

BWL - Why and How?



SETU Department of Architecture

17th January 2024

Today



Background:

1. Deepening **conviction** and **evidence** on **Why**?
2. Deepening **need** to evolve and change the **How**?

Aim:

1. Share status of action around these topics
2. Strive to **hear** from you on the why? **Involve** you in the how?

Timeline – why and how?



Bioregional Weaving Labs Collective



1 million Ha
1 million CM
4 Returns

The Netherlands



Brandenburg, Germany



Åre, Sweden



Waterford, Ireland



Adour Garonne, France



Thermenlinie-Wiener Becken, Austria



Altiplano Estepario, Spain



Oltenia de sub Munte, Romania

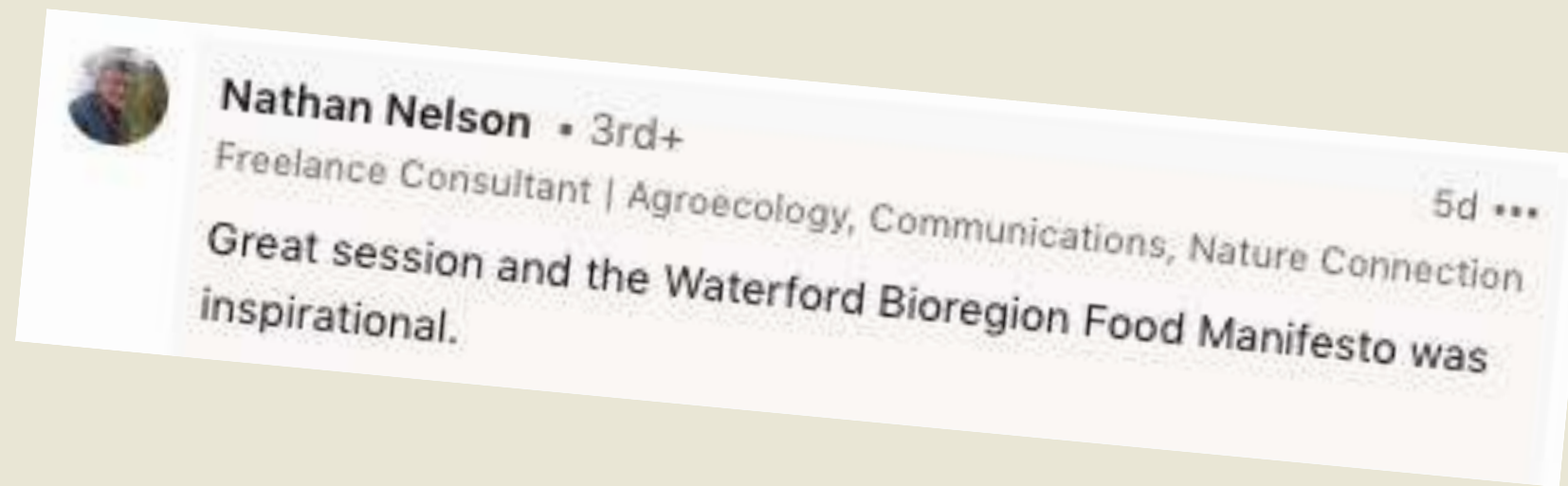
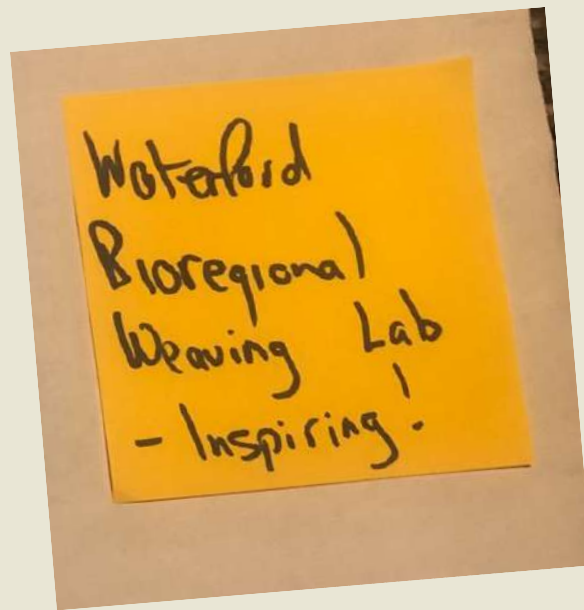


Why?



Why?

