# NEXT STEPS ONLINE MEETING

Event slides and integrated report of discussions

Bioregional Weaving Lab Waterford

5<sup>th</sup> August 2022



# Bioregional Weaving Lab Waterford Next steps online meeting



# Aims of this meeting:

- Regroup after multi-stakeholder workshop in Tramore 5<sup>th</sup> July
- Give everyone the opportunity to hear what we did and the insights that came out of it
- Gather reflections from all stakeholders on possible next steps – including a possible regeneration manifesto
- Act as a spring board towards our next physical meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September in Waterford.

## Agenda:

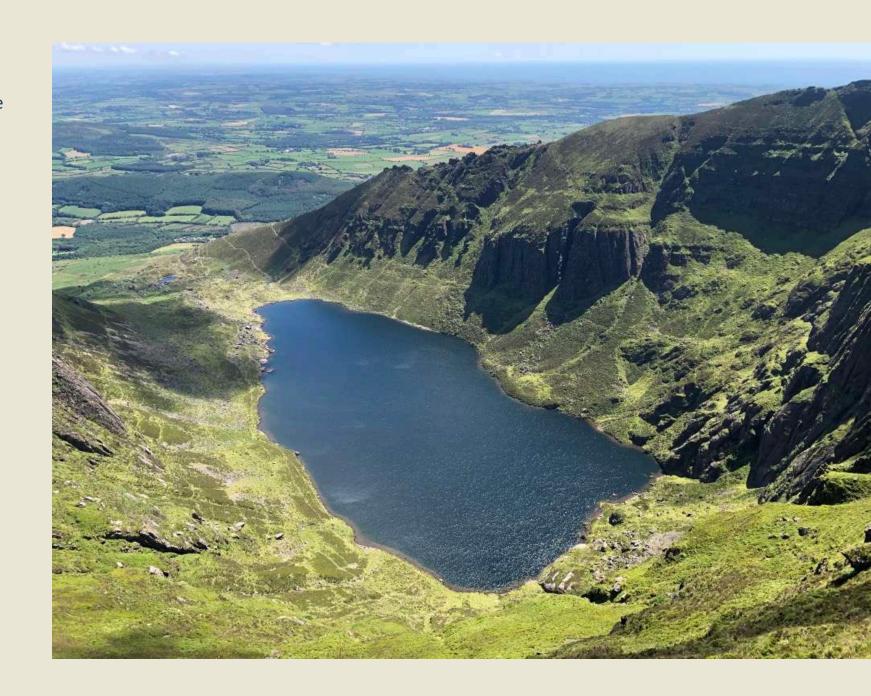
- 1100 Introduction and check-in
- 1110 Summary of multi-stakeholder workshop held on 5<sup>th</sup> July: what we did and what emerged as possible next action areas. Do you agree?
- **1120** Do we need a manifesto?
- **1125** Breakout rooms and reflections
- **1145** Harvesting of points from breakout rooms
- **1155** Check-out: next step?

# **Bioregion:**

"A bioregion invites us to inhabit a place in a way that is full of relationship. Seeing where the natural boundaries of our bioregion are, we can then see the many ecosystems and human systems alive within it. All of these systems, such as fresh water and biodiversity, or transport and health, are connected. There is also a connecting story that starts in deep geological time, shows up in the landscape and soil, and then in human culture. Bioregioning is the collective practice of bringing vitality to these connections, angling the systems towards regeneration, and taking actions for a climate resilient and biodiverse future"\*.

# **Check-in question**

- 1. Name, affiliation
- A food you love from within the Waterford bioregion



# Introduction to BWL for those new to it

(summary one pager and links included in invitation and at end of this report)

An exploration of how **networks** can be built for **collective impact** and **transformational systems change.** 

How this can lead to **resilient food systems** supporting **thriving landscapes, seascapes and communities** in the Waterford bioregion.

