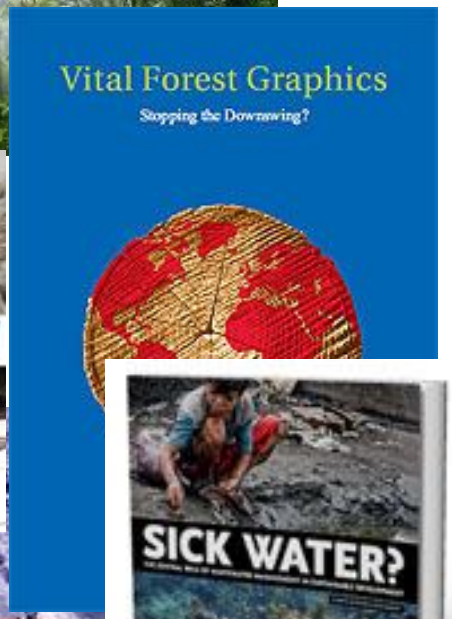
UNEP

G·R·I·D ARENDAL

Going for the green new deal

20 YEARS

UNEP/GRID-Arendal



Focal Point - MAIN

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