

CATCH-UP COFFEE + FUTURE THINKING WORKSHOP

Bioregional Weaving Lab
Waterford

13th and 14th Nov 2022
GROW HQ



Final summary page of this report

Are you curious about the topics summarised in the action pathways below?

Do you want to contribute to them or enable others to make them happen?

Let Sarah know and/or come and discover more on 16th Dec. This next event will respond – through external inspiration and internal getting on with it: an inspiration, learning and doing gathering.

These are the subjects **demanding action** that emerged and from (13th) 14th Nov workshop. Please add others if you can't see them in or behind these. From here on in, we will start looking at action plans for some of these, as well as write a Landscape Plan.

1. Food partnerships in neighbourhoods/townships, biodistricts
2. New organisational structure and media to support organic/regen/no-chem farmers
3. Quality assured education and storytelling – SETU?
4. Map-making with our GSI grant
5. No-chem Nitrogen or Phosphorous farming – good things happening, but not certified or verified.
6. Community processing hubs and mobile infrastructure (wool, milk, meat, veg etc) – how and where?
7. Supporting community participation properly – eg water, growing, farming
8. The power of procurement
9. Schools in their community, future changemakers
10. Innovative finance for transformation
11. Indicators – SFNI Returns. What works, how do we know, and can we apply widely?
12. Building a portfolio of possibilities: NBS and SI.
13. Could we have co-weavers internal in organisations, linked to this bigger network?
14. Water quality in every way, from first raindrop to pristine nutritious food
15. What else?

Aims of coffee and workshop

1. To share **updates of activities** undertaken by BWL since last meeting (Netherlands and others)
2. To informally **exchange knowledge** of relevant people, projects and places occurring in the bioregion with people unable to attend workshop (not summarised here)
3. **Future thinking workshop** to identify action pathways that can be worked with towards making the change we want to see and as described in the manifesto.

Participants (16 in total)

- John Geraghty (SETU), John and Grace Kiersey (farmers), Jane Russell-O'Connor (ecologist and SETU), Ray McGrath (stories and nature)
- Mike Walsh (SETU and farmer), Ann Phelan (LAWPro, water), Joe Kelleher (Teagasc, organics), Sally Sweeney (community and environment), John Kiersey (farmer), Seánie Comerford, Avril Tiernan, Billy Hurricks and Mick Kelly (all GIY).



Overview of BWL workshops to date

April - online



July – real life



August - online



September – real life



October - online



Now



All the reports and some recordings can be accessed via GIY/BWL webpage

Update 1
BWL Learning
Summit
Netherlands
24th-28th October 2022

International gathering of
all European BWLs
and partners



Learning summit agenda



See separate attachment for summary of other BWLs and multi-stakeholder alliances that attended the summit

Tuesday and Wednesday

- 60 people from BWLs in Europe, plus others from backbone organisations (Commonland, Ashoka, Presencing Institute), other multi-stakeholder initiatives (Galapagos, Australia, Minnorca, Kenya and more: *See appendix for full descriptions*) and Ashoka Fellows (system entrepreneurs).
- Activities included 4 D system modelling, world café on five themes (landscape finance, changemaking, learning platform, BWL and scaling innovations).

Thursday

- Additional participants from funding organisations and supporting partners
- Activities included the importance of working with polarities and co-sensing exercises. A market place presenting all BWLs.

Friday

- Harvesting of insights during the summit
- Field visit to Herenboeren Farm (community owned farming)