Comments in workshops and at conferences

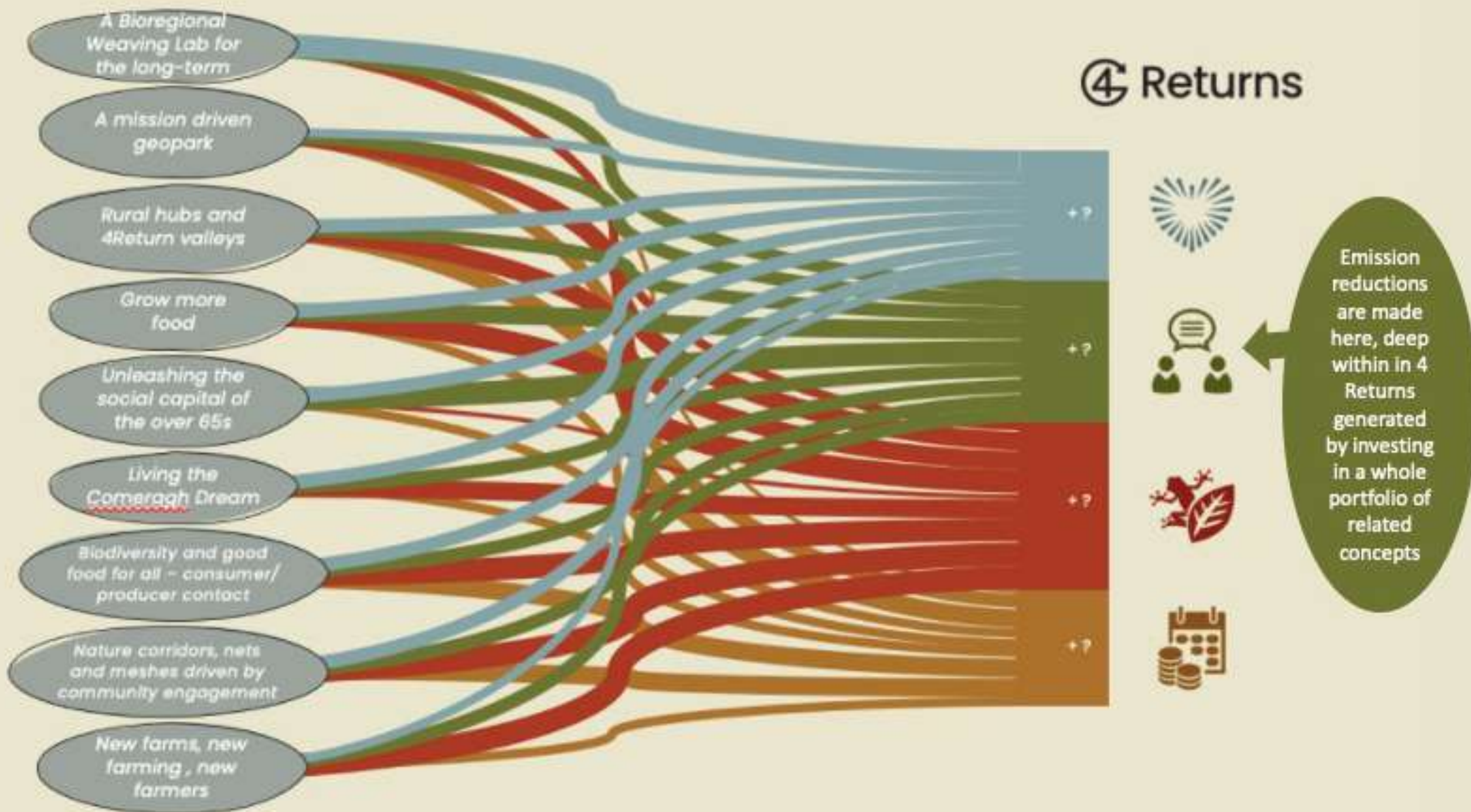


Why?

An illustration of a forest scene. In the background, several trees with dark trunks and sparse, bare branches stand against a pale, yellowish sky. A small, white, bear-like creature is visible near the base of one of the trees. The foreground is dominated by a dense, intricate network of glowing, yellowish-green mycelium roots that spread across the ground, connecting the trees and filling the lower half of the frame.

By supporting a bioregional/landscape approach, it is like **adding relationships and connection for ecosystem building** at beginning rather than asking for it at the end - like adding **the mycelium as well as oak tree seeds**, so that oak trees will be able to support each other and the soil they need for **long term survival**, as well as themselves.

④ Returns



Why?

7 flagship areas

Co-ordination and curation to organise proposals into 7 flagship 'learning by doing' frameworks:

Flagship 1

Vision 2050: re-imagine Ireland's land-agri-food system

Flagship 2

Grow the sector through innovation and investment in new value chains

Flagship 3

Implement circular bio-economy models at regional or multiple value chains level

Flagship 4

Diversify incomes through carbon farming and nature credit frameworks

Flagship 5

Produce and certify climate-neutral beef

Flagship 6

Accelerate emission reduction and sustainability in dairy farms

Flagship 7

Grow and diversify the tillage sector

Long term focus:
2040-2050

More strategic
Regional and
sector level

**Shorter term
focus: 2030**

More practical
Value chain level

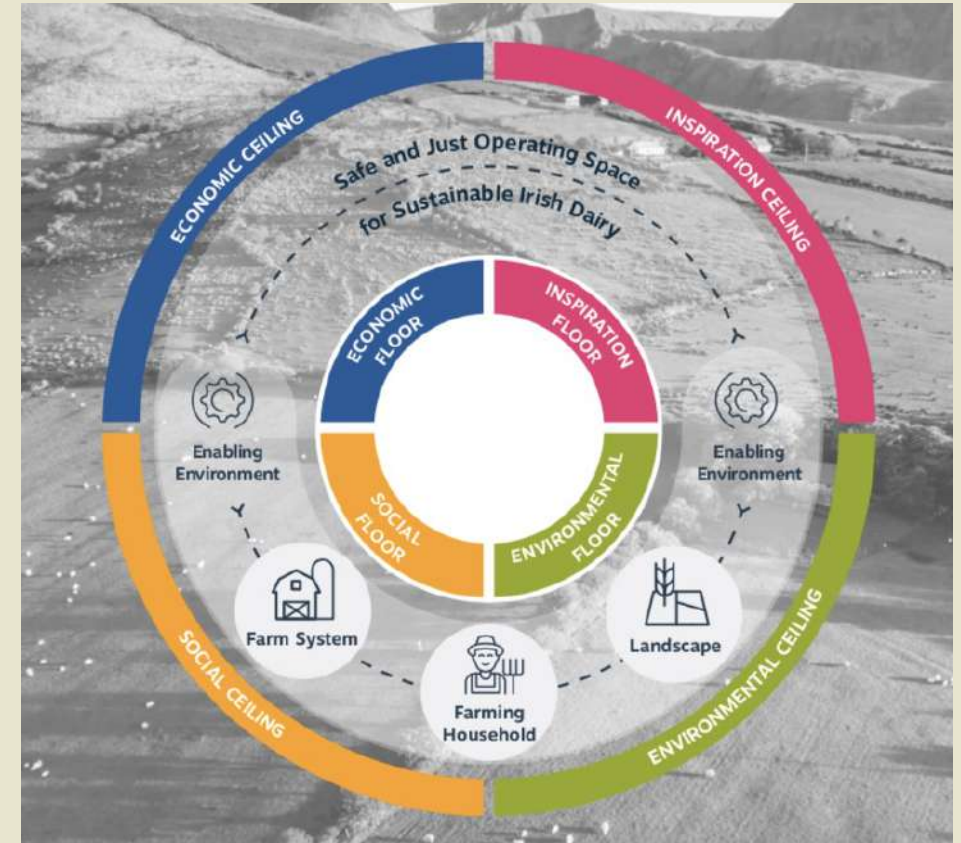




Why?

What are the advantages of a bioregional/landscape approach?

- **Trusted ecosystem of pioneering farmers ++**
- **Four returns – global learning**
- **Transition team**



Why?

- Our strategic document – the BWL Landscape Plan - is a **baseline report and roadmap**. The involvement of stakeholders in this **build ownership** for the direction decided upon.
- Deep demonstrations need to have a **‘container’** within which to experiment. BWL Waterford provides such a container, where things can ‘fall together’. Nature works at larger scales than on-farm solutions. Communities work at smaller scales than national. A bioregion brings them together.
- **Equity, inclusion and a just transition** is at the heart of our principles.
- We are in strong agreement with the content of **the NESC report** from June 2023 on a ‘Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use. The key recommendations align with those of the BWL approach – and in addition do so **at a scale** ready to invest and implement with resultant learnings for wider replication. The report refers to the need for **place-based transition teams**: This is precisely the role that the BWL has been established to play. In other words, by investing in the bioregional approach, you would be helping implement the recommendations of the NESC report.
- Landscape approach puts **people at the centre**, with how they treat their land and cows after that. By letting people and their local communities be meaningfully engaged in **decision-making**, with their needs and concerns properly addressed from start to finish, the environmental change becomes more equitable for current and future generations.

Why?

- Landscape approaches **promote intersectoral and interdisciplinary management**, so allowing efficiency in delivering on multiple policy fronts. They also serve as a common ground to connect policies at different scales from County to National to International.
- A vehicle for testing **innovative finance**: Landscape finance is a framework that can provide a solid platform, comprising a mix of capacity building activities and funding, that enables the development and scaling of restoration activities and, importantly, drives down risks for investors.
- **Multi-stakeholder networks are fostered and nurtured over the long-term**, They are more likely to work for inclusive, fair and equitable solutions than individual farm-based interventions.
- Bioregions are suitable scale to **unlock larger scales of finance** by combining concepts to a portfolio approach, and being more ready to deliver outcome and results-based payments of different kinds
- Landscapes also **protect, restore and provide the natural capital** we need to underpin economic activities.
- **Nature operates in scales** of millions of hectares. We have to think about water flows, migration corridors, and pollination systems. Only landscape level action allows for this.

Why?

- New kinds of **biodiversity credits** should contribute to landscape efforts. Emission interventions should be coordinated with these rather than stand-alone.
- Serving as a **common ground to connect policies** at various scales (i.e. subnational, national, international) to practices and outcomes.
- Holistic approaches give an added advantage of ensuring **greater social license and shared value**
- They provide a way of including water, soil, biodiversity and communities as **integral drivers rather than secondary co-benefits**.
- Bioregions include **culture, art and heritage**. We need new narratives about what we appreciate in farming and the visual aesthetic of our landscapes. These from our identity, expectations and vision for sustainable futures - and from that comes agency and positive change.

Why else? Why not?

How?



How?

