# Bioregional Weaving Lab Learning Summit

## Overview of BWLs+
## Overview of systemic innovations

Oct. 2022

# Bioregional Weaving Teams & Landscape Partners

# Ireland

**County Waterford in Ireland** is in a region where huge agricultural production levels and rapidly growing population centres are accompanied by degrading monocultural farmlands and challenging long-term socio-economic trends. A Waterford BWL can connect to the Irish Food Vision 2030 and other ambitious national and local policies, and thereby provide an opportunity for this predominantly agricultural South-East bioregion to act as a showcase for an alternative, regenerative, food-system of the future.

*Local leading partner: GIY (Grow it Yourself), founded by BWL Ambassador and Ashoka Fellow Michael Kelly, is rooted in this region and reaches millions of people with regenerative food-growing programs.*

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Sarah Prosser**

GIY, Weaver

in LinkedIn

**Seánie Comerford**

GIY, Head of Philantropy

in LinkedIn

# Sweden

**Åre Valley, Jämtland County in Sweden** is a rural area with a popular outdoor & recreation destination with very big & underdeveloped regenerative enterprises and land management opportunities. A BWL is well suited to kick-start and nurture a multistakeholder & scalable "regeneration ecosystem" model, unlocking potential by "walking the talk" while facilitating win-win symbiosis between interests that so far perceived to be conflicting.

*Local leading partners: Fjällbete AB (Savory Institute's Nordic Hub) and OTAG AB, founded by Ashoka Fellow Durukan Dudu have been operating in the region for 20+ years in the field of holistic land management, advocating, and working for regenerative development of the local economy.*

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Durukan Dudu**

Ambassador, OTAG Regenerative Ag and Fjällbete

in LinkedIn

**Linnea Lundmark**

Fjällbete, Weaver

Facebook

**Albin Jansson**

Fjällbete, Weaver

Facebook

# Romania

**Oltenia de sub Munte, a national park in the Vâlcea County in Romania** has some of the highest levels of biodiversity and last remaining virgin forests in Europe. Ecological issues faced by the region are intensive exploitation of resources (forests, minerals, hunting), the abandonment of agricultural land and the pressure of uncontrolled tourism development. A BWL can influence the development trajectory of this tourist destination towards regeneration, by building inclusive and local economies and by shifting the current norm.

*Local leading partner: Kogayon Association, founded by Ashoka Fellow Florin Stoican, an eco-system builder for community-driven nature conservation since 2003.*

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Florin Stoican**

Kogayon, Weaver

in LinkedIn

**Nicoleta Marin**

Kogayon, Weaver

in LinkedIn

# Spain

**Altiplano Estepario, a steppe plateau of 1 million hectares in the South- East of Spain** and area with the lowest rainfall in Europe, is facing major problems of desertification associated with agricultural practises, resulting in erosion and loss of soil. A BWL can help align stakeholders and shift from development of almond monocultures and the proliferation of intensive agricultural and livestock farming practises to mainstreaming regenerative practices and develop the regional market for it.

*Local leading partner: Aland and AlvelAl, Commonland partner since 2015, rolled out initiatives designed to facilitate and transition farmers to regenerative farming in the region.*

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Elvira Marin**

Aland, Ambassador

in LinkedIn

**Laura Nuñez**

Aland & AlvelAl, Weaver

# France

The **Adour Garonne watershed in France** is a region of 11.6m ha where, thanks to fertile soils and a favourable climate, agriculture has been the major economic activity for decades. Large areas of pine forest were cleared in the 60s to provide farming lands to French citizens repatriated from Algeria. Today it is home to 1/3 of French farms and provides 230,000+ jobs. After decades of intensive farming and with climate change, key ecological concerns of the region include severe erosion, drought, and flooding as well as nitrogen loading and other pollution. A BWL can help as a systemic approach of bringing all stakeholders together and inspiring them towards a shared regenerative vision.

*Local leading partner: Association Française d'Agroforesterie aiming to accelerate the agro-ecological transition through research and development, training, knowledge dissemination, animation, sectors structuring and representation of agroforestry.*

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Anaïs Rousseau**

Agroforestry Association, Weaver

in LinkedIn

**Maurice Sanciaume**

Independent, Weaver

in LinkedIn

# Austria

The region **Thermenlinie-Wiener Becken in Austria** is located south of Vienna and well connected to the capital. In earlier times it was dominated by both dry and wet grasslands, with animals grazing, marshes and floodplains as well as small villages. Vineyards have existed for about 2.000 years. While the region is one of the biodiversity hotspots in middle Europe and Austria, many ecosystems are threatened today because of intensive agricultural practices, commercial areas, and a large interest in populating the land to escape the big city life of Vienna.

