

# Bee the Solution - Newsletter 4, January/February 2017

By Chrystel Vert-Pré

## PROJECTS DETAILS

More details on Projects are available on Bee the Solution website @ [www.projects.beethesolution.org](http://www.projects.beethesolution.org)

Each post is a short story about the people, how we came across each other, the seed of the projects... as we grow with the projects, more and more details will be added.

Also browse the website [www.beethesolution.org](http://www.beethesolution.org) for more information.

## MEMBERS AND DONATION

January was the time for our AGM. It was our first and all went well. Active members can find the minutes and accounts on their dedicated website.

In 2016, we welcomed 2 active members and were very grateful for the 365€ donated toward making the work on the ground happen.

In January, we were also glad to welcome 2 new members to the organisation and the donation of a laptop/printer that we were able to bring back to our mobile office.

## TOPIC OF THE MONTH (S)

### Language challenge

I publish in French and English. I generally write in one language and translate in the other. But the time spent in translation is similar to the original writing. The only time-saving point is that the topic is known when writing the second language...

The next article was a little different to write in English and in French as the main reason for writing it in the first place was to clarify English acronyms that can be confusing as they are fairly close. Having said that, there was a need to clarify those terms in French too as they also raise questions.

So for once, it will be a different article in French and English (pour ceux qui lisent les 2), based on the same topic - and not of one article written in both languages. Vocabulary differs depending on the language...

CE MOMENT  
WHEN YOU START  
PENSER EN  
DEUX LANGUES  
AT THE SAME  
TEMPS

### Too much to say...

Being late for the January Newsletter, and having too many things to say, instead of sending two newsletters one after the other, I decided to wait a little and issue a combined January/February Newsletter.

This does mean though, that this newsletter has more articles than usual and is therefore longer than previous (and future...) newsletters. Which in turn, lead to a new format.

Hopefully the content is still useful - time is scarce and for a newsletter, size matters but most of all:



## NGO, NPO, CBO, PVO....? What are they?

*Note: there are many more terms out there..... I have only focused on those that we found more often. And in particular the difference between NGO and NPO...*

First of all... what do those acronyms stand for?

**NGO** = Non Governmental Organisation

**NPO** = Not for Profit Organisation / Non Profit Organisation

**CBO** = Community Based Organisation

**PVO** = Private Voluntary Organisation

Now that we know what they mean, what is the difference between them?

The first one is based on English language, depending on the country... is it US or UK English? Depending on your country, you might not even use them at all... For example, there are no NGOs in the US. The term is only used if referring to international organisations. In France, while we do not use those terms (as they are English...), we would not have translations for NPO, CBO and PVO: they are all coined as "Association Loi 1901" - but we do have the French equivalent of NGO, albeit in legal term, almost all NGOs are registered as "Association Loi 1901".

In essence, there are no differences..... They are all **Not for Profit Organisations!**

The major key is to consider the "non-governmental" and "non-profit" part of the constitution. Any organisation, at any level, can be considered as an NGO, as long as its actions are independent from government and is not created to share profit (any profits made will be re-injected in the organisation).

Those organisations all have in common the grass-root around their creation:

- formed by a group of like-minded individuals
- have a common purpose
- do not share benefits

### **So why do we have different names? Where do they come from?**

To explain this, we need to look in more details into what is meant behind each of them.

CBO: those are grass-roots level organisations, formed at community level.

NPO: those can be any organisation as long as their aim is not to redistribute the profit of their actions to share-holders (not for profit...)

PVO: both CBOs and NPOs can be coined as PVOs, if they are constituted of "private" individuals as opposed to governments or companies.

NGO: The term Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) was "created" by the United Nation (UN) in 1945, to allow some international organisation to seat as observers in some of their meeting. This term was used to differentiate those organisations from the UN, which is itself an inter-governmental organisation.

*“At the UN, virtually all types of private bodies can be recognized as NGOs. They only have to be independent from government control, not seeking to challenge governments either as a political party or by a narrow focus on human rights, non-profit-making and non-criminal.”*

*“In the logic of the language, there is no difference between a non-governmental organization and a private voluntary organization, but NGO still carries neutral connotations and applicability to a diverse range of political actors, whereas PVO suggests moral approval of a more limited range of groups.”*

<http://www.gdrc.org/ngo/peter-willets.html>

*“Today, according to the UN, any kind of private organization that is independent from government control can be termed an “NGO”, provided it is not-for-profit, nonprevention, but not simply an opposition political party.”*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-governmental\\_organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-governmental_organization)

As well presented on [Wikipedia](#), names vary depending on type of NGOs. And so a CBO is an NGO operating at community level...

The main difference between NGO, NPO, CBO and PVO may well only be the difference in the source of their operating funds and business model. ([differencebetween.net](#))

However, there is a perception factor in the term NGO. And this may be the other main difference between all those terms. As such, NGO is often associated only with major International Organisations, acting independently from Governments, such as Oxfam, Amnesty International or Médecins Sans Frontière.

