NABUUR
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an empowering
alive
transparent
10 process
transforming
people and communities

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Recommendations for NABUUR's future

arising from discussions at the NABUUR.COM blog and
the Yahoo based independent discussion group〔nabuurreview〕
July–August 2007

Siegfried Woldhek
Founder and CEO
NABUUR

Dear Siegfried

This is a report for people who know the details and concerns. If something is unclear, please ask.

Our report is conceptual rather than detailed, to provide a base for policy decisions. It raises many issues, proposes only a direction. There is need for further discussion among many of many things, but without policy direction, discussion will lead to entropy and irritabilities.

The intention is to be constructive and practicable. We must work from what is in place. There has been recent vigorous action by the NABUUR office to enhance the existing system. The command policy issue for NABUUR is whether to keep heads down doing that enhancement, or give a 'heads up' with policy direction.

This report proposes many things that cannot and should not be done by NABUUR alone. Is NABUUR a little organisation or is it a great idea, to seed and transform the internet? You have to decide that.

*Regarding the practicalities, there must be results for the 'featured villages' by November; there must be new mechanisms in place which locate those 'featured villages' in a flow process **before** any of them 'graduate'. And there must be a library (of documentation and of human skills gathered) deliberately designed and begun during this featured village phase.*

This report has been drafted by me, taking into account comment from other participants. Special acknowledgement must be made to the work within NABUUR of and the comments in this discussion by Raul Alberto Caceres... who will wish us to acknowledge first the wisdom and empowerment of the local communities with which he has worked. Mary Smith also made significant contributions as a person dealing regularly and personally with a number of 'local representatives' and with wide experience in helping communities acquire information and develop plans.

Thank you for coming away from NABUUR to our independent discussion with all its robustness.

In discussion of this draft there have been questions of "How to do this, how to do that, is this too big, how to get the people?" Getting the people requires greater clarity of purpose. Getting the 'how-to' resolved depends on strategic decisions.

I am also attaching a draft diagram of a 'Roadmap'. This may help understanding of the proposal and with discussions about what can be done at what time, inside or beyond NABUUR.

Items which might be put to discussion are highlighted in grey in the Recommendations.

Dennis Argall
15 August 2007

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Attachment: Draft Roadmap

RECOMMENDATIONS

70 RECOMMENDATION 1: [a] That the Board of NABUUR and financial supporters of NABUUR recognise the great expectations aroused by NABUUR to date and approach the present crisis not with cool consideration whether to shut down but with assertive determination to see that NABUUR works effectively. [b] In the event of any determination to cease operations, every care
75 be taken to safeguard information and online community contacts for alternative means of working.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That NABUUR adopt this passionate vision:
> The future harmony and happiness of the world depend not just upon actions by governments but upon whether people and communities at all levels work together and
80 build confidence in their own lives. The internet provides ordinary people with capacity for self-fulfilment and capacity to assist each other everywhere, to build their own local communities. Individual and community empowerment and capacity are keys to development and happiness. We will base our system and project development on those things.

85 *RECOMMENDATION 3: That as a matter of policy, the business of managing NABUUR must be exemplary to the whole process — clear, transparent, collaborative, passionate.*

RECOMMENDATION 4: That NABUUR recognise the need to adopt a flexible and adaptable work
90 *(and pleasure) process which relates to and draws strength from stages of normal human discourse and takes people and communities through that happily, gathering momentum.*

*RECOMMENDATION 5: [a] That NABUUR move forward with determination to see process develop **outside** NABUUR. [b] That NABUUR adopt a policy perspective that it is better to see evolution of*
95 *process widely in the internet than to have it all in-house. [c] That NABUUR's actions should be shaped to bring that into effect.*

RECOMMENDATION 6: That NABUUR [a] refine and endorse the foregoing as an approximate 'roadmap'; [b] either assert its own intellectual property rights to this roadmap or place it in the
100 *Creative Commons; [c] enter into discussion with key internet development organisations on the basis of the roadmap, with a view to collaborative development.*

RECOMMENDATION 7: That NABUUR:
[1] Immediately open discussions about the future of villages not chosen as Featured Villages.
105 *[2] In oversight of the 'Featured Villages', work urgently (and consistently with Recommendation 3) with participants to [a] set deadlines, [b] propose finance mechanisms [c] build showcase options and [d] ensure gracious and dignified non-completion arrangements are in place.*

RECOMMENDATION 8: That NABUUR begin discussions with current neighbours and
110 communities about:
[a] concepts of facilitator, mentor, friend and neighbour and appropriate training for them and for local representatives.
[b] communication needs for local communities.

