



1ST ANNUAL MEETING OF CORE TEAMS

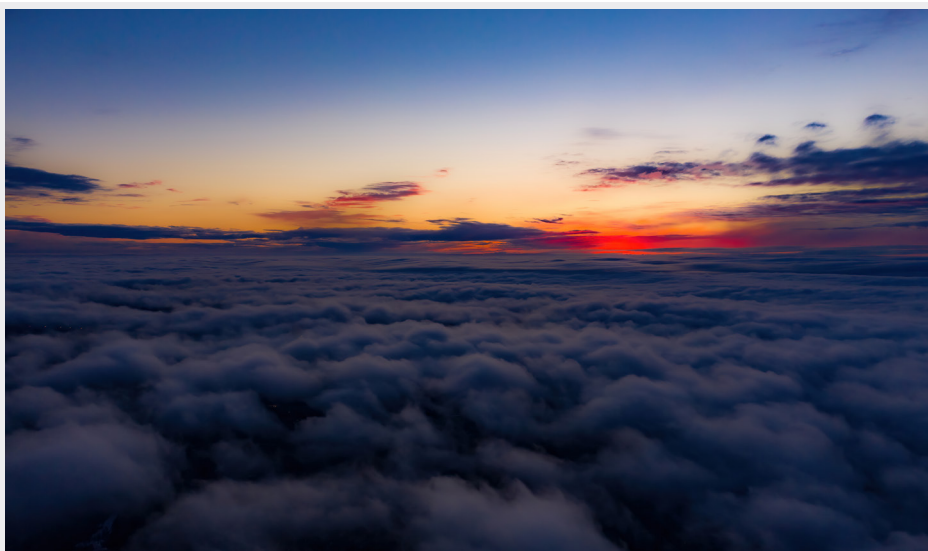
What are we finding so far?

Working with the core team, we have started to identify preliminary findings from the data we have collected so far. We have focused on the first two questions to start with.

What strategies for change are project participants focusing on?

An overarching finding from the baseline data is that the core team and many of the national teams are focused on slightly different approaches to change. This suggests a number of opportunities for the next steps of the project.

In discussions by the core team, the focus of change was on the role of agency, willpower and bottom-up collective action to bring about change that is cultural and relational. The core team brings to the project a strong interest in exploring the 'good life' in terms of our travel, leisure, relationships and connections. In addition, many of the core team interviews emphasized the role of learning, education and communication for translating knowledge to action and transmitting that knowledge across generations with peer networks playing a significant role for leveraging creativity. While the core team was concerned about the speed and direction of change, overall they were optimistic about the role of deliberate agency.



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Knowledge Management (KM) team has three tasks: 1) helping project members learn about themselves and others, 2) documenting and sharing learning across the project and with those outside the project over time and 3) facilitating learning within the project.

In order to achieve these goals, the KM team started its work with open discussions with the core team about what the project was aspiring to achieve and how KM could contribute to these. On the basis of these discussions, we first conducted baseline interviews with the project's national team leads and with the core project team. These baseline interviews will be used to help document learning over time. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English and focused on 5 major themes: goals and aspirations for the project; ideas about learning and change; assessments of the skills, knowledge and other strengths participants felt were possessed by or lacking within their teams and/or their countries; and their visions for feasible and desirable futures within 1.5-2°C. We then combined the baseline interviews with the country baseline reports, Terms of References and select meeting minutes, to create a shared database of material from across the project. This is being used as the initial baseline for the project and will allow us to learn about each other, document learning over time, and, hopefully to facilitate learning as we move forward.

Over the next few months the KM team will start to pull together findings from this baseline data. We invite all team to suggest any questions they would like investigated. We will also be getting ready to start collecting data from the second year of the project so we can start documenting learning more comprehensively. We have included a summary of how we are doing this work at the end of this document if anyone would like additional, more technical details.

cont.

In comparison, country visions were more focused on the immediate, often technical, aspects of change and were quicker to identify immediate barriers and challenges (often built into the existing political landscape). There was broad agreement across countries of the need to engage a range of stakeholders (governments, businesses, civil society, social movements, international organizations, academics and so forth) and to have well-placed 'champions' combined with bottom-up action. However, country teams referenced fewer concrete opportunities for broad change and listed more barriers, including political incumbency.

One possible explanation for this difference in ambition and hope could be that country teams are describing practical, on-the-ground conditions, whereas the core team is often focused on the bigger picture during the interviews. Perhaps interventions with more cross-fertilization and space for reflection between national teams and the core team would create opportunities for both, instilling consistent hope across the project while also discussing concrete strategies and challenges for transformation.



CONT.

How is the KM team doing its work?

Over the past three months, the Knowledge Management team has fed all of the baseline documents into a software called Nvivo, which acts like a filing cabinet for qualitative data. The KM team has then created tags for topics and issues of interest so that we will be able to ask questions about the data now and for the next three years. For instance, one of the topics of interest to the project was the ways in which the current conditions of different sectors, such as energy, transportation, waste and agriculture, are discussed by different teams. Each of these sectors was hence made into a 'tag' e.g. 'Energy' and every time energy was discussed in the texts was tagged. All pieces of text tagged 'Energy' can then be pulled up together to observe whether and in what ways all teams are thinking about the energy sector in similar or different ways in 2021. This lets us find areas of interest, best practices, lessons learned, as well as points of agreement and contention related to the energy sector that countries may want to discuss to learn from each other.

Because LbD projects is open-ended and reflexive, and includes explicit and implicit knowledge, lived experience, and tacit and intangible elements of learning, the KM team is purposefully including a tags beyond traditional sectors, disciplines and processes. This includes paying attention to concepts such as 'courage', 'wisdom', 'transformation', 'freedom', 'imagination', 'storytelling', 'reflecting' and 'relationship-building' so we can trace reflections on these concepts over time. Since these topics are subjective and open to interpretation e.g. different actions can appear 'courageous' to different people, the KM team has striven to include the broadest interpretation of each term so that we don't leave out anyone's interpretations.

We started with an initial list of tags based on the questions we had included in the initial interviews and then added more as the whole team worked through the documents. This took many meetings of the whole team and we tried to be as inclusive as possible while also ensuring that we all understood the tags in more or less similar ways so that we can track ideas over time. While laying this groundwork has taken significant time and energy, it has created a foundation that will allow the whole project to ask reflexive questions about how the project is going and what it is accomplishing over time.