# **Unique:**

- Place-based bioregion
- Weaving existing people, places and projects
- Common intent and purpose, local and Europe
- Systems change focus
- European learning platform

Partners in BWL Waterford – please join us!











# Draft structure pre July 5<sup>th</sup> workshop event

#### Our big vision

A biodiverse future with healthy ecosystems, regenerative economies and thriving communities, where solutions that work with nature and communities in landscapes are the norm and scale widely.

#### Our bioregion vision??

A resilient food system that supports thriving landscapes, seascapes and communities in the Waterford bioregion

#### **Europe bioregions mission**

To mobilise of 1 million changemakers by 2025 to overcome systemic barriers and restore, protect and regenerate of 1 million ha of Europe's land and sea, with significant impact on 4 Returns (social, natural, economic and inspiration) by 2030

# **Waterford Bioregion Mission**

To mobilise of 64 K changemakers by 2025 to overcome systemic barriers and restore, protect and regenerate of 64K ha of land and sea in the Waterford bioregion,, with significant impact on 4 Returns (social, natural, economic and inspiration) by 2030

Tomorrow's Tramore, or any village/town

Our nature based bioregion

Food systems for universal well-being

Every child a changemaker

A public-social infrastructure for community/nature participation

Regenerative farming and regenerative rural enterprises

NBS the norm

Targeted system change journeys through new forms of partnerships

Ecosystems

Mission

# SUMMARY OF JULY 5TH WORKSHOP

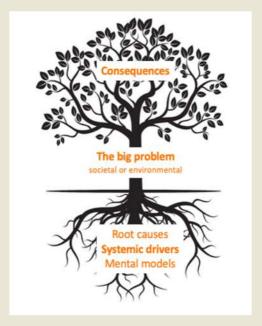
What we did, what we learnt, and what emerged as possible next action areas.

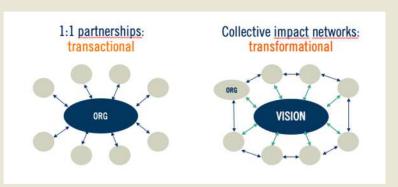
Full report here: https://giy.ie/app/uploads/2022/07/Report-BWLworkshop-5-july-22.pdf

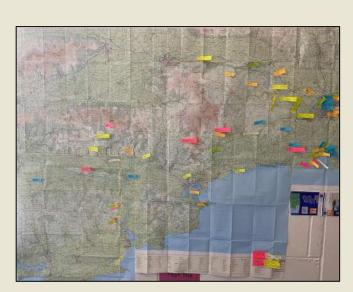


What we did













#### What we learnt



#### World café question one:

### What are the challenges for our landscape and our communities within it?

- · Industrial agriculture
- · More insular lives
- · Land ownership
- . Lack of imagination and suppression of imagining. What if?
- · Heads in the sand
- · Education system that leads to jobs and empowerment
- · Policy-making has driven us to this point
- Consumerism waste, plastic, packaging, food. And how it links to the global food system –
  unsustainable production, transport and waste. Avocados from Mexico to Waterford. Milk and
  yeg are not next to their markets.
- . Loss of nutritional value in food local apples vs. global packed in plastic.
- . Loss of nature and of biodiversity.
- . No culture of 'make do' and clothes being handed down.
- . GDP cut x to 1/10th of current levels.
- · Doughtnut economics is not applied
- · Transition is difficult
- People are retreating from community electronic devices, data, increase anxiety and depression.
   Not active transport.
- · Nitrate
- . Vegetables in trays no aquaponics or hydroponics.
- . Farms were self-sufficient in 70s and 80s. No longer.
- . The need for instant gratification which is a race to the bottom.
- . Crises are conflicting the environment is one crisis.