Example picture from Landscape Finance theme

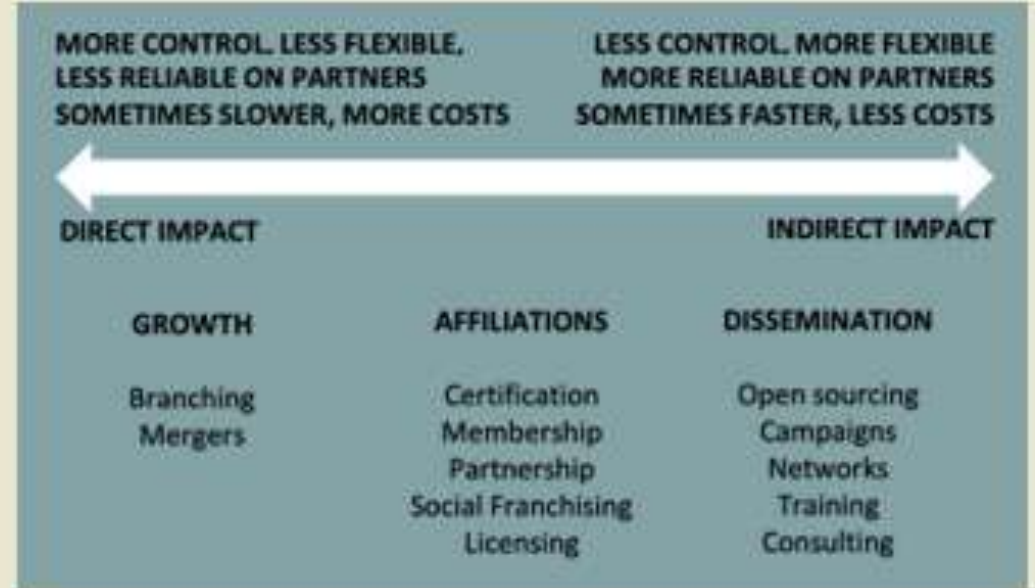


Scaling Systemic Innovations

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.



Example page from Scaling Innovations theme.

See separate attachment for examples of systemic innovations that could be a fit for Ireland

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.

Workshop on polarities:

A systems change practice – recognising that polarities are part of change and how to work with them.

Activity with polarity example “inclusive and selective”



Led by Russ Gaskin from CoCreative:

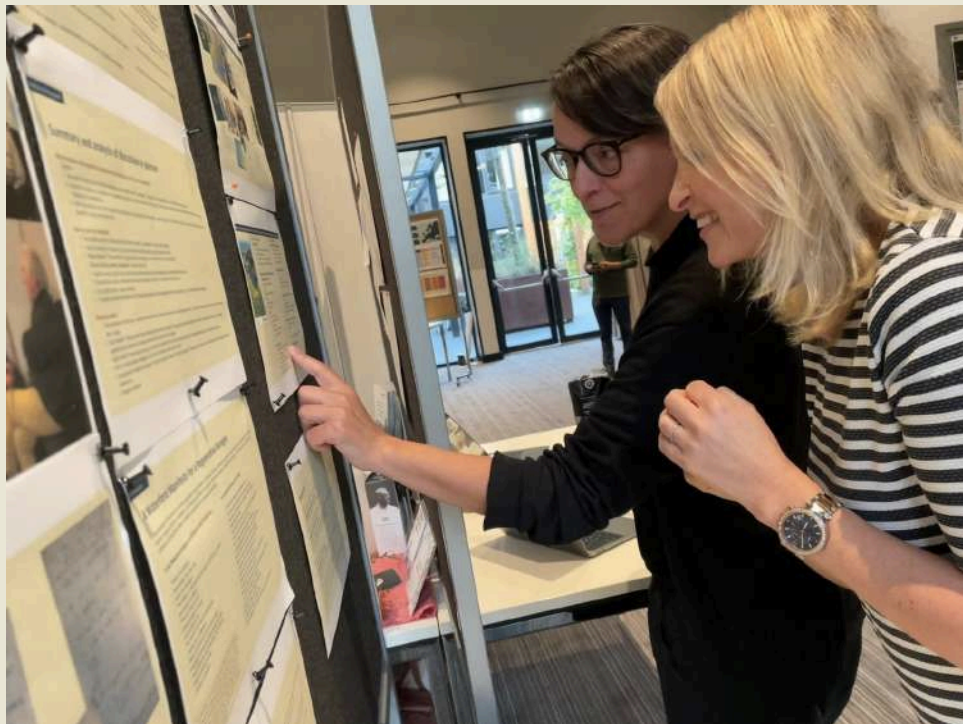
Free tools and materials on our website:
www.cocreativeconsulting.com/tools



Some Ways to Leverage Polarities Daily

1. Show the group polarities up front
2. Map the quadrants (like we did here!)
3. Quick reframe to both-and
4. Disrupt “pairing” and hear from whole group
5. Focus & Frame

Marketplace: meeting philanthropists and impact investors who do it differently – for landscape transformation



“Our children and grandchildren are far better off inheriting a green and cool planet rather than family wealth. So, I am grateful that with this fund we can contribute to a necessary systems change towards putting our society back in balance with nature. Commonland’s vision, approach and sparkling team are truly inspiring. We look forward to working together!”