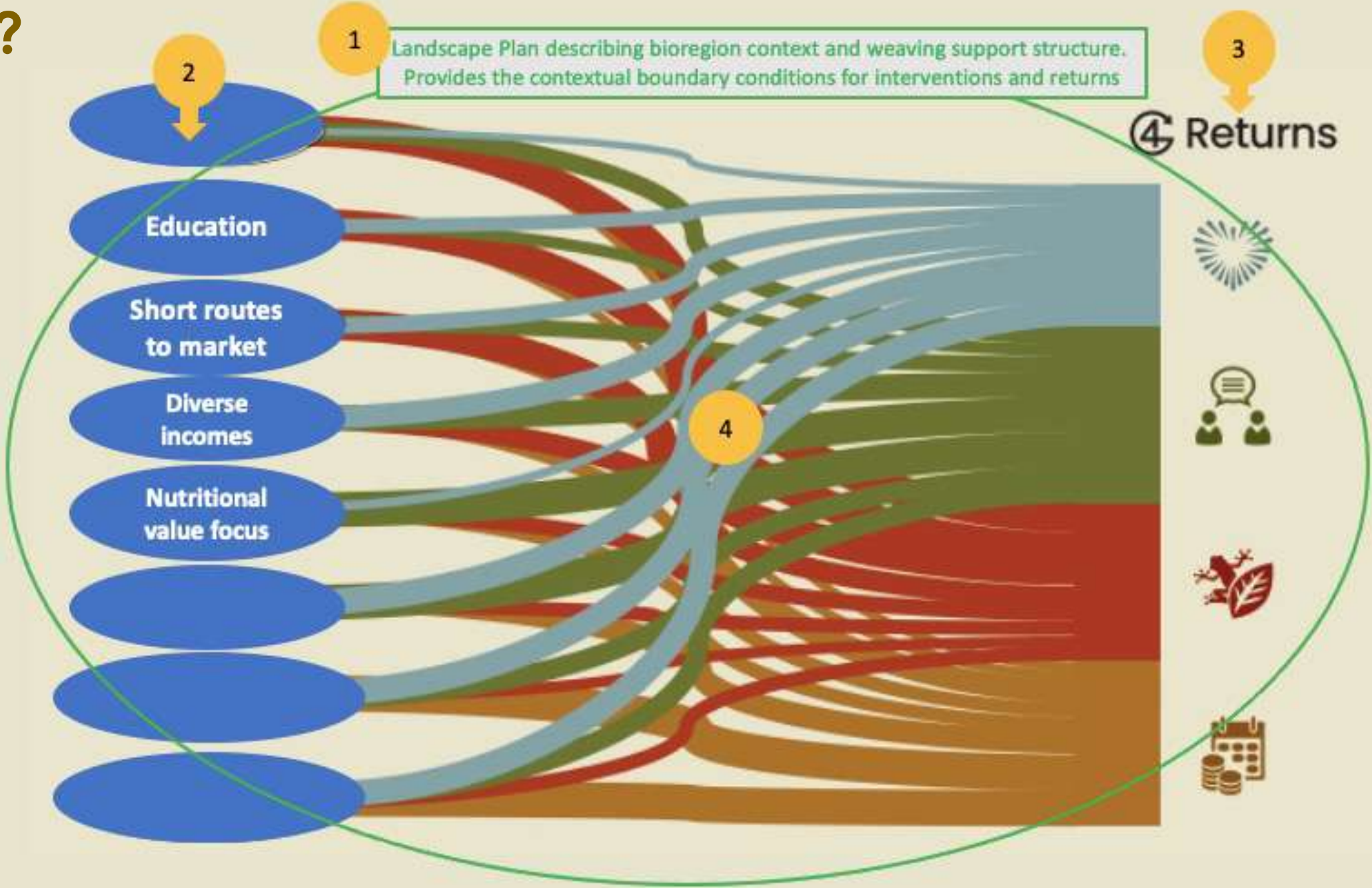
Methodologies:

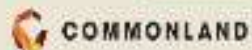
Weaving, systems change, inclusive multi-stakeholder workshops, co-visioning, catalyst grants for experimentation, get funding, make partnerships etc.

Structures:

1. Strategic document - The Landscape Plan
2. An independent entity of our own
3. A structure for co-implementation

How?





Bioregion/Landscape Plan

Bioregional Weaving Lab
An Déise Mór

Version date:
13th December 2023

Table of Contents – Part A

Executive Summary

1 Introduction

- Who are we and what are we hoping to achieve?
- Irish context
- The European BWL Collective

2 Frameworks and methodologies

- The four returns and three zones.
- Bioregion as the scale and unit of change
- The Irish bioregion
- Weaving – of social and ecological change
- Social and NBS innovations
- Systems change and scaling innovations
- Changemaking
- Transformation and mindset change

3 Landscape Assessment


- Stakeholder databases
- Three key stakeholders in the bioregion
- Four key Irish national policies
- Three key EU policies
- Research and innovation projects
- Geology and geomorphology
- Land-use
- Soil and land use
- Biodiversity and vegetation
- X, Y, Z

4 Landscape Synthesis and Analysis

- What BWL has done to date
- Five highlights of BWL work to date (manifesto, maps, finance, dairy, art/creatives)
- 4 Losses
- 4 Returns
- Theory of Change



Bioregional/Landscape Plan

 COMMONLAND

Bioregional Weaving Lab
An Déise Mór

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Table of contents Part B

6 Emerging 4R concepts – potential for the future

- How the concepts emerged – include initial trust building, residential workshops and seed grants
- The portfolio: Details of all 10
- Projects and activities additional to core concepts

7 Funding and support structure for the future

- The BWL – core principles, value, structure
- Governance – BWL internal, stakeholder circles etc.
- Communications

Funding

- Funding – insights from ongoing BWL work and September 2023 event.
- Bioregional, national and international funding principles and opportunities
- A bioregional fund?