Landschaftspflegeverein is building up Network Nature Region – a network of people maintaining and restoring a network of biodiversity hotspots of currently 120 hectares. A BWL could support upscaling the network, gaining new local stakeholders to bottom-up align on a vision, develop a shared identity, upscale existing activities and find new solutions.

*We are currently still exploring the potential of a BWL in this region. Leading local partners are Landschaftspflegeverein, Ashoka Austria & Blühendes Österreich.*

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Irene Drozdowski**

Landschaftspflegeverein, Weaver

**Alexander Kesselring**

Ashoka Austria, Weaver

in LinkedIn

# Germany

**Fläming in Brandenburg, Germany,** is located south-west of Berlin the primary region in Germany to face direct consequences of climate change like water shortages, desertification, and wild fires as well as flooding risk in case of heavy rain. There is a lot of political tension regarding the land tenure situation and up to 60 % of agricultural land tends to be owned by large non-agricultural players. The social situation is characterised by politically grown mistrust in collaboration and widespread resignation. Young people leave the region to find work elsewhere. A local BWL could help protect important natural habitat as well as framing regeneration as an economic opportunity for several stakeholders in the region.

*We are currently still exploring the potential of a BWL in this region. Leading local partners are BaumfeldWirtschaft, Klimaweide Arensnest, and Resilia Klimabäume.*

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Svenja Nette**

Klimaweide Arensnest, Weaver

in LinkedIn

**Malte Cegiolka**

Resilia Klimabäume, Weaver

# Mallorca

**Mallorca as the largest of the Balearic Islands,** situated in the middle of the Western Mediterranean, is (like Menorca and other subtropical biodiversity hotspots) at the forefront of climate change, experiencing the consequences at a 20 % higher pace than many other regions in the world. In addition, degradation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems - with overexploitation in fishing and agriculture and mass tourism as main drivers – are jeopardising the health of the ecosystems and the sustainability of the economic activities on the islands. A mallorcan BWL could set an example for the whole Mediterranean of adapting to climate change and regenerating ecosystems as a basis for a sustainable economy.

*We are currently still exploring the potential of a BWL in this region. The leading local partner is Save the Med.*

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Bradley Robertson**

Save the Med, Weaver

in LinkedIn

# Menorca

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Rebecca Morris**

Menorca Preservation, Weaver

in LinkedIn

The **Balearic Islands** are an archipelago in the Mediterranean, east of the Spanish mainland. Scientists regard these islands as one of the best-kept marine environments in the Mediterranean region. **Menorca**, as the easternmost island, has a strong tradition of rural landscapes and agriculture activities and this sector owns approximately 75 % of the land but at present only contributes to 3 or 4 % of the economy. The island is home to an overwhelming diversity of Mediterranean habitats that host endemic plant and animal species unique to the island, some of which are in danger of becoming extinct. Menorca also lies on an important bird migration route between Europe and Africa, which contributes to the variety of bird species one can see at different times of the year. However, the marine ecosystems of Menorca face significant pressure, due to recreational and industrial overfishing, mass tourism, inappropriate sewage systems, water consumption, boats anchoring in vulnerable areas, pollution from plastics and other materials etc. A BWL in this region could help the shift from a strong tradition of dairy farming and prioritising land use to produce forage for cows to a diversified produce for human consumption as well as creating consensus on a marine conservation strategy that supports a healthy marine environment, environmentally conscious nautical sector and the growth and proper management of marine protected areas around the island.

*We are currently still exploring the potential of a BWL in this region. The leading local partner is Menorca Preservation.*

*Commonland Landscape Partner*

# The Netherlands

Typical for Holland, peat meadows are home to cows, windmills and (migrating) bird populations. However, the intensification of farming activities and systemic dewatering of peat soils are turning the **Dutch western peat meadows** into 'green deserts' where both nature and farm economics are under pressure. In 2016, Wij.land started exploring how the 4 Returns can help restore ecological functions of the peat meadow landscape in the **'Vechtstreek'**, together with 8 farmers and the Dutch conservation organization Natuurmonumenten. This has grown into a learning network of almost 200 cattle farmers today who are futureproofing their farm by learning how to work more and more alongside nature and in connection with the landscape.