115 *RECOMMENDATION 9: That NABUUR ensure all its web presence can be loaded easily with narrow bandwith connection and in future be tested on that before launch.*

RECOMMENDATION 10: That the representative group chaired by the CEO for oversight and project development refine (in wider consultation via blog or otherwise) and publish these
120 *modalities as a basis for development within NABUUR and discussion with internet organisations.*

RECOMMENDATION 11: That NABUUR seek alliances with likeminded organisations and publications.

125 *RECOMMENDATION 12: That NABUUR facilitate discussion on the languages required to ease the participation of non-English speaking communities.*

RECOMMENDATION 13: That NABUUR build alliances with groups working to place appropriate
130 *low cost IT in developing countries.*

BASIC DIRECTIONS

The NABUUR vision articulated by Siegfried Woldhek and developed by the NABUUR Foundation since 2001 has demonstrated that an internet mechanism can bring people together from many
135 places to work on a project together.

However, the existing structure of project development and discussion fails to allow results to flow, other than in exceptional cases. Much can be learned from those cases.

140 Despite shortcomings, NABUUR has changed lives positively and created great expectations. No other internet mechanism has had this focus and this consequence. This achievement needs recognition.

To the extent that there may be uncertainty about the NABUUR organisation's continuance, it will
145 be important to consider, for the worst-case contingency, ways of keeping data and online community contacts accessible sensibly for future alternative means of working.

> RECOMMENDATION 1: [a] That the Board of NABUUR and financial supporters of NABUUR recognise the great expectations aroused by NABUUR to date and approach the present crisis not
> 150 with cool consideration whether to shut down but with assertive determination to see that NABUUR works effectively. [b] In the event of any determination to cease operations, every care be taken to safeguard information and online community contacts for alternative means of working.

155 In our discussions, there has been general agreement on these matters:

1. The business of managing NABUUR must be exemplary to the whole process — clear, transparent, collaborative, passionate.
2. The empowerment which occurs for participants is real, when they work towards
160   empowerment... This means empowerment for ALL participants, the virtual neighbours as well as local communities.
3. Failure arises when an empowering process does not develop: when the habit of the local community is of 'hand-out' and the habit of the virtual neighbour reinforces belief that solutions are 'out there somewhere' and that success can be delivered simply
165   by finding a donor organisation.
4. All projects depend on local empowerment, confidence and self-organisation. No project can be implemented if the local community does not believe in its importance, does not believe it can run the project and does not develop skills to run it.

170 These are all areas of weakness and need correcting swiftly.

The internet is currently awash with people talking about themselves, exhibiting themselves and their ideas. Awash with *words and images.*

175 If NABUUR is to be really effective, it must stimulate the internet to *action rather than simply talk.*

There are other organisations committed to action, but they focus more on action by petition and public policy argument.

180 Can NABUUR break new ground, achieving some greater kind of action? What is that? This seems to remain unclear in the way the mechanism has been built. NABUUR needs to clarify purpose to get better understanding and support.

Among the NABUUR Guidelines is this:

185

3. NABUUR.com is non-political, non-religious, non-ideological and non-commercial

but this noble intention needs to be seen through the realities of the situation.

190 *Non-political* has meant, we assume, avoidance in entanglement in public policy debate or nationalist issues. But the whole business of a 'local representative' seeking to advance a project for her or his community is fundamentally a political process, in the best meaning of political. No project will work without a good community leader with political skill.

195 *Non-ideological?* Is there not an underlying commitment to some process of social justice? *Non-commercial?* NABUUR rattles with the construction of business plans.