- . Lack of policy and funding
- The news cycle short term issues and distractions. Popularism and self interest, leading to fear and anxiety. All making it hard to focus.
- · Climate anxiety.
- . The perfect storm of Brexit, Covid and Ukraine.
- . Human selfishness leading to inertia self-interest and xx of change.
- . Lack of incentive to act financial, personal, own growth
- The need for new KPIs that focus on quality of life, cost of carbon, the expensive wrong things, the cheaper right things.
- All goals are economic outputs and growth targets. Waterford industry is put first. Trade and commerce focus.
- Eco-tourism is not nurtured Calxx way. Outdoor surfing in Tramore, sea-surfing, outdoor spaces in City. Growth of Dungarvan. City-New Ross?
- · Dependence on Glanbia and reliant
- · Lack of commitment over time
- · Lack of rallying call to unite everyone
- Lack of accountability carbon footprint of Waterford is other crisis.
   Tokenism, Green-washing, facadisey, signalling.
- . Slow to join dots and make connections.
- · Lacking systems world view
- . "Green" premiums: (Bill Gates): subject to power, wealth, inequality.
- Lobbyists
- . Group thinking
- · Lack of hope.
- Individuals over Indibled postles doubt

#### World café question one (cont.):

## What are the challenges for our landscape and our communities within it?

- Policy
- Bureaucracy
- · Class issue including rural/urban, and blow-in/rural
- Education
- Mindset
- Communication
- Communicatio
- Power
- Money
- . Ownership property, legal system behind this, planning laws
- Money prioritise profit over creating community and healthy landscape.
   E.g. Ardmore 50%
- · Cars are essential for countryside living
- Lack of understanding of the biodiversity catastrophe (1 acre hse on school site)
- . Genuine fear of cycling due to transport levels on the roads
- · Lack of engagement with nature
- . Community projects are limited by government directives and policy

- Built environment not designed for Nature based Solutions (NBS)
- Lack of confidence in ourselves not talking about what we are good at.
   Waterford is one of the best and richest lands for growing and dairy.
- . Machaire Meith na Mumhan the rich plains of Munster
- Lack of local knowledge and use of food exporting large % of food. E.g. 100% clams from Passage East are exported, and 10K tonnes of oysters % of all come from Waterford and 90-95% are exported.
- National food policy has focus on growing more. Environmental impact is not built in/acted on or costed in. So farmers are stuck need to grow.
- Agri- and aqua business pollution

#### What we learnt



#### World café question two:

## What has been done already?

- · EIP European Innovation Partnership
- · Ireland Pollinator Plan
- · AGRI Environmental Plan
- · Funding for habitat mapping
- · National Biodiversity Data Centre
- · Local eco groups
- Anne Valley Integrated Wetlands
- · Origin Green
- · Producer-led initiatives like The Bride Project and Meitheal
- . Meitheal Tra na Rinne (oysters) run by run by Cliona Nic Giollachuda operating in policy
- · Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) 12 principles
- · Diageo barley regenerative farms
- · Schools Green schools
- . GIY leading the way, understanding of food empathy. Growing own food is antithesis of global food system. Need to understand local produce. Connecting people with biodiversity and connecting the disconnect.
- · Waterford Greenway
- · LAWPRO getting people to reengage people
- · Dungarvan Harbour Partnership, Corrib Beo Model, a learning landscape
- Transition Town (2012)
- . In Tramore: T3 moving away from fossil fuels, ZCT (work in progress)
- · Wild clams being farmed in Passage East
- · Snap net fishing in Mooncoin fishing wild salmon

#### World café question two (cont.):

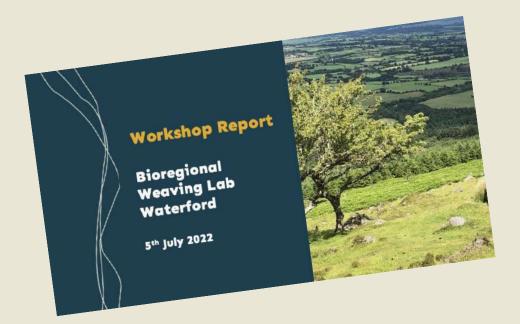
## What has been done already?