*Local leading partners: Wij.land is a bottom-up network organization of farmers. It plays a key role in connecting different stakeholders in the landscape to create natural, social, and financial value and to inspire others in joining this cause. Wij.land's key partners are farmers, Wilder Land, Natuurmonumenten, Commonland, various Agrarian Nature Societies, Rabo Carbon Bank, water boards and entrepreneurs through the region.*

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Danielle de Nie**
Director Wij.land

in LinkedIn

**Sven Sielhorst**
Head of operations & programs

in LinkedIn

**Rosa Vendel**
Project Officer

in LinkedIn

*Commonland Landscape Partner*

# Dutch Transition House (Versnellingshuis)

**The Netherlands** faces major challenges in terms of housing, mobility, water, nitrogen, energy, climate, and biodiversity. These challenges come together in rural areas and lead to more and more polarization: as a result, people no longer have confidence in each other, the government, and institutions. The Dutch Transition House (or Dutch Regional Learning Network) is developing an area-oriented approach to support regions and develops ±15 learning processes to help system players listen to each other and to the soil and water system and bridge system barriers. In a process of joint analysis, reflection and action, space is created for understanding and trust. In a lab set-up, parties are involved on a regional or (inter)national scale that can help remove barriers in legislation, policy, and regulations. In this way The Transition House supports scaling up of bottom-up efforts.

In quarter 4 of 2022 we will select 2 or 3 regions to start a regional lab. With the support of Theory U the stakeholders from this area are 'initiating and sensing' the three returns: the natural, financial, and social return with support of a process. After this phase we evaluate if they can go to the next 'presencing' or strategizing phase.

We have secured kick-start funding from two private funders: Adessium and Gieskes. We are in contact with the Dutch ministries for more funding and support in solving system barriers from the labs.

Representing the Project at the Learning Summit:

**Liesbeth Schipper**

Project Manager Versnellingshuis

in LinkedIn

**Karlijn Fidder**

Commonland Labs Coordinator

in LinkedIn

*Ashoka Landscape Partner*

# De Plaatsen

A vital soil contributes to a better climate, more biodiversity, an attractive landscape, a healthier environment and the regionalization of our food system. Most of the Dutch soil is managed by farmers and horticulturists. The Dutch Foundation **De Plaatsen** (translated: The Places) is working with them on the realization of 700,000 hectares of sustainable soil management. In this way we contribute to a healthier country in which it is good to live, for people, plants and animals; and for our children as well as for generations to come.

There will be at least four Places for the four different soil types in the **Netherlands**. The initiators of **De Plaatsen** want to work with as many farmers as possible. De Plaatsen wants to learn about and work on a regenerative food system with them and various system players (including banks, marketing cooperatives, supermarkets and citizens). Cooperative "De Kleine Aarde" in Boxtel is the first Plaats in the Netherlands.

Representing the Project at the Learning Summit:

**Geert van de Veer**

Founder & CEO

*Commonland Landscape Partner*

# India

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Shekhar Kolipaka**

Weaver

in LinkedIn

**The Kabirdham landscape is located in Chhattisgarh state in Central India.** From the forested hills in the west, home to tribal communities, downstream to the plains in the south-east, where farmers grow mostly paddy and sugarcane, the landscape covers more than 200.000 hectares. High land use pressure (per farm household the average amount of land is only 1 to 2 ha), overgrazing, forest degradation, soil and water depletion and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns are challenging ecological resilience and community prosperity.

Together with the local government and the local communities, our partnership (Samerth Charitable Trust, PRADAN, Agricon Samiti, Foundation for Ecological Security, TNC-India, Commonland) aims to balance community well-being, nature conservation and sustainable economic development.

We started in 2019 with pilots in 10 tribal villages, now expanded to 19, on community mobilization, sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products, agroforestry, fish ponds and vegetable growing, with leveraged support from government programs. The next stage is scaling to the region downstream. We will finish a scoping study by end of this year prior to initiating any activities. Initial insights suggest a high potential for agroforestry, water management, and carbon credits.

*Commonland Landscape Partner*

# Galapagos

The **Galapagos Islands** are one of the best preserved archipelagos in the world. 97% of its marine and terrestrial surface is a protected area, while 3% is destined for human settlements. The high dependence of the islands in many aspects, including food since more than 90% of food is imported from the mainland, has summoned many public and private actors around the need to design a food system that promotes local production and consumption, financially viable and with the participation and inclusion of the various actors. With this intention, the Coastal Fisheries Initiative - Challenge Fund funded by the World Bank and executed last year by the consortium formed by the Charles Darwin Foundation, Conservation International, Presencing Institute and Commonland allowed us to understand the real dimension of the Galapagos Seafood using the Presencing method of Theory U and the approach of the 4 Returns of Commonland achieving: (i) representativeness of the actors, (ii) geographical, gender and generational balance, and (iii) motivation for participation. The results of this process allowed us to recognise the losses and returns of the seafood landscape in the islands after a deep exercise of reflection on the point of consciousness from which our actions have been carried out: setting a common intention, co-building a shared vision and generating 10 prototypes that will allow us in the short term to observe the emerging future of our food system.