We believe that much of the uncertainty of purpose, hesitation and limitation in structure and action at all levels of NABUUR arises from a lack of clearly stated vision. We propose the following:

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> RECOMMENDATION 2: That NABUUR adopt this passionate vision:
> The future harmony and happiness of the world depend not just upon actions by governments but upon whether people and communities at all levels work together and build confidence in their own lives. The internet provides ordinary people with capacity for
205
> self-fulfilment and capacity to assist each other everywhere, to build their own local communities. Individual and community empowerment and capacity are keys to development and happiness. We will base our system and project development on those things.

210 **This is a choice.** We believe this choice is essential to driving *the NABUUR process* from indirection to success. But it remains a value choice that only *the NABUUR organisation* can make.

The rest of this report depends on such a choice being made.

215

Making this choice requires administrative capacity to support it. This report does not intend to get into administrative problems of which our knowledge is inadequate in any case. We do however bring here this earlier observation as a recommendation.

220
> RECOMMENDATION 3: That as a matter of policy, the business of managing NABUUR must be exemplary to the whole process — clear, transparent, collaborative, passionate.

NORMAL HUMAN PURPOSEFUL DISCOURSE 'PROCESSES'

The system in place at NABUUR.COM at present is 'flat', with one level of action. The 'Featured
225 Villages' scheme (developed without consultation, without possible applicants knowing the criteria and without public preparation) is a positive step, but it does not alter the basic 'flatness'.

We now proceed to outline a shift from 'flat' to 'process.' Let us look at some of the ways people sensibly meet and proceed to pursue some objective. In the following, have in mind the different
230 possible participants: individuals or communities who want something to happen; individuals who arrive without great purpose, individuals who arrive with altruistic or other purpose. Imagine they gather under a street light, or in a hall or at a web site. At NABUUR as it is now, people and communities arrive where there are already street lights, halls and web sites.

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These are some of the things that can happen:
1. arriving and examining the crowd, making judgements
2. listening and learning (learning about subject, procedure, patterns of dominance and submission, etc)

240
3. speaking (with or without having listened and learned, for power, for information or compulsively or a combination... etc)
4. staying silent, for diverse reasons (approval, disapproval, learning, attentiveness, lack of reason to speak... etc)
5. making more judgements, developing opinions or ideas

245
6. going around or away, to look for allies
7. forming associations, useful connections or people to chat with
8. starting a side conversation to form a clear process
9. developing an idea in the whole group or a subgroup
10. enjoying this whole discourse and bcoming committed to it

250
11. just leaving, for many reasons
12. deciding to work on an idea or project with a subgroup
13. developing friendships, perhaps a work team
14. building confidence of being able to understand what *I* want, what *I* can do, how *I* might proceed to get it

255
15. getting expert help, using and organising knowledge, getting the job done
16. seeing if the project works
17. advertising the project to make it effective, offer the process to others
18. considering what to do next...

As noted above, NABUUR has the street lights, has the halls, has the web sites... but with all that,
260 the one step which NABUUR is structured to present to visitors is number 15.

Other steps may be implied to some extent...though also they have been resisted to some extent. Without an explicit extended process one has to struggle with the present NABUUR system to do those other things.

265

The NABUUR communities work tend to work if individuals associated with them go back to earlier steps and on to later steps, on their own initiative. There is often the need to go 'backwards' to redefine the project, there is also a need to go 'forward', to 'graduate' from the present flat system. When projects become successful they attract people and organisations who have no desire to be
270 entangled with NABUUR village life. But we need to have some system for engaging them to sustain community momentum and support synergies. (If you look to some of my own NABUUR village involvements you will find [as at http://www.ourcongo.net/] that most supporters are outside NABUUR and were attracted by actions away from the NABUUR villages.) This is not to detract from NABUUR's role in enabling this to happen. We have all arrived at NABUUR delighted
275 by what it does; the question is where next, what to do to succeed?

There is no straight line of 'process'. Along the way there are eddies and swirls and arguments and disagreement and confrontation... and resolution with progress, if possible. Think of a river... the faster running river is much more complex than still water.