*“The difference between NGO and NPO is in the scale of their actions and especially in the weight they have in the international balance. It is the treatment that is given to them and the publicity and legitimacy with which they are linked, which are the key and yet somewhat unclear points of the border between them.”*

<http://www.carenews.com/fr/news/795-dis-flavie-quelle-difference-entre-ong-et-association> (in French)

So, for all intend and purpose, any NPO or CBO independent from Government is ultimately also an NGO... as defined by the Council of Europe:

*“18. There is no universal definition of “NGO”, a term which can be used to cover a wide range of bodies operating within both states and inter-governmental organisations. The definition adopted for the purpose of this recommendation emphasises certain qualities regarded as constituting the essential character of these bodies, namely, that their establishment and continued operation is a voluntary act (that is, a matter of choice for those founding and belonging to them and, in the case of non-membership bodies, those entrusted with their direction), that they are self-governing rather than under the direction of public authorities and that their principal objective is not to generate profits from the activities that they undertake.*

*19. NGOs can go under various names such as associations, charities, foundations, non-profit corporations, societies and trusts, but it is their actual nature rather than their formal designation that will bring them within the scope of this recommendation.”*

**[Legal Status of Non-Governmental Organisations in Europe - Recommendation CM/Rec\(2007\)14](#) from the Council of Europe, Basic principles - Paragraph 1, sections 18 & 19 - page 23**

### Does Not for Profit means that there is no money?

**No...** There is money involved... Like in everything... Even time...

What does Not for Profit means then?

A Not for Profit Organisation can raise money, through fund raising, donation, governmental funding, corporate funding or generate income through commercial activities (sales, consultancy work, etc...).

What it means is that any funds received by the organisation is only to be used **by** the organisation **and for** the organisation's purpose.

That is:

- the organisation **can** use the funds to perform its functions: employ people, conduct projects/programs, rent an office, etc...

- the organisation **can not** operate as a private business and redistribute the fund to its shareholder. No-one should make a profit from the actions conducted by the organisation. Any benefits are to be used for the purpose laid down in the organisation charter.

But any organisation needs funds to operate...

Let's take the "extreme" example of an organisation, only ran by volunteers, that does not have/use any funds from its own budget (no income and no expenses). This organisation is still using funds. There are costs associated with most activities. In that case, it does just means that the costs are paid for entirely by the volunteers.

### But what are the costs of being in the field?

In the December newsletter, we explained why we are doing what we are doing, and why this way. This means travelling, being in the field to help support local populations. We mentioned, that regardless of the cost of a project itself, there are costs associated to being in the field. So now... what are those costs?

The best explanation is to provide the actual costs of being on the field. Just taking the latest example of projects in **Zimbabwe**, over a 6 weeks period, at the end of 2016:

Reason	Cost	Total
Visa	\$30 for 3 months	\$30
Border crossing documents	\$55 first month then \$45 per month	\$100
Fuel and maintenance to reach the project site	3000 km return to and from Johannesburg	\$670
Fuel and maintenance costs at the project site	\$100 per month	\$150
Cost of living (accommodation, food, gaz...)	\$400 per month	\$600
Internet	\$40 per month	\$60

Those are the minimum costs to just be there. So spending 6 weeks in Zimbabwe in 2016 for the projects did cost just over \$1'600. About \$1000 is for the travelling alone.

One way we are reducing costs is to travel from within the region with our own car. And as we have a kitted house, cost of living is also greatly reduced (when we cannot live in a village).

Cost of flying from Europe, rent a car and a room for that period would more than triple the cost. Typical cost of travel from Europe would be \$5'900-\$6'200 for the same 6 weeks (Zimbabwe is an expensive country). We will come back to these costs in our next newsletter.

But do we need to be on the ground? Can't we do it from somewhere else? More questions to look forward to in future newsletters...

### **Unseen changes....**

People change. Things change. We learn. We adapt. The world around us is in constant movement and we have to adapt to little or big changes every day.

A lot of the changes we face come from us. Some of those changes come from our learning. As the saying goes, "A wise man changes his mind sometimes, a fool never", and so one should hope that we want to be in the wise man category. Well, ok, maybe not all the time or we will end up categorised as undecided. But as we advance in life, we need to constantly re-adjust. Not necessarily question what we are doing all the time. But consider feedback, both external and from ourselves, to try and improve our ways.

For once, a catch-22 situation that I do like (sometimes): Changes come from learning and learning comes from change.

But a lot of the changes are also unseen. As time is passing, I am (hopefully) improving on the website. Changing it ways and writing/presentation. And as it often happens, from conception to realisation, it can take more time than anticipated... but most of the changes do not reflect on the front side of the site. Just hoping to make your navigation easier.

### **FEEDBACK**

Please do not hesitate to contact us @ [info@beethesolution.org](mailto:info@beethesolution.org).

Feel free to send us feedback. We are open to suggestions and comments. As we are young and learning, we value your opinion even more than usual and are very grateful for it.

Let us know about what you want to see in the Newsletter, which projects you are interested in, any ideas you have for a project.

Have a safe month ahead

Chrystel, (Maya), Odile, H el ene and Jean-Louis