Representing the Bioregion
at the Learning Summit:

**Juan Carlos Guzmán**
Lab Galapagos

in LinkedIn

*Commonland Landscape Partner*

# Africa

Commonland and Ubuntu Lab Institute are collaborating to support Africa rising stronger together. We aim to accelerate landscape regeneration in **Africa** - home to 16% of the global human population and covering 1/5 of global land area - by supporting and (further) enabling communities and initiatives across Africa to regenerate landscapes as a foundation for thriving and resilient societies in healthy/strong/regenerative ecosystems. To build an Ecosystem of Labs, we are offering the landscape leaders in ten African bioregions a training and support program to initiate and facilitate landscape labs and systemic labs in their regions. These labs are multi-annual learning journeys in which relevant stakeholders participate showing what is possible when we bring intention, expertise, commitment, and creativity together. In these labs they are working with collective intelligence, wholeness and innovation towards a shared vision and action plan for the landscape. Besides that, the labs are a place for building long-term collaborations between relevant landscape stakeholders, bringing back hope and overcoming systemic barriers such as the lack of financial infrastructure or limiting policies.

Ubuntu, meaning "humanity", is a term which derives from “muntu” meaning a person, a human being. It is sometimes translated as "I am because we are" (also "I am because you are"). Ubuntu.Lab has already trained more than 200 process facilitators and 500 changemakers in 28 countries across the continent.

Representing the Project at the Learning Summit:

**Robert Wanalo**

Ubuntu.lab Africa (Kenya)

in LinkedIn

**Mohamed El Mongy**

Ubuntu.lab Africa (Egypt)

**Karlijn Fidder**

Commonland Labs Coordinator

in LinkedIn

*Commonland Landscape Partner*

# Asia-Pacific & Australia

**Southwest Australia** is a biogeographic region and a global biodiversity hotspot comprising six ecoregions. It is around 500,000km$^2$, or around 12 times the size of the Netherlands, or roughly the size of Spain. To work on the regeneration of an area of this size requires an ecosystem of landscape partners. Commonland has therefore partnered with around a dozen on-the-ground organisations working in diverse areas and approaching common goals from multiple perspectives. Southwest Australia is one of Commonland's core global landscapes, with partnerships here commencing in 2015.

Commonland has also been partnering with other organisations throughout the Asia-Pacific, including organisations active in India, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Indonesia. This year, Commonland partnered with the IDEAS Asia-Pacific SDG cross-sector leadership lab hosted by the Indonesian organisation United in Diversity as well as the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The lab brings together senior leaders across countries and sectors for a 12-month Theory U learning journey in order to prototype regional solutions to complex problems, including those related to food systems and landscape regeneration. Southwest Australia is seen as an ecosystem restoration hub within the larger work taking place across the Asia-Pacific.

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**John Stubley**

Ecosystem activation Asia Pacific

in LinkedIn

**Katie Stubley**

Ecosystem activation Asia Pacific

in LinkedIn

*Ashoka Landscape Partner*

# Muga Valley Project

**The Muga Valley Project** is a bioregion at the **North East Spanish Pyrenees**. The project aims to facilitate a collaboration between at the moment 26 villages to bring back work and life to the Valley. Exploring a regenerative rural economy while regenerating the forest eco-system, guard the water quality and levels of the Muga river and create sense of belonging for the inhabitants and visitors of the Valley.

The Pioneers of Our Time Foundation is currently the coordinating the activities with four work tracks.

1. Creating a laboratory farm that also serves as a ecological zone.

2. The Muga Valley Campus: fostering collaboration between universities, innovators, entrepreneurs, philanthropists and investors.

3. Creating Nature Tourism and Co-living venues

4. Facilitating the Muga Valley Partnership between the key stakeholders in The Valley

Representing the Bioregion at the Learning Summit:

**Stef van Dongen**

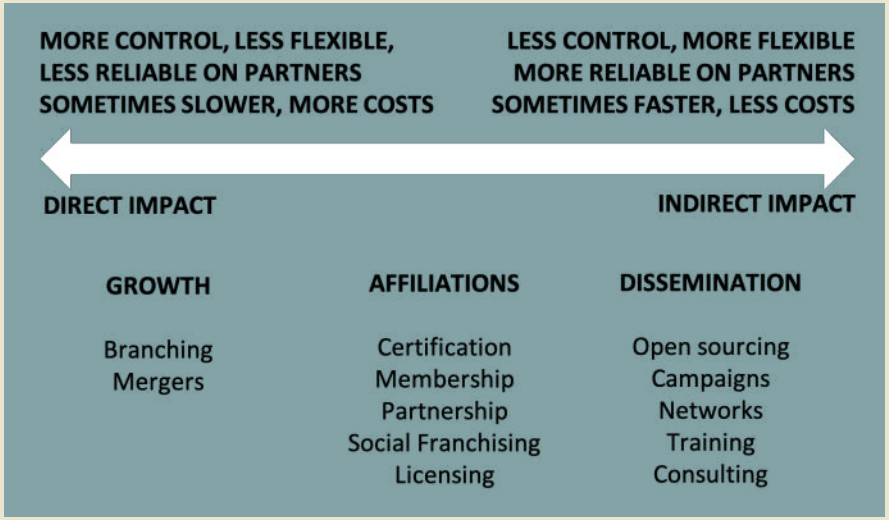
Founder

in LinkedIn

# Scaling Systemic Innovations

# Scaling Systemic Innovations

There are several ways to scale innovations like the ones we have in our BWL portfolio, and here at the Learning Summit. Based on Ashoka's extensive experience with scaling systemic innovations, the spectrum on the right-hand side illustrates the different possibilities for scaling from *growth* to *affiliations* and *dissemination*.




## Weaving as a Means to Scaling

*"Weaving is the practice of interconnecting people, projects and places in synergistic and purposeful ways."* It connects people and organisations and allows them to combine their abilities and thereby create new abilities. Weaving plays a role for many dimensions of scaling (see on the right). They all depend 1) on making connections between people, projects and places – and 2) on enabling people and organizations to combine and create abilities.

**GROWTH:** Connecting people within an organization and enabling them to create new abilities.

**REPLICATION:** Connecting innovators and adopters and enabling them to create new abilities. Connecting places.

**SYSTEM CHANGE:** (Re)configuring and reconnecting roles, relationships, resources, and rules within a system to create new abilities within the system.

**SCALING METHODS:** If weaving is successfully in creating new abilities by connecting people, projects, and places it could be seen as a scaling method.

BEEODIVERSITY
regenerating value

ASHOKA

# BeeOdiversity


Website

BeeOdiversity began from a desire to save bees and pollinators and the understanding that for that to happen the wider environment and biodiversity needed saving as well.

BeeOdiversity's mission is to innovatively and scientifically develop projects that reduce pollution and restore biodiversity by combining the brilliance of Mother Nature, technology and the involvement of all the players concerned. The initiative has redefined the role of bees in our ecosystems, from honey producers to protectors of biodiversity while acting as natural drones.

The BeeOmonitoring Tool analyses samples collected by bees and facilitates the assessment of the quantity and quality of floral biodiversity, the evaluation of pollution levels (heavy metals, pesticides, toxins, radio-activity, etc.), and identifying their sources. BeeOmonitoring has won numerous awards recognising the innovation and societal impact of this tool.

The organisation devises and implements innovative strategies, systems and environmental coaching techniques to restore the quality of the soil, air and water and help and involve anyone who feels it's time to take action.

BeeOdiversity is convinced that regenerating biodiversity and reducing pollution is both vital and valuable to our own well-being and to the well-being of humanity, the economy and ecology. So that we can all enjoy a sustainable future.

BEEODIVERSITY
regenerating value

ASHOKA

## BeeOdiversity's Impact on 4 Returns

### Return of Inspiration

- *+50 K people made aware each year*

### Return of Social Capital

- *+100 multinational clients over 100 project sites*

### Return of Natural Capital

- *+100K ha monitored & transformed per year*
- *+250K ha pollinated annually*
- *+50 different pesticides identified annually*
- *+200 plant species identified and protected annually*
- *20km2 annual plantings*

### Return of Financial Capital

*BeeOdiversity's models develop new nature-based services and products that promote the conservation of biodiversity with the added benefit of creating value (financial and other).*

Represented at the Learning Summit by:

**Cyrille Janssens**

BeeOdeveloper

in LinkedIn

# Savory Institute


Website

The Savory Institute is on a mission to regenerate the world's grasslands and the livelihoods of their inhabitants by means of holistic management principles. The approach leverages livestock grazing to replenish the land, restore the soil, prevent desertification, foster carbon sequestration, and create financially viable communities. A significant component of this is the equipment of land managers with the necessary tools and knowledge to implement and measure the outcome of these principles. Through a strategy rooted in collaboration, storytelling, market support, and cutting-edge research, the initiative is shifting the paradigm around agriculture's role as a solution to many of the world's challenges. The Savory Institute aims to create a global network of 100 hubs influencing the management of a billion hectares by 2025.

By instilling farmers with a regenerative mindset in the form of management principles that allow them to unleash the full potential of a system, the initiative hopes to transform them into stewards for biodiversity and reconnect them with the nature in which they operate. Further, through the Land to Market program, consumers at the other end of the value chain are empowered with choice through shorter and more transparent supply chains, thereby reconnecting with nature through the food system. The goal is to move from merely transactional to more relational value networks, which, coincidentally, is also good business.