8 Future visioning

- Long term-scenarios for the bioregion
- Most likely scenarios for the bioregion
- Assumptions
- Financial evolution

9 Strategy and roadmap

- Activities - 2024-2026
- Roadmaps - 2, 5, 10 and 20 years
- Funding - 2, 5, 10 and 20 years.

Summary of framework for BWL

- Theories of Change
- Support platform for portfolios, people and projects
- What will it look like in 2042?

The most useful landscape plan?

Who is this for and what would make it useful?

1. Communication of what we do and the impact we make
2. Baseline report – how deep research?
3. Investment document

Co-writing

1. Working document is on Google Drive
2. Meet for a writing session?

2. An entity of our own

BWL has been an initiative hosted by GIY

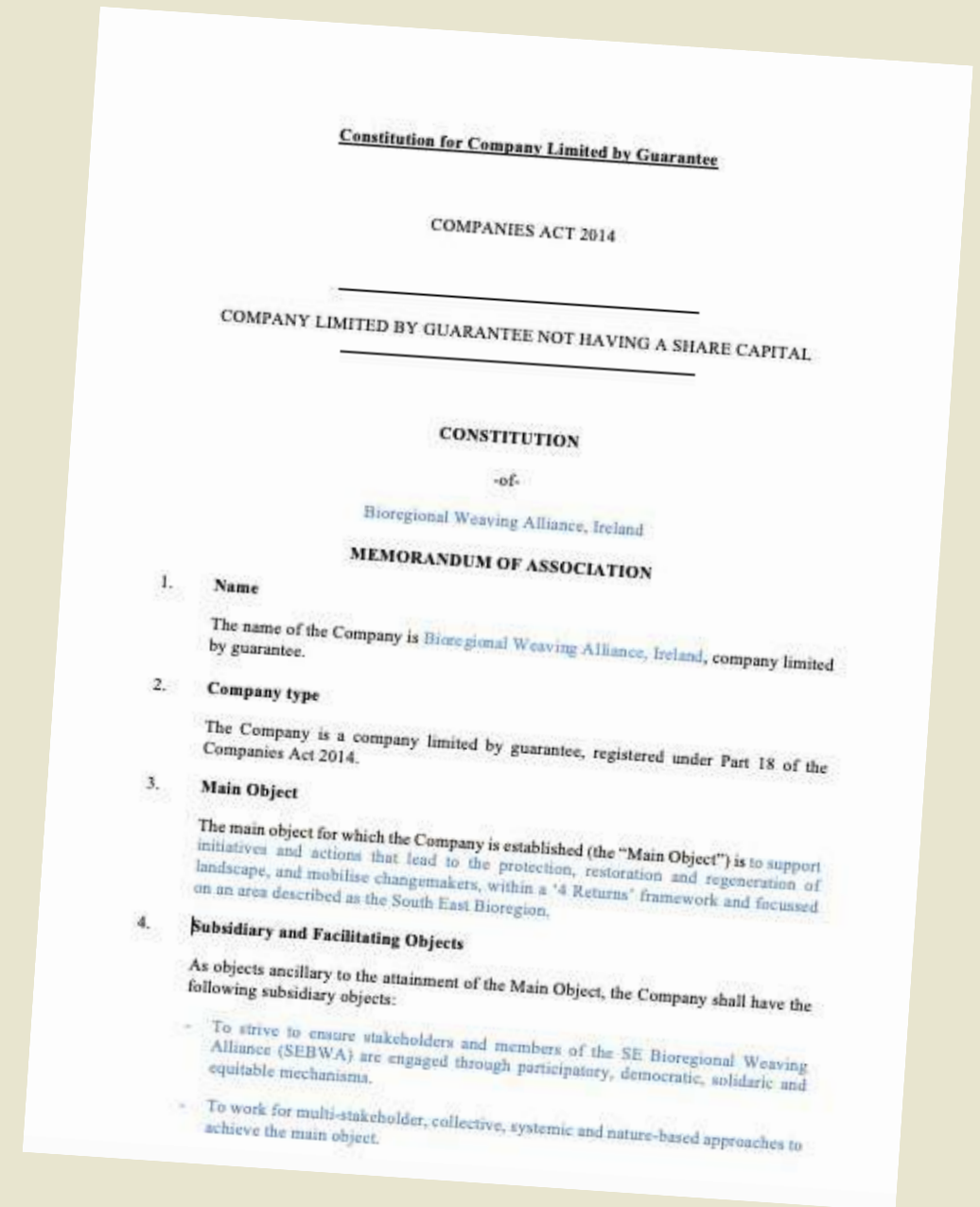
Needs to be a neutral and independent entity of its own