- . Anne Valley treating polluted water. Example of a pinch point for farmers. Happened because there was a will to get it done in the Co. Council. TD and MEP Green representatives.
- Cooperation: Dunhill Anne Valley and community-led eco-restoration
- . Ballymacaul combined back gardens to have larger wildlife
- . Tramore Municipal Park eco-park with rare habitats, bird-hide built and in use.
- . Camphill the power of having a piece of land to care for and be cared for by.
- . Forest bathing connect with nature prioritised, in contrast to disconnection connected to forestry and native vs spruce felling and continuous cropping
- . Taste Tramore collection of food businesses that are cooperating for shared suppliers, inputs, promotion, links food with community and landscape. A chance to educate and promote at same time. Fosters supplier exchange.
- . Well-being Index shifting accounting to what we value in social returns rather than
- . People asking 'what if ' continuously, not just under pressure, to demonstrate an idea to themselves.
- · Foodcloud

- Dunhill
- · Men's sheds
- · Annual Passage West
- · CBD ecosystem approach
- National biodiversity conference
- · National biodiversity centre is based here.
- Plastic bag levy
- . Smoking ban
- . Tourism: Greenway, Dungarvan, Tramore surfing, outdoor dining, seaculture, tall ships.
- · Flahavans all organic oats
- Wetlands
- European Innovation programmes Meitheal, Trá na roinne (oysters)
- · GIY
- · Ardkene shopping
- · Tramore organic ice-cream
- Pollination
- Festivals: imagine, Harvest, Spraci, Vitamin Sea (held in September when most lodine is in the sea due to seaweed breakdown).
- Wasted suppers
- · CAP budget
- · Beef farming cooperation projects
- . Media such as Brendan Carney in Irish Times 'we need a massive rethink of Irish agriculture'.

continued next page...

What we learnt



# Discussion-based trends and emerging patterns of where there is a need and motivation to do more

#### Community driven and more social/environmental focus for finance

- Financial redistribution back to where it started farmers and community action
- . Tramore as a town is full of good initiatives, but they are not joined up
- · Citizen assemblies are respected and effective locally and nationally

#### Organic and regenerative food and agriculture

- Must be truly regenerative or organic role of certification and Ireland's goal of 7.5%
- · Fertilizers must reduce by half or be eliminated
- · No greenwashing allowed transparency
- · More plant-based food
- · Space for nature must be part of our futures

#### The disconnect between policy and people

- Disconnect must be addressed both in visible outcomes and financial flows
- . We can act as a collective group to feed upwards to policy-makers

#### Big business

- . Has a powerful role without change here, change will be hard
- Pilots in the form of place (bioregion) based labs could answer their mandates and give desired outcomes.
- Organic farmers must have a market both supermarkets and new food distribution hubs.

## Clustering of the system leverage points identified by participants

The bullet points below are directly transcribed from participant inputs on leverage points identified in the 3D systems modelling exercise, here rearranged into common themes.

#### Mindsets, relational focus and a common vision to rally around

- Vision
- . Emotional shift people feel this new model will benefit them
- . The connection between the individual and community

#### Policy-making: shifting from profit to local food, empowering communities and councils

- · Financial/incentive shift to promote local
- Tax system to give money for worth/co2/???
- Constitution, Bank, Financial policies to invest in sustainable food
- Public demand policy changes
- Empowered councils

#### Education

- Education system to pass on sustainability/inter dependence
- · Education as a power of change
- . Education & awareness of the public on the current system need for change and the benefit system change could deliver
- Information

#### Experimentation, innovation and pilots

Pilot individual business/public sector/farmers

Possible next steps



#### Possible actions

The actions below are based on the question posed in workshop closing session: 'What is needed next?' combined with analysis of the leverage points and trends emerging during workshop

#### Our common intent?

- Vision and rallying call co-visioning workshop?
- Apply CBD ecosystem approach with 12 principles?
- Co-write a manifesto with key principles that people and organisations sign up to. Direct to mayors, local national and international
  decision makers.