## Savory Institute's Impact on 4 Returns

### Return of Inspiration

- *54 Savory Hubs (regional learning centers) across the globe*

### Return of Social Capital

- *15,755 land managers trained*
- *202 Accredited Professionals*

### Return of Natural Capital

- *21,717,875 ha land area under Holistic Management*

### Return of Financial Capital

- *$2,028,690 USD grants and donations (2020),*
- *$845,893 USD earned Income (2020)*

Represented at the Learning Summit by:

**Nick Sharpe**
Director of Global Projects

in LinkedIn

# TrueFootprint by Integrity Action


Website

Driven by a deep interest in transparency, accountability and empowerment of the base, Integrity Action has designed a methodology (True Footprint) of bottom-up measures that can be implemented as impact verification solution in the agroindustry and food sector. Up to now, most sustainability reports focus on their input and output, but the outcome is seldomly being tracked. In the food sector, for example, information is often given on the number of farmers that are part of a particular programme, but not whether the farmer´s conditions improved. Integrity Action believes that such information can never be collected top-down.

Only by engaging those that are implementing a pilotal solution on the ground, complex systems can be refined and improved in a quick, sustainable and powerful way. True Footprint's vision is to use its methodology of bottom-up measures to have millions of small farmers engaged in regenerative farming and restoring the soil while getting credit for their work of sequestering carbon.

Represented at the Learning Summit by:

**Fredrik Galtung**
Founder & CEO

in LinkedIn

# Herenboeren


Website

Herenboeren supports communities in developing nature-driven cooperative farms and grow alternatives to current large-scale food production systems, thereby shortening the value chain between soil and people and reconnecting these with nature. Through sustainable business models the innovation provides the means to produce and distribute food along nature-driven, socially connected, and economically supported lines. The goal is to integrate society and economy back into the ecosystems on which they depend. The benefits extend into the local communities through increased health, happiness, and love, which by many standards constitute better metrics of human development than current economics. Through the food system, and drawing on regenerative organic farming, Herenboeren is working towards this integration by raising awareness within communities and advocating for the required policy mechanisms. According to Geert van der Veer, the strategy is to allow people to experiment with the realities of farming under regenerative agriculture, thereby persuading them on the benefits through personal experience.

"...what we teach people or what they actually teach themselves by the experiences, is that we can create ecosystems which can provide us with food." - Geert van der Veer

## Herenboeren's Impact on 4 Returns

### Return of Inspiration

- *52 partners,*
- *25.000 people involved*

### Return of Social Capital

- *500 people fed per farm,*
- *29 farmers employed,*
- *26 HBNL employees*

### Return of Natural Capital

- *14x20 ha regenerative farms up and running,*
- *9 new farms in 2023 and another 28 farms under construction*
- *15-30% decrease in meat-eaters per farm*

### Return of Financial Capital

- *9.2 M investment secured,*
- *5.9 M turnover,*
- *break even: 25 farms*

Represented at the Learning Summit by:

**Geert van de Veer**
Founder & CEO

# (Re)Connecting the dots


Starting from the desire to create opportunities for people and nature in a region degraded by a history of coal mining, Ignace Schops understood the untapped potential of nature to promote social inclusion. The overwhelming success of a cycling network in simultaneously promoting environmental conservation and socio-economic development prompted the creation of a model for the reconnection of society with nature, notably implemented in the Hoge Kempen National Park, the Cross Border Park Kempen~Broek and the River Park Meuse Valley.

Website

The (Re)Connection model that was firstly and successfully implemented in the Kempen en Maasland regional landscape in Belgium builds on the premise that a thriving ecosystem is a connected ecosystem. It is one where nature is not jailed away but is embraced and valued, not solely because of the innumerable vital services it provides, or for an economic value, but simply because it is. For this intrinsic value to be recognized, people need to be made aware of what they might soon be losing and reconnect with nature. The model attempts to re-establish this connection by changing the current paradigm of economic development and inserting nature into it, accounting for biodiversity and creating alternative opportunities for local communities. Much of this work, therefore, involves bringing together all the different stakeholders in a region and, through storytelling and groundwork-based empirical evidence, show and share the benefits of combined socio-economic and ecological development.

## Impact on 4 Returns

**Return of Inspiration**

*> 100 coalition partners*

**Return of Social Capital**

*> 5000 direct and indirect jobs created*

**Return of Natural Capital**

*> 20K ha restored natural ecosystems*

**Return of Financial Capital**

*191 M annual turnover,*
*60 M annual spill over effects into local economy*

Represented at the Learning Summit by:

**Ignace Schops**
Director

LinkedIn

# Sea Ranger Service


Website

The Sea Ranger Service works with an innovative social business model training youth from impoverished coastal communities to become Sea Rangers and restore ocean biodiversity at scale. The model has been piloted and validated in close collaboration with the Dutch government since 2016. The Sea Ranger Service is focussed on building zero-emission ships to ensure its service is provided in a clean and cost-effective way thereby offering a unique offshore capacity to accelerate seagrass, coral, and oyster bed restoration significantly. On a mission to regenerate 1 million hectares of seascape while training 20.000 unemployed youths towards maritime careers by 2040 the service measures its impact in new jobs created, biodiversity restored, and CO2 absorbed through regenerated seagrass. As Wietse van der Werf puts it, through a combination of increased monitoring and enforcement of protected areas with ecological restoration, the Service hopes to give nature a much-needed break.