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Degrees of disorder are essential to creativity; great disorder is destructive. Success requires an explicit order of process, while also accommodating swirl and disagreement at all stages... and with techniques for drawing progress and resolution from disorder and disagreement.

285
RECOMMENDATION 4: That NABUUR recognise the need to adopt a flexible and adaptable work (and pleasure) process which relates to and draws strength from stages of normal human discourse and takes people and communities through that happily, gathering momentum.

THE QUESTION OF RESOURCES

290 Siegfried Woldhek has commented on organisations thus:

> ...organizations have drawers full of work that they would like to do — but they will never get it
> all done. This is not a matter of lack of time, lack of people or lack of funds. Working a bit
> harder or smarter will not be enough. *The system is simply full.* Now... at the same time... there
295 > is a huge reservoir of people —
>
> http://aplaceof.info/nabuur/0502siegfriedidyll01.htm

It is clear that the NABUUR administration already faces this dilemma of being *full*. The workload
of the serious, committed volunteers is also *full*.
300

The need to cover significant new areas of process is not achievable by commensurate growth of
organisation. Different ways of working must be found. The previously recommended 'clear,
transparent, collaborative, passionate' administration is essential but insufficient.

305 How then to find and utilise the *huge reservoir of people.*

For each step of 'process' there is a need to consider how and where should/could this be done. And
for each step in constructing any novel process, there is need to avoid 'biting off more than you can
chew.' There is, in organisations, also a need to avoid 'believing you are the one who has to do the
310 biting.' Not all 'problems' can be solved at once. Not all 'problems' should be solved at once. Indeed
an 'idea' does not become a 'problem' simply because an organisation can't do it, today or tomorrow,
or because the solution is not visible. Ideas are at their best when left lying around, for unexpected
people to pick up. It is very important, especially for parents of ideas, to let them grow up and leave
home. It doesn't matter whose idea it is, so long as it 'gets up'.
315

At the present time there is concern that all process should be within the Nabuur system. But it is in
the interests of the developing world that processes be replicable, repeatable, extendable,
improvable elsewhere — or built entirely elsewhere. Is it possible to create something like a virus,
that travels and enters systems and uses them for its own purposes... a positive virus, enhancing
320 human happiness?

> RECOMMENDATION 5: [a] That NABUUR move forward with determination to see process develop
> **outside** NABUUR. [b] That NABUUR adopt a policy perspective that it is better to see evolution of
> process widely in the internet than to have it all in-house. [c] That NABUUR's actions should be
325 > shaped to bring that into effect.

NEW PROCESS: AN OVERVIEW

This section sketches steps in a *process*. Read this with the accompanying diagram.
330

Step 1: *MEETING PLACE*

An open environment where, before registration of a community – and later, at any time during
work on projects, communities can talk about confidence and organisation, start linkages between
people and communities who share interests or geography or beliefs. Everyone should spend time
335 here before working at later stages.
NEEDS: - good mentors (mentor a new concept) with relevant skills; friends; an open chat and
email group environment, very well facilitated around the clock, by multiple facilitators.

Step 2: *REGISTRATION*

A system which registers individuals and communities, not projects, for moving to the next step.
340 NEEDS: Can this be by approval of relevant facilitators and mentors in step 1, following a standard process?

Step 3: *EQUIPMENT for the next stage*

Facilitators and mentors and local communities need to be equipped with **skills** and with **ability to**
345 **connect and communicate**.

Step 4: *EMPOWERMENT AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT*

This stage needs a move to a quieter environment for the 'select' communities. A place where all the skills of community organisation and planning and of communication can be added to, so that projects can be developed with a real sense that they seem realistic and achievable and
350 implementable. Processes of cooperation and alliance between communities can be built, rather than rivalry as seems mainly the case now. There needs to be an accumulation of wisdoms and racks of information – these information packages in Australia have attracted positive attention in Africa. This environment also needs excellent facilitation, mentorship and acquisition of 'friends' (new concept).