– Corien Botman, philanthropist and impact investor



Sarah and Seánie at the BWL Waterford stand where we told our story so far to interested potential partners and other BWLs. Our Food Manifesto could be listened to through headphones and made quite an impression on all that heard.



Visit to Herenboeren Farm – increasing in numbers in Netherlands. Is this something that would find a fit in Ireland?

A Herenboeren Farm in a nutshell

A Herenboeren Farm is a small-scale, sustainably operating cooperative mixed farm initiated and supported by a group of local residents. Together they employ a professional, passionate farmer who produces their food.

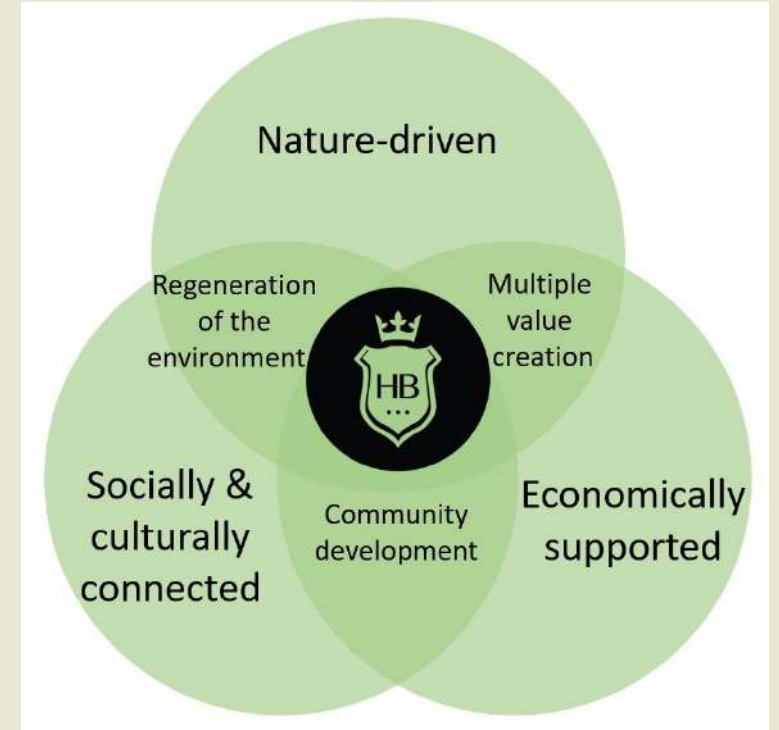
A Herenboeren Farm feeds 500 people sustainably on an area of 20 hectares and provides the farmer with a fair, stable income paid by the same 500 people.

How does it work?

200 households make a one-off investment of 2,000 euros (meaning that no outside capital is needed)

