

Future of frankincense:



Global Frankincense Alliance

Closing Remarks

Presented by: L. Denzil Phillips, GFA Interim Coordinator

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Dear friends of GFA

I think you will all agree this has been a wonderful three days , the miracle of zoom helped weld together a network of people dedicated to the future of frankincense. This global online collection of committed people I believe have the potential to make real waves in the frankincense world. The choice is ours as to whether and how we take this opportunity forward

The GFA from its inception wanted to create a platform for you all to work together on. This meeting has helped us go along way to achieving that, at least online, ! Now It is up to us to use the GFA platform and its amazing worldwide network of information and contacts to launch our own tailor made initiatives.

I said at the beginning that the GFA has no hidden agenda, moreover, we have no pre set notions of how to fix the problems of the frankincense industry Nor do we possess a magic wand. GFA is simply a neutral platform where people from every part of the amazing Kingdom of Frankincense can collect, exchange

and use accurate unbiased information in whatever way they feel best fits their specific local needs.

If GFA does preach anything it is a firm belief that we need much more accurate, unbiased up to date information on almost all aspects of this product . A product which dominates the lives of tens of thousands of people from Madhya Pradesh India to Burkina Faso West Africa . GFA feels that Unless and until such information is made available right across the world we do not feel one can develop rational, scientific and unbiased policy that claims to help ensure the long term future of frankincense

How can we get an accurate description of the production and trade of a commodity where vast amounts of the resource are in countries that are not countries, no border post and customs where the rule of law is uncertain. So much so that travel insurance let alone Medicare is impossible to get effectively making them off limits to practically all western representatives. How can we develop policy recommendations for an industry where vast areas where the tree is found are unstable , threatened by terrorism and violence where the rule of law hardly exist. It is impossible to ignore the political dimension of the frankincense industry. An industry badly divided and weakened by war , terrorism and clan disputes.

Nearly every group discussion this week has been about the need for more research into the science and trade in frankincense. This meeting showed just how large the collective gaps in our knowledge are but conversely it showed us that a determined group of 300 online friends have the potential to use GFA as a launch pad for a whole range of research and development project specifically tailored to each community in each ecological zone. As well as a chance to build a frankincense restoration and development programme for the people by the people

The GFA is now just over a year old. We agreed at its inception that both structure and personnel would be reviewed at the first Annual General Meeting. That moment has now arrived (past actually) and hence for me to retire and for new blood to take the helm . My hope is that the new GFA will take the recommendations and outline road map we all created here and march forward with new committed people and strengthened management and resources. All of you here have an opportunity to shape the future of GFA and in so doing help shape the Future of Frankincense.