#### Education

- · Start with education including on how to handle complexity
- · Education initiative need action now. What would that look like? Gather sub-group of teachers and others?
- · GIY garden in every school in bioregion, with empowered teachers linked to Irish Sustainability Network?
- · Community garden in every community in bioregion?

#### Tramore as a town ambitious for tomorrow, and the next day

- An umbrella organisation to access resources?
- · Community Innovates support joined up initiative like this interested in being connected?
- · Link to Participatory City model community kitchens, gardens, social enterprise etc?
- Local restaurants (Mezze and others) club together to find young grower to be their supplier?
- Short food value chain study for whole town?

#### Support weaving and collective initiatives

- Establish representative discussion/advisory group for next six months
- · Are weavers something to work for the bioregion? Where would funding come from? Explore.
- Attract 'support circle' in-kind and financial.
- · Position Waterford bioregional as leading example of weaving for systemic change? Talk and publish on this.
- Rotating host office and space for weaver and weaving initiative?

#### Collective response to policy-making

- Respond to EU consultation on sustainable food systems (deadline 21st July).
- Irish Citizen Assembly on Biodiversity write a submission
- Consider establishing bioregional Citizen Assembly for food systems

#### Generational regeneration? (A 'new West Cork' - artists of the 70s/80s)

• Position Waterford bioregion as the place in Ireland for international people dedicated to this way of farming, eating, living to move to - e.g. for farms not being passed down intergenerationally.

#### Ecotourism - festivals

- Look for opportunities for both systemic and more visible collaboration with Harvest, Vitamin Sea, Imagine.
- · Ice-cream and so much more.

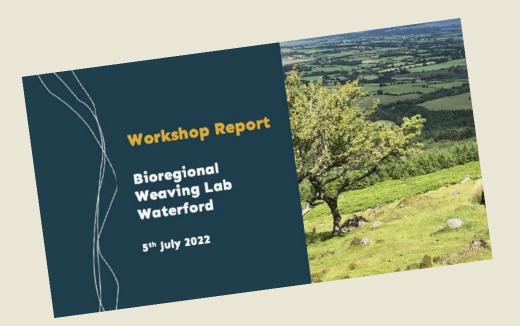
#### Water, wetlands, rivers: the fire of life

- · Anne Valley as a case of what can be replicated: wetlands, pollution community collaboration, landowners etc.
- · Look at this as example of replication within and outside of bioregion

#### Farms and farmers as stewards and leaders

- · Farming with Nature: The Bride Project as a case of what can be done, and extended across the bioregion.
- Look at this as example for replication within and outside of bioregion.
- Source evidence, tool-kits and overview of what is already done and working.

Possible next steps



## Possible pilot projects

These are concrete ideas from within the workshop, others will undoubtedly will emerge with time.

- An organic/regen/biodiversity/farm with nature lab for Glanbia to step up and deliver. Build the market for farmers –
  supermarkets and big business must guarantee a place. Write description of what this could look like. Get Glanbia on board to
  experiment? Be hyper-aware of greenwashing.
- · Organic Waterford: 7% organic speed up and get there in Waterford bioregion work with partners to make plan.
- Weave Waterford: 'Weaving a community-led collective impact initiative for systems change' give it a home, a place, a weaver, co-weavers etc. Be a centre of excellence for seeing how far this approach of linking fragmented initiatives for systems change can go.
- Universal well-being KPIs: if our landscapes, seascapes and communities are to thrive what KPIs, frameworks and models d we as
  communities want to see help document and steer this, if not profit alone. Four Returns, Doughnut economics, Green Deal, Farm to
  Fork, Ecosystem approach. Human and nature centred design. Do this work through Weave Waterford?
- Public procurement: anchor institutions across the bioregion for regenerative food procurement? Find public partner to pilot? The hospital in Waterford? Tramore anchor institution?
- Farmers as ...as what? Do they want to be leaders of this future? How to support and do pilot projects rooted in farmers of the
  future. Link to short value chains and new distribution hubs?
- Tomorrow's Tramore as a town within the bioregion showing how to build umbrellas and support platforms for mindset change, education of changemakers, local food chains, organic ice-cream and more.