Proposal: CLG with cooperative principles

Constitution is drafted

Board of Trustees

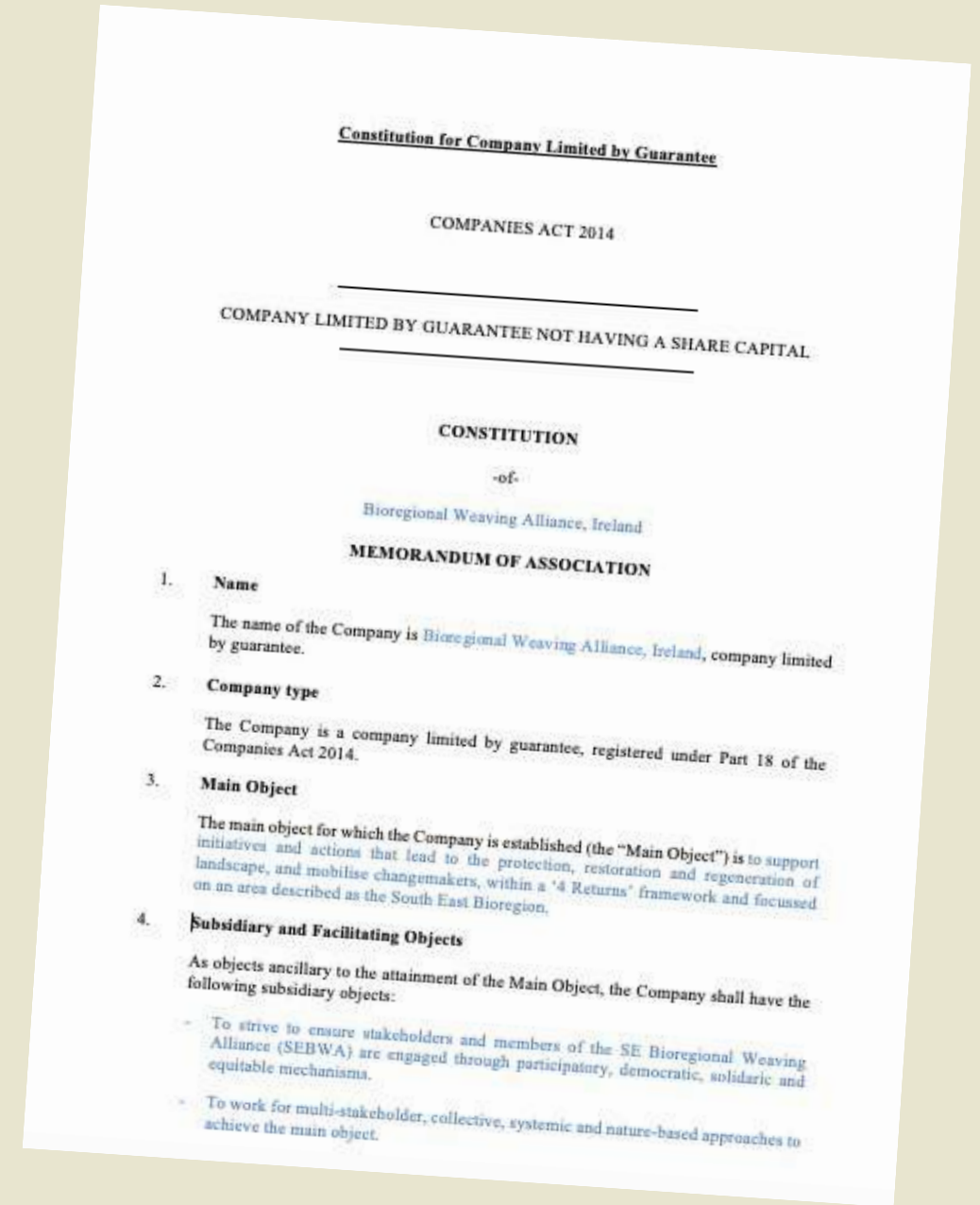
- Six initially, increase to ten if strategic