355 ### Step 5: *FEATURED PROJECTS*

This label evolves from the 'Featured Villages' initiative… to bring the focus to the project that needs to be completed. This would be a central workshop, entered by communities that – having developed adequate capacities and made decisions on needs – select a project that they can do. They come to this place for expert and concentrated attention. To enter, a completion date should be
360 proposed by the applicant, negotiated and agreed. This environment, by contrast to the previous step, should be very public, but also very well facilitated, with mentors who come with the community from the earlier stage plus mentors of this stage itself (see discussion of facilitators, mentors, friends and neighbours below. It would be most constructive to sustain 'sectoral'[1] coverage, so that there is always a project of a particular sector in progress, from which others can learn. This
365 *learning by helping others* should speed the whole flow, especially if a community and its mentors are asked to state what projects they have helped when they apply for Featured Project status. There will also need to be accumulations of knowledge and wisdoms and experience, organised well (see below).

370 ### Step 6: *SHOWCASE AND SUSTAINABILITY*

"What happens when a project is complete?" *The reality is that no project is ever really complete.*

Everyone in business or real government activity knows that. You must sustain a project, keep it alive, know when to give it up. So the showcase is not a bulletin board but a way of ensuring
375 achievement is sustained as well as recognised.

Success critically depends on sustained local community and organisational capacity and enthusiasm. Mentors and friends of the community stay with the community to support continuance

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1 *'Sector'* meaning as in the OECD budget sectors, but with adaptation to our own needs.
Here are standard budget sectors: General public services, Defence, Public order and safety, Education, Health, Social security and welfare, Housing and community amenities, Recreation and culture, Fuel and energy, Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Mining, manufacturing and construction, Transport and communications, Other economic affairs, Other purposes. Some of these we would abandon, like defence. Some we subdivide, like health. Others we might add, such as women's and gender issues.

of the project. It is also in this environment that a community says: "We achieved that, what next?"
380 For the NABUUR system, there will be, out there, a big question: "How next?" The answer to that
must be arrived at by a participatory process. Sometimes a community may build its next project
alone, sometimes in may rejoin Step 4 while keeping its showcase. It cannot stay in Step 5.

Step 7: FINANCE FACILITATION

A fundamental flaw at present is that too many projects in NABUUR amount to begging for money,
385 without much sign of local capacity to manage projects. The steps 1 to 5 above ought, on the
contrary, to see the evolution of projects which can present themselves as having capacity to
succeed... with some financial injection to start up. NABUUR must seek linkages to institutions that
will support. Also NABUUR must encourage development of mechanisms to assist individuals to
donate. This was floated several years ago as a possible model for attracting donations. Such
390 schemes need not be in NABUUR but need NABUUR endorsement and support with
establishment. And they would require some set of standards for projects and their audit ... again
not centrally managed, but providing transparency. See this example.

Consequences of this 'Roadmap' – outward linking

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All this is too much for NABUUR as an organisation.

It is possible to make more recommendations for how this roadmap can be made real, but it can
only be made real with links outwards, including involvement of major players on the internet.
400 NABUUR has in 2007 undertaken some discussions with such people. We do not know what
precise objectives have been pursued or results obtained. We consider it important to take up with
such organisations a *'roadmap'* as above: "How do we do something like this together?" rather than
"What can be done?"

405 Taking 'ideas' like this to organisations building the internet involves issues of intellectual property.
NABUUR should assert rights to this concept and roadmap... either as its own or as part of the
Creative Commons. NABUUR should seek legal advice on this, also consulting experts on Creative
Commons in the Netherlands.

410   RECOMMENDATION 6: That NABUUR [a] refine and endorse the foregoing as an approximate
'roadmap'; [b] either assert its own intellectual property rights to this roadmap or place it in the
Creative Commons; [c] enter into discussion with key internet development organisations on the
basis of the roadmap, with a view to collaborative development.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS
415

There is immediate need to
1. Take actions to support and review existing NABUUR villages that have not become
   Featured Villages. This is an important subject for blog or other discussion as soon as
420   possible. Some villages need to be taken off the web presentation for review... but how, and
   by whom and when? Some are dealing with the kinds of issues in step 4 and could be
   invited to discuss the ideas in Step 4.
2. Facilitate 'start-up' funding for Featured Villages. All will want something. But there should
   not be assurance of some kind of hand-out. How to get collaborative effort to get results in
425   this area? A blog or other discussion forum could bring people working on the featured
   villages together to work on this.
3. Work out where villages 'go' after Featured Village process. Success is critical for this

process. It has to be demonstrated that villages can succeed, or if not, move somewhere else. Here are suggestions for further prompt discussion:

430   a) Success
- Nabuur to be able to display achievement and current situation of 'graduates'
- Graduates to have Mentors and Friends with them still, recognised as such
- Graduates to be given support by the Mentors and Friends to secure and sustain the 'achieved' project and work out what to do next
435
- Graduates to have freedom to display themselves on the internet however they choose.

b) Not succeeding within the timeframe.
- These situations must be dealt with with dignity but without excessive delay.
- It is important to make clear at the beginning that timelines are real (a novelty at
440   NABUUR).
- A Featured Village in this situation, together with a facilitator and mentors, should be part of consultations about where to go, what to do...
- but it would seem likely that the community should return to the EMPOWERMENT AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT environment proposed above.

445
RECOMMENDATION 7: That NABUUR:
[1] Immediately open discussions about the future of villages not chosen as Featured Villages.
[2] In oversight of the 'Featured Villages', work urgently (and consistently with Recommendation 3) with participants to [a] set deadlines, [b] propose finance mechanisms [c] build showcase
450   options and [d] ensure gracious and dignified non-completion arrangements are in place.

ROADMAP: SOME MODALITIES

While urging that the Roadmap (see also attached diagram) needs to be developed in collaboration
455   with others, some consideration is appropriate here, regarding the appropriate modalities of each step. This adds to earlier commentary on process...

STEP 1: MEETING PLACE

These could in fact be 'meeting places' – plural. Some 'seal of approval' is needed, some indication
460   of association with the whole NABUUR process... but this kind of discussion could occur in different environments. It is a fact that in Africa there is widespread use of 'Chat' ahead of other uses of the internet. Dedicated, facilitated and mentored Chat locations would be appropriate.

Email lists may suit some, but this requires ownership of an email client, rather than reliance on
465   web mail... Unless a form of web mail can be developed to facilitate this process (we see people working on the $100 computer, etc. It ought to be possible to design web applications with the same low cost, easy access basis). Other web based systems for organised discussion can be explored.

The existing queue of applicants for Nabuur registration should form the basis of this group at start-
470   up. All applicants to be directed there.

As an open system, this could quickly grow very large. It may require many communities in parallel. This is an area where the resources of other internet organisations will be important and one for which their ideas may shape the outcome.

475

STEP 2: REGISTRATION

Register communities, not projects, at this point. Communities should demonstrate 'capacity for capacity', with facilitators and mentors in Step 1 having standardised rules for registration.

480   There should also be a system in place, in parallel, for registration of facilitators and mentors.

In both streams – communities and individuals – there will be issues of space, which may be addressed by having other 'spaces' in different places. Can these matters be franchised?

485

STEP 3: EQUIPMENT

1. People and communities need to be equipped with skills to deal with each other constructively. This training needs to be designed; existing training for facilitators and local representatives needs to be reconstructed. Many assigned as facilitators have become more

490   than facilitators of discussion, involving themselves closely with communities' issues and lives. It would be useful to discuss among Neighbours the idea of having 'facilitators' for broader discussions, 'mentors' who seek sustained connection with processes or communities, and 'friends' who may help a community but without training or commitment. Neighbour remaining more broadly a person registered with NABUUR. At the present time,

495   training of facilitators is isolated from training for local representatives. Why is this so?

2. There is a need for local communities to have equipment and/or funds for communication and work management.
   (a) initially with basic, limited funds for internet and Skype or similar use
   (b) longer term using strategies being worked on in various places, for low cost computer

500   and internet connection in developing countries. (see Recommendation 12)

> RECOMMENDATION 8: That NABUUR begin discussions with current neighbours and communities about:
> [a] concepts of facilitator, mentor, friend and neighbour and appropriate training for them and
505   for local representatives.
> [b] communication needs for local communities.