## Sea Ranger's Impact on 4 Returns

### Return of Inspiration

- *Training unemployed youth to be Sea Rangers, safeguard the oceans and create blue economies has a direct impact in deprived communities, restoring a sense of purpose and hope*

### Return of Social Capital

- *78 trained and from disfavoured communities (2020) employed people*

### Return of Natural Capital

- *99 plastic pollution samples collected (1st half of 2019),*
- *3751 digital observations of activity near protected wreck sites,*
- *14 protected wreck sites physically monitored*

### Return of Financial Capital

- *480 K investment secured to develop the SRS model (2019),*
- *500 K innovation grant received (2020),*
- *1,139,006 project investment and funds raised since inception*

Represented at the Learning Summit by:

**Wietse van der Werf**
Founder

in LinkedIn

# ClientEarth


Website

ClientEarth is a world leading environmental law charity with a unique approach – using the power of law to drive systemic change to protect people and the planet we all depend on.

ClientEarth's work is circular – by informing, implementing and enforcing the law, they find positive and practical solutions to fight climate change, protect biodiversity, stop pollution and secure environmental justice for all.

Besides tackling various other global topics like the energy transition, greenwashing and air, chemical and plastic pollution, ClientEarth has several teams focused on defending wildlife and habitats.

ClientEarth's team of legal and environmental experts work at an international, national and local level to defend ecosystems on land and sea – utilising legal frameworks to protect forests, vulnerable species and the ocean – to further the 30x30 target.

ClientEarth also advocates for sustainable, regenerative agriculture, transformation of food systems and protection of soils and tackle pollution from intensive agricultural activities.

In Europe, ClientEarth secured the legal right for EU citizens and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to bring environmental cases to court.

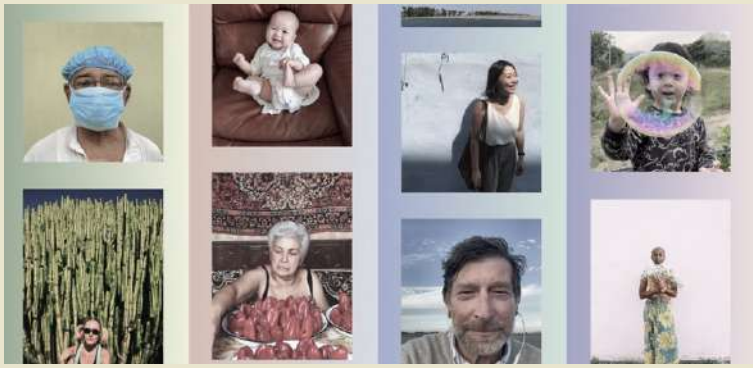
## ClientEarth's Impact on 4 Returns

ClientEarth

ASHOKA

### Return of Inspiration

- *Empower people to seek and access the protection they're entitled to by law*
- *Trialling and scaling innovative uses of the law to be replicated by others – over 165 active cases*



### Return of Social Capital

- *Assisted 8 Torres Strait Islanders in bringing a successful world-first human rights case against the Australian Government*
- *Spent 8 years working with local partners to reform the Republic of Congo's Forest Code, for the first time ensuring the rights of local forest communities*
- *Trained 1,500+ judges in environmental law in China, now bringing 80,000 cases a year*

### Return of Natural Capital

- *Played a key role in designing the world's first illegal logging law – the EU Timber Regulation, and now in shaping the EU's new deforestation law*
- *Prevented the destruction of Europe's oldest forest and protected vulnerable wildlife like wolves, bears and lynx*

### Return of Financial Capital

- *Secured new regulations requiring pension funds (approx. £3 trillion) in the UK to take a stronger action on climate*
- *Using shareholder rights to prove fossil-fuels are a bad investment – suspending plans to build new coal plants*

Represented at the Learning Summit by:

**Francesco Maletto**

Lawyer

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# SCOPEinsight


With the mission to transform agricultural sectors by systematically increasing the market inclusiveness of professional agribusinesses SCOPEinsight provides the business intelligence needed to advance farmer professionalism.
The overall vision of this business intelligence company is to create more opportunities for regenerative farming in emerging markets. The underlying insight is that when agribusinesses professionalize, they are more profitable, more sustainable, and better linked to markets.