The name

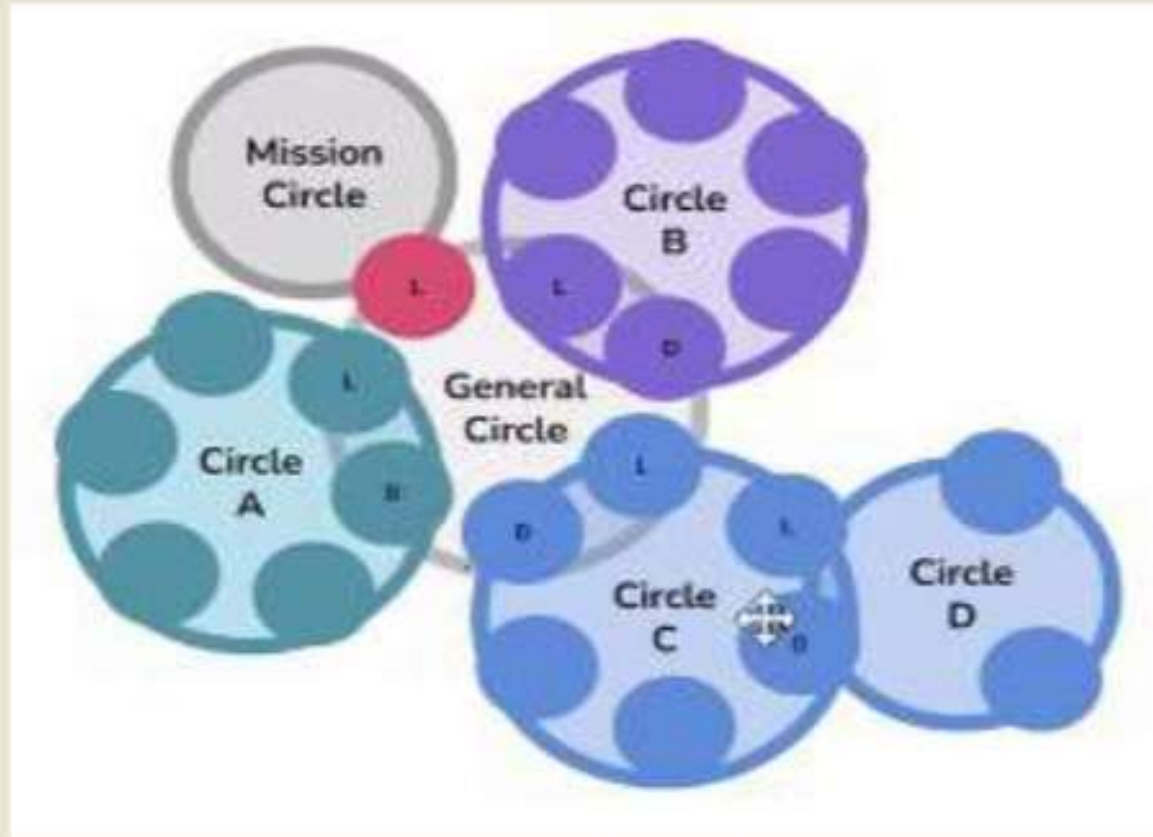
Proposed name

- Entity: **Bioregional Weaving Alliance Ireland**
- Currently working in: **the South East Bioregion**
- And in a **BWA Ireland learning network** with other initiatives wishing to use a bioregional weaving methodologies



3. Structure for co-implementation

Circles



2. Sociocracy

Possible way of organising sub co-working groups on themes such as berries, wool, co-owned farms etc

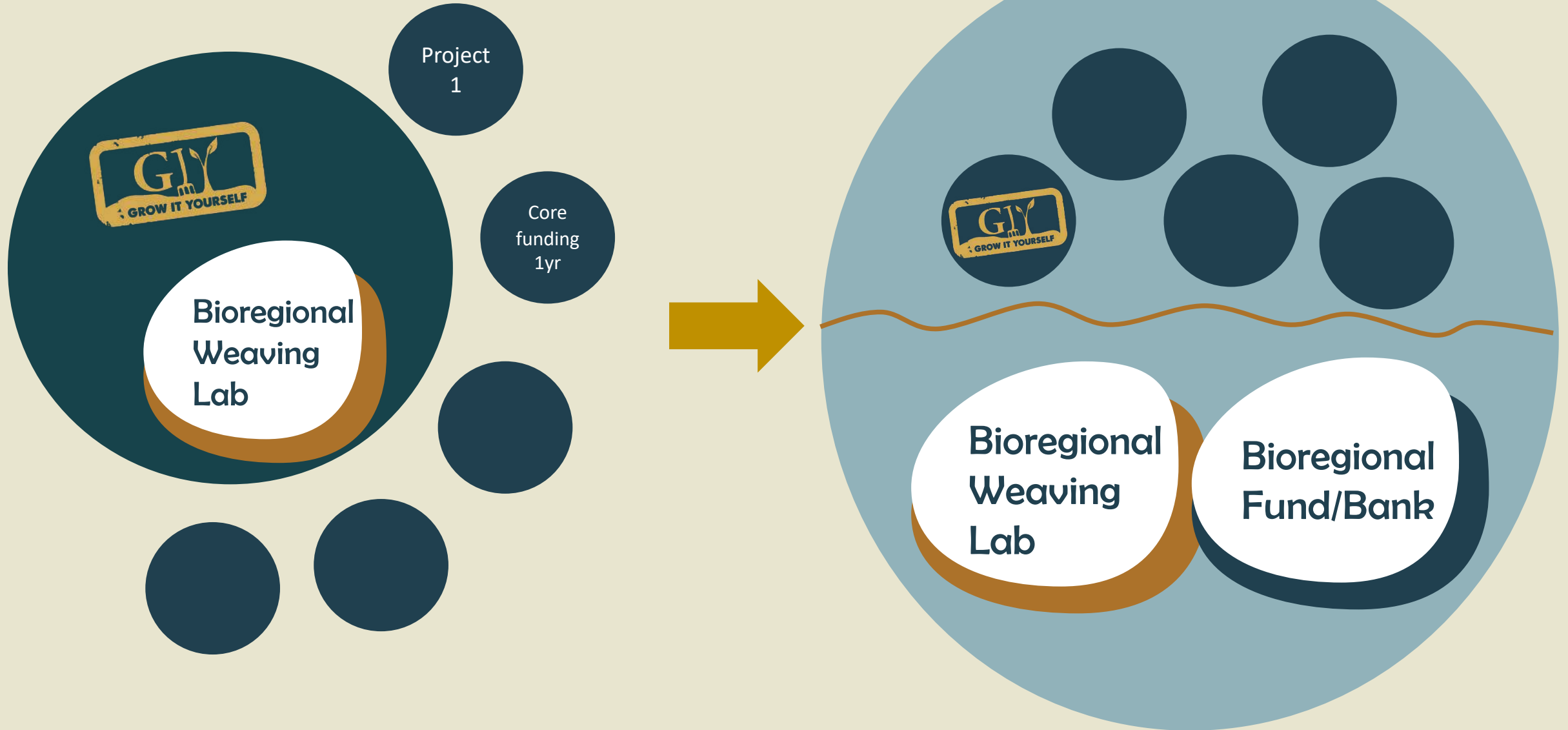
PARTICIPATION SYSTEM (ECOSYSTEM)