### Investigations to give more evidence-based direction to our work

Any future actions with impact will depend on information based in evidence. What questions must we be able to answer?

- How viable is a regenerative future?
- What would short food value chains look like in Waterford bioregion?
- What would properly supported joined-up community-led initiatives look like in Waterford bioregion, and towns such as Tramore?
- Education is there a role for joined up action at all levels?
- Innovative communities how far can we go?
- · Place-based investment where to unlock funding?
- · Mindset-shifts and relational shifts what works?
- The role of maps what do we need and how to make them?

#### **Our vision**

A biodiverse future with healthy ecosystems, regenerative economies and thriving communities, where solutions that work with nature and communities in landscapes are the norm and scale widely.

#### Our bioregion vision??

A resilient food system that supports thriving landscapes, seascapes and communities in the Waterford bioregion

#### **Europe bioregions mission**

To mobilise of 1 million changemakers by 2025 to overcome systemic barriers and restore, protect and regenerate of 1 million ha of Europe's land and sea, with significant impact on 4 Returns (social, natural, economic and inspiration) by 2030

## **Waterford Bioregion Mission**

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**Growing and supporting** capacity for systems change

Communications and lobbying, knowledge dissemination, BWL structure and roadmap

Tomorrow's Tramore, or any village/town

Our nature based bioregion

Food systems for universal well-being

Weaving, maps, collective action, system change, KPIs and 4returns, collaborative funding, learning platform for cluster topics

#### **Education:**

Every child a changemaker. Environmental leadership

## **Participation:**

A public-social infrastructure for community-led engagement

## **Regeneration:**

farming and regenerative rural enterprises

### NBS and SI:

the norm - how to replicate deep and wide

# New forms of partnerships:

Targeted system change through pilots and proof.

# Would it make sense to cluster workstreams like this?

Growing and supporting capacity for systems change

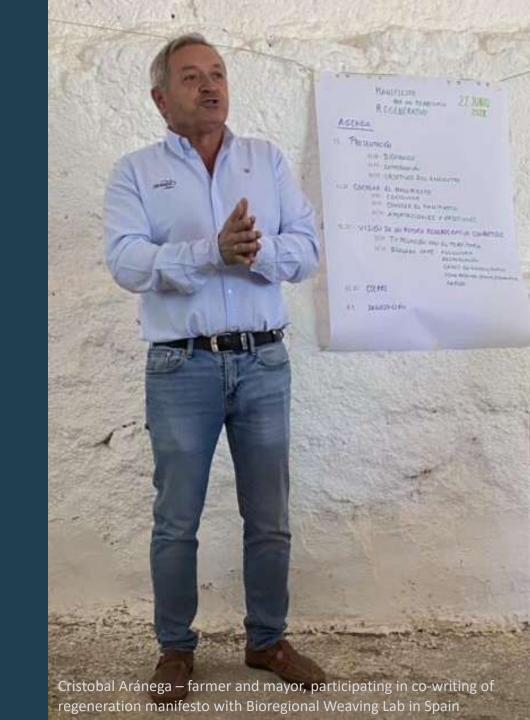
Tomorrow's Tramore,
or any village/town
(Education, Participation,
Food value chains).