Website

Participating farmers can use SCOPE scores to improve their agribusiness performance throughout the lifecycle of a project and/or over time. And by using the same indicators as the ecosystem of service providers uses, consistency and a common terminology are ensured. Agribusinesses with higher operations scores have better access to markets, inputs, and finance.

The assessments measure types of risk exposure that include: financial; supply chain; environmental, social, and corporate governance; and production.

Represented at the Learning Summit by:

**Lucas Simons**
Founder & CEO

in LinkedIn

# GOEL - Gruppo Cooperativo


GOEL wants to demonstrate that ethics is not only morally right but also economically effective: companies that have the courage to make the right choice must therefore be helped to become successful companies.

GOEL has therefore reconstructed the entire supply chain, step by step, together with its farmer members; it has made it efficient and has built its own commercial structure by eliminating local intermediaries and wholesalers to guarantee the maximum

Website

This aim is reached, step by step, together with its farmer members; so far main results have been more efficient production methods and commercial structure that ensured maximum possible return to producers, ensuring fair and sustainable delivery prices for agricultural products.

The mission of Goel is to guarantee compliance with strict rules of legality but also inclusion and principles of "participation democracy".

Being part of the GOEL cooperative also means no longer being alone in the face of mafia-type attacks and counting on a national and international support network: GOEL has therefore set up a solidarity fund to compensate the damage suffered by members who are victims of aggression.

With its various activities, GOEL helps to build important local structures for real organic food production, social inclusion, responsible tourism, and a circular economy.

## GOEL's Impact on 4 Returns


### Return of Inspiration

*GOEL's mission, based on legality, inclusion and ethical growth has created a big community including the staff, collaborators and lots of external supporters, united by the same vision and confident in the cultural and economical ongoing change*

### Return of Social Capital

*GOEL's approach is first of all an ideological one: full respect of legality and no concession to clientelist logic are aimed to show that ethical behaviour can lead to maximum results and efficiency. This helps creating hope and positive energy for young and less young people on the territory, in addition to economic development.*

### Return of Natural Capital

*Respect of human being needs go the same way as respect of nature: GOEL's production, both agricultural but also textile and cosmetical, is 100% biological and sustainable (certification by the most recognized certifiers). Furthermore, GOEL organizes incoming tours in Calabria through the "I Viaggi del GOEL" brand: it is a Responsible Tourism Tour Operator that offers services according to the principles of Responsible and Sustainable Tourism.*

### Return of Financial Capital

*GOEL - Cooperative Group still needs some financing. The grant by "Fondazione con il Sud" will support the group for another 1,5 year, but the projects require additional financial support*

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**Laura Brolis**

International Development

in LinkedIn

# Drawdown Europe Research Association


Website

Drawdown Europe Research Association (DERA) - A research community presenting 100 solutions for humanity to reach climate drawdown, the point at which greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere begin to decline on a year-to-year basis. The concept 'Project Drawdown' was founded by Paul Hawken in the US and was brought to Europe by translating the set of global drawdown solutions to the European context, and by creating an open opportunity assessment model through their research and modelling platform for investors, policymakers and other stakeholders. This resulted in a growing ecosystem of partners, research members and users that are turning research into action by ensuring that it remains living and useful. DERA aims to rapidly begin to reverse global warming while working towards a regenerative and equitable world.

Together, DERA and an organisation called Climate Cleanup brought Drawdown to the Netherlands by publishing the Dutch translation of Paul Hawken's book.

DRAWDOWN EUROPE research association

ASHOKA

## Drawdown's Impact on 4 Returns

### Return of Inspiration

*The New York Times bestselling book Drawdown, has become a seminal text on climate solutions, drawing on humanity's collective wisdom about the practices and technologies that can reverse global warming. Drawdown has inspired and influenced university curricula, city climate plans, commitments by businesses, community action, philanthropic strategy, and more.*

### Return of Social Capital

*DERA recognizes that climate and social systems are profoundly connected, and those connections open up solutions that are often overlooked. Initiatives that are designed first and foremost to ensure fundamental human rights and foster equality, also have cascading long-term benefits for climate change.*

### Return of Natural Capital

*The focus on reducing emissions often leads to a blind spot for nature-based solutions. That is why DERA also accounts for supporting natural sinks that help uplift nature's carbon cycle and restore biodiversity.*

### Return of Financial Capital

*DERA created a heatmap of the most relevant nature-based climate solutions for each geographical region in Europe. Based on the original Drawdown methodology and framework, each of the solutions' total addressable market and financial potential can be assessed.*

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Founder & CEO

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# Bioregional Weaving Labs

2022