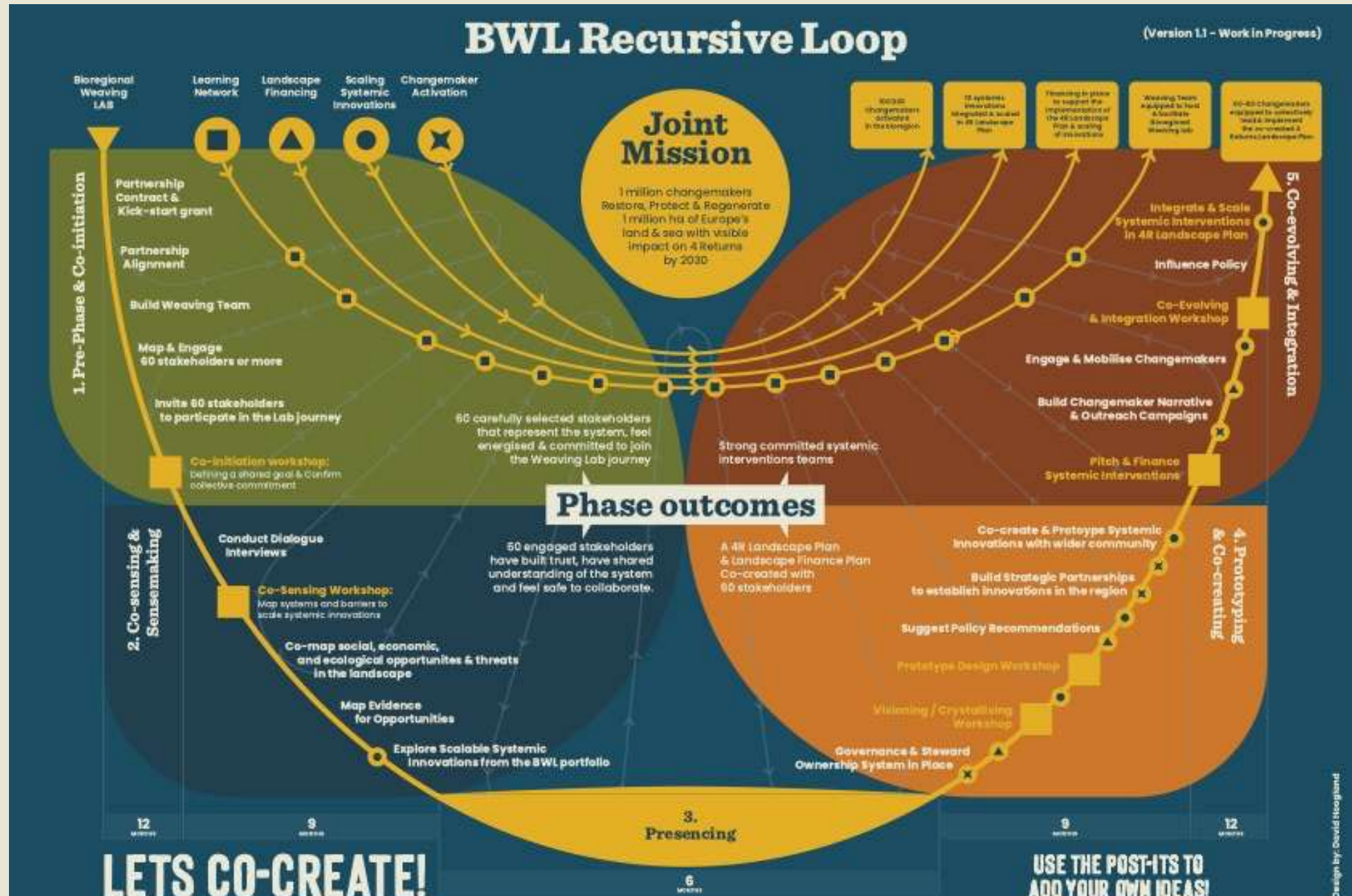
- 500 people share the operating costs of the Farm (around 10 euros per week)
- The Farm's harvest is reserved for these 500 people and provides around 60% of their food needs
- The 200 households together form a cooperative
- They are independent of subsidies
- And rent the land on a long-term lease

If everyone in the Netherlands were to join a Herenboeren Farm, we would need 35,000 farms on 700,000 hectares of land.



A view of BWLs locally and as a collective, as seen by backbone organisation perspective

The Irish process will work from the landscape level up. It will feed into and reflect upon what the overarching phases in this diagram look like on our ground.



Update 2

Activities in Ireland

- since last meeting
- soon to occur



Submitted application for grant from Geological Society of Ireland to make GIS layered maps from the bioregion – and was successful (10K)

Waterford's combined geo-social heritage bioregion map
A map that starts in deep geological time, shows up in the landscape and soil and then in human culture.

Introduction:
The proposed project is to explore and then generate a digital map that captures the essence of both the heritage of the landscape and that of the communities living in that land, and to use this to work for positive social and environmental impact in the bioregion for generations to come.

The strong geoheritage work done by the Copper Coast Geopark will be extended inland and protection, restoration and regeneration. [Landscape Characterisation](#). The [Landscape Characterisation](#) project is based in Waterford, hosted by Impactful social enterprise GY. Started in April 2022, BWL Waterford is already engaged with over 100 stakeholders across the region including [Waterford City Council](#). The SWL approach aims to be a model for landscape and heritage aspects of the Copper Coast Geopark who is considered a key partner for the region to the agricultural systems of the present, and ultimately to a model for regenerative futures across the definable zones (Natural, mixed and economic). Maps are a key part of the approach (for example see Spanish [BWL mapping work](#) - but note no geology has been included, despite it being a central feature in many fundamental features of this work).

Bioregion – No clear definition of a bioregion has been universally accepted, but the following is one that resonates with the BWL and this project proposal. "A bioregion is a unit of our bioregion in a way that is full of relationships. Seeing where the natural boundaries of our bioregion are, we can then use the many ecosystems and human systems that exist within it. All of these systems, such as fresh water systems, such as connecting story lines and then in human culture connections, and the and to explore in future" (to define a working bioregion and heritage).