C
Our nature based bioregion

D Food systems for universal well-being

# DO WE NEED A MANIFESTO?

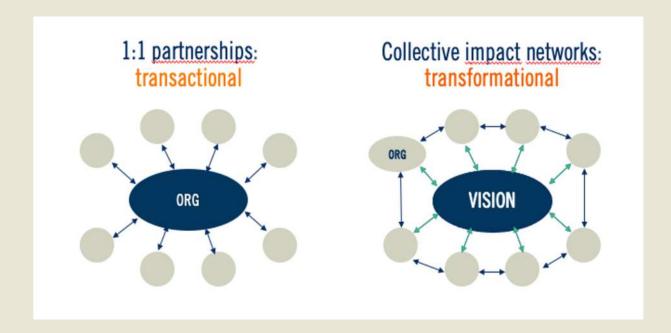
Examples
Breakout Rooms



Theory – for collective impact we need common vision and principles

# What is our common intent?

Who are 'we'? What are our common principles?



## Our bioregion vision??

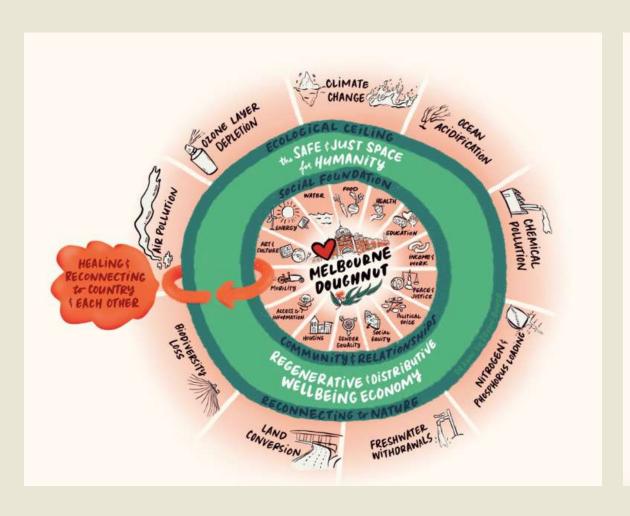
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# Co-created vision?

Example: Regeneration Melbourne





ow CONTRIBUTION

and CREATIVITY & we LIVE

as MUCH a PART of the

LAND as the LAND US

these VISIONS to COME

to LIFE

# Manifesto?

Example (extracts only) by BWL network member, Altiplano Estepario, Spain Co-written by farmers and mayors. Open for any stakeholder to sign up to

- We, the people of the Altiplano of Granada, Los Vélez, Alto Almanzora, Guadix and the Northwest of Murcia, unite to recognise our identity, uniqueness, natural, cultural and social values.
- We distinguish ourselves as a Regenerative Territory by valuing what links us: landscape, customs, climate, traditions, crafts, gastronomy, culture, intangible heritage and a rural way of life that identifies us and unites us under the same ecosystem.
- We recognise that our traditional agricultural landscape of dry land and fertile plains, with a high biodiversity and social value, is produced under increasingly limiting climatic conditions.
- 4. We collaborate with the mitigation of the global crisis by producing healthy food with a low water footprint and a high carbon fixation capacity in the soil. Our territory represents the largest extension of organic almond trees in the world, together with other crops such as olives and cereals.
- Our regions have exceptional conditions for repopulating the territory and generating local resilience through regenerative agriculture and livestock farming and entrepreneurship that respects the landscape.
- Our territory is more regenerative than many other areas due to the low energy and water consumption of our agricultural production, which is sustained by a family economy that is generally agrarian and smallholdings.
- We value our land as fundamental wealth and we dignify the work of farmers and stockbreeders as guardians of the land.
- The challenge of desertification and rural abandonment is common in our territory and requires us to act in a coordinated and participatory manner, promoting the regeneration and revitalisation of our counties through the restoration of our landscape.

# MANIFESTO FOR A REGENERATIVE TERRITORY

July 2022

By signing this Manifesto, for present and future generations, we declare our intention to: Mantener protegido y vivo el territorio que une a todas nuestras comarcas

- Promote an identity that favours pride of belonging and the rootedness to our territories
  of all the people who live and work in it.
- Promote spaces for participatory dialogue between all the social agents involved in order to co-create strategies that improve people's quality of life and respond to social challenges.
- Regenerate our counties using livestock and agricultural practices that combat erosion and desertification, favouring soil restoration, water harvesting and the promotion of biodiversity.
- Manage our water resources in a sustainable and regenerative way.
- Collaborate together from all areas and sectors of society, creating business cases that revitalise the economy, fix the population and restore our landscape.