There is another side to this also: NABUUR's elaborate interface works well enough in fast broadband environments, but is maddening to local representatives in expensive internet cafes

510   sharing dialup speed, where the systems 'time out' while loading pages or just costs too much to be worth the trouble.

We make this recommendation as a matter of urgent detail:

515   RECOMMENDATION 9: That NABUUR ensure all its web presence can be loaded easily with narrow bandwith connection and in future be tested on that before launch.

STEP 4: EMPOWERMENT AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Envisage an environment where committed communities and individuals can have committed

520   discussion, with access to resources on community building and project definition. Where communities may join together. Where communities can be drawn into work on projects of other communities at the next stage, the Featured Projects, so they can learn. See earlier discussion of this process.

STEP 5: FEATURED PROJECTS

The future of NABUUR at this moment hinges on the success of the present round of Featured Projects.

We suggest that this part of the process remain the centrepiece of NABUUR as an organisation. So that NABUUR's future critically depends on:
- ✓ good preparation of candidates for Featured Project status
- ✓ good selection of candidates for entry
- ✓ sensible timeframes
- ✓ good operation of this central workshop
- ✓ good access to start-up finance for projects
- ✓ good lines out and onward

STEPS 6 AND 7: FINANCE AND SHOWCASE AND SUSTAINABILITY

See earlier discussion of process... these need to be worked on swiftly.

THEREFORE?

Although some modalities are presented, more clarity is needed in regards to how t to work together with other organizations specially in the way the platform would work from a practical point of view. Would that maybe look like multiple websites from different organizations? One website for each step and then one platform for the Featured villages? A website for each village presented individually in the onlinevolunteering.org webpage? This needs discussion... there are many possible ways to develop. The 'draft Roadmap' attached may help clarify steps.

> RECOMMENDATION 10: That the representative group chaired by the CEO for oversight and project development refine (in wider consultation via blog or otherwise) and publish these modalities as a basis for development within NABUUR and discussion with internet organisations.

OTHER MATTERS

• THE ALLIANCE OF IDEAS AND ACTION

Critical to a successful system is the attraction of a large number of talented and committed individuals. Having the right people at the right place is a key factor for success. In addition, only a good training strategy will translate in great results by attracting the people with the right profiles.

To some extent, the infiltration of our discussion and project forums into other internet environments will mean more people will discover our process in the course of cruising the internet.

There is, however, much to be done to harness the people who already speak passionately on global and development issues and who might (it is by no means certain) become actors. Thus it seems important to look to other alliances – with 'likeminded' journals and organisations. This is only possible if NABUUR has adopted Recommendation 2 and places it front page on a flag pole.

The organisations that already have charitable systems in place are unlikely candidates. In seeking

alliances of ideas, we suggest, as examples, these as places to start:

575   *New Internationalist* http://newint.org/
    Avaaz http://www.avaaz.org/en/index.php
    Transcend http://transcend.org/

580   RECOMMENDATION 11: That NABUUR seek alliances with likeminded organisations and publications if such may be supportive to the local empowerment process and the gathering of skilled and committed people.

• *LANGUAGES AND EASE OF COMMUNICATION*

585

We have noted the importance of technical access to the internet.

Language is another obstacle. Should the underlying principle be to make it as easy as possible for the local communities?

590   RECOMMENDATION 12: That NABUUR facilitate discussion on the languages required to ease the participation of non-English speaking communities.

595   ### • *The Fourth Alliance – appropriate IT*

We have proposed alliance with shapers of the internet, with likeminded organisations and publications and with possible funders. We need also alliances with people developing appropriate and low cost computer systems for developing countries. These latter should welcome the

600 opportunity to link to other alliances and to communities going through a capacity-building process.

So overall, we can aim for synergies not previously possible.

        RECOMMENDATION 13: That NABUUR build alliances with groups working to place appropriate

605   low cost IT in developing countries.

Conclusion

The issue is how to achieve all this?

610   We become "NABUUR 2 0 1 0, an empowering alive transparent process transforming people and places"

... by being that.

615   *Is NABUUR a small organisation based in the Netherlands or is it an idea with wings?*