SUPPORT SYSTEM (PLATFORM)

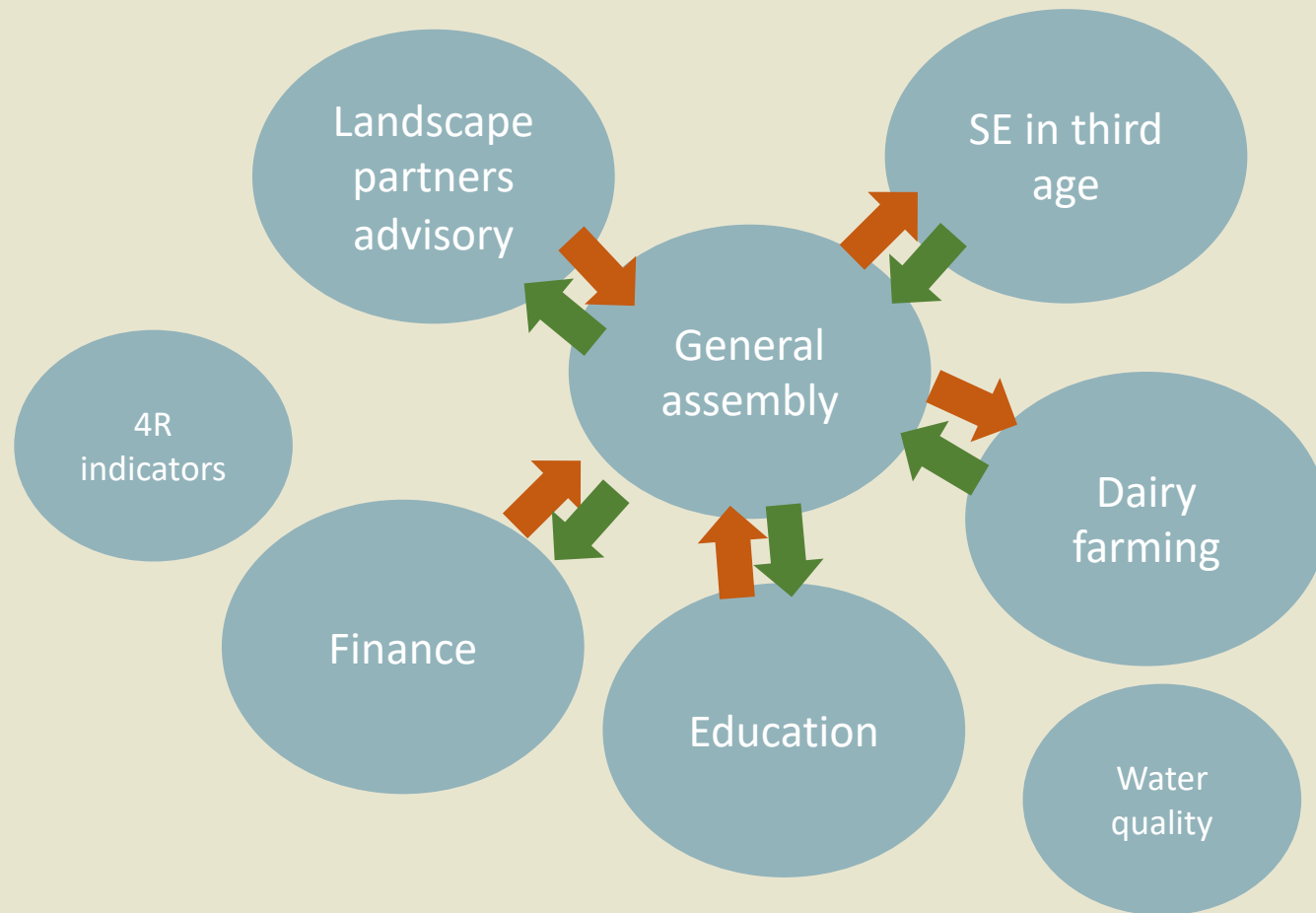


Governance



Governance 2

Circles – distributive decision-making



Invitation to circles.

Some concept holders will naturally lead. BWL can convene

- Mission and vision
- Funding and finance
- New farms and farming
- Social capital in third age
- Capacity building of skills (weaving, systems change changemaking).
- Events and workshop
- Communications

Structure for engagement

Partnerships

Landscape Partners are committed institutions (SETU, WCC etc) who can be quoted as collaborating, commit resources (time or money) to working for mutual benefit

Ambassadors

Are committed engaged stakeholders who would like to be supported in communicating the work of the BWA in Ireland through attending courses and learning offerings by BWL and its backbone organisations

Members

Membership of the BWA, for a nominal fee to be decided (ideas?), will be able to vote at the annual general meeting. They will agree to abide by the principles of the BWA and act as 'regenerative changemakers' and can join circles as members or circle/concept holders

Discussion