ANNEX: Proposals and ideas for a regenerative territory focusing on three axes: society, landscape and economy.

# **Break-out rooms**

(15mins)

# Dialogue:

Name, affiliation, what led you to join this conversation today?

- **1. Do you have burning opinion** of **possibilities** in bioregion that are not in report?
- 2. Do the **workstream** topics capture areas for next steps? Would you accept invitation to commit time to joining a **roundtable** on one/more?
- 3. Shall we **co-write a manifesto**? Would you accept an invitation to be part of it on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept to start with?



# HARVESTING REFLECTIONS

Input from break-out rooms
Next steps



# **Harvesting of reflections (1)**

Questions: Do you have burning opinions of possibilities in bioregion that were not captured in the workshop report?

Do the workstreams capture topics for next stage?

## **Reflections:**

- Very happy to see Tramore as a case town much potential there
- Community ownership and engagement in general should take more place
- People must be a clear part of this how actions affects individuals and communities
- Missing the mention of planning and development anywhere key in our regenerative futures
- Ecosystem approach is essential and must not be forgotten
- Schools do lots but are interested in engaging more with community around them
- We must find a way to let Tramore residents and children be closer to real nature
- Diageo are doing pilots with regenerative dairy farmers in supply chains is there room to do this in a place-based way to be part of wider bioregion collective action?
- There is an essential part of this to do with connecting through direct experience and the heart

Next steps: add these reflections into next version of potential workstreams and emerging potential pilots – BWL to work on this and share with Waterford network when input from manifesto co-writing is also available.

# Harvesting of reflections (2)

Question: Shall we co-write a manifesto?

**Reflection:** Yes!

Next step: Co-write a manifesto on 11<sup>th</sup> September

# Post-meeting work – now possible to register for manifesto activities

Attend the workshop: Co-writing Waterford's manifesto for a regenerative bioregion

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30am - 12.30pm

GROW HQ, Waterford

Registration link:

https://shop.giy.ie/products/workshop-co-writing-waterford-s-manifesto-for-a-regenerative-bioregion

Attend/participate in the talk: Resilient and regenerative food systems - a Waterford manifesto?

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm - 3.30pm

Food Done Right Talk Tent, John Robert's Square, Waterford



# Contact:

Sarah Prosser sarah@giy.ie Mick Kelly michael@giy.ie

# **Bioregional Weaving Lab (BWL)**

#### What is the BWL Network?

Organisations across Europe are right now actively co-creating a network of Bioregional Weaving Labs with the intent of releasing local potential and solutions to lead to a biodiverse and thriving future for all. The vision is a world where current and yet-to-be discovered nature-based solutions and social impact projects have become the norm, and where everyone has the agency and motivation to engage and contribute on both small and systemic levels, anchored within their local landscapes and cultural contexts.

The BWL concept was co-created with established social innovators in five countries, each with its own distinctive environmental and community setting. Founding support partners – Commonland, Ashoka, The Presencing Institute - include some of the most established organisations in the world when it comes to cultivating change in local landscapes and supporting inclusive social innovations for the good of all.

#### **BWL Waterford**

In Ireland, the BWL is located in the Waterford bioregion, an area defined by the distinct ecology and the communities within it, such that it extends beyond county boundaries. Given the region's agri- and aquacultural qualities, and combining our awareness of the wide benefits that come from growing, cooking and eating your own food, a food system lens will be central to BWL activities in Ireland. Mick Kelly from GIY is the 'BWL Ambassador'; Sarah Prosser is the programme 'weaver'.

# One pager



#### **Our vision**

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### **Our mission**

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Partners in BWL Waterford – please join us!