Weaving is the process being. It is the meaningful outcome for social and future positive social.

The map being proposed **Cascadia** that had had insight. The map aims with – an increased motivation for wider. This is core to why we



McCloskey Map of Cascadia 2015

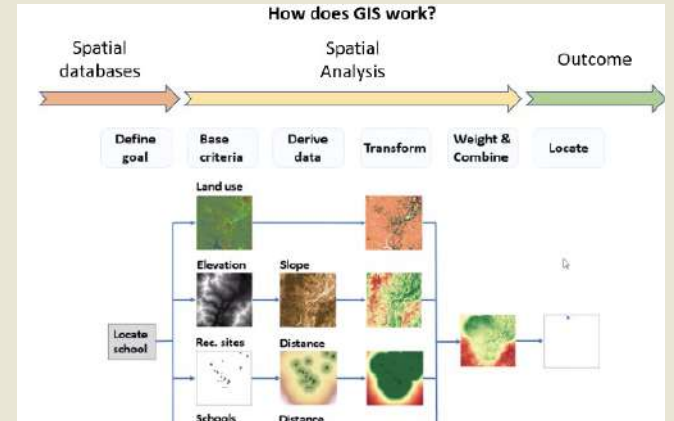
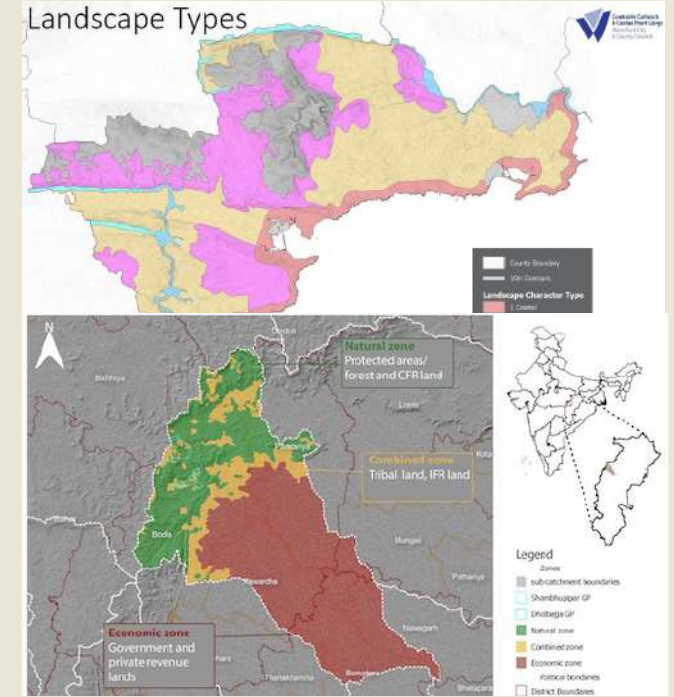


Participants divided into triads and discussed the following question before placing it physically on a map over the bioregion.

Question: What is it about this landscape and community that speaks to you, and why?



Knowledge exchange with Waterford CC., TUD and Commonland.



Delivered a submission to The Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss



The Assembly shall consider, *inter alia*:

- the international, European, national, regional and local dimensions to the biodiversity emergency;
- the threats presented by biodiversity loss and the opportunities to reverse this loss;
- the main drivers of biodiversity loss, their impacts and the opportunity of addressing these drivers;
- the perspectives of the general public, representative groups, advocacy groups, experts and policy makers on biodiversity loss, and its impact on Ireland;
- opportunities to develop greater policy coherence and strategic synergies between biodiversity policy and other policy priorities including, but not limited to, economic development, climate action, sustainable development, agriculture and tourism;
- opportunities to promote greater public understanding of, and support for, urgent action in response to the biodiversity emergency; and
- opportunities to improve the State's response to the challenge of biodiversity loss, how that response can best be resourced and implemented in a strategic and coordinated manner, and how progress can be measured.

Submission summary:

- Work for a collective ambitious common intent (leading to biodiverse ecosystems and thriving communities)
- Act place-based (bioregion for identity)
- Weave for collective impact through multi-stakeholder network (to deliver on challenges of cross-sectoral collaboration)
- Be holistic (use all four returns)



Visiting lecture at SETU. Possible future collaboration on resilient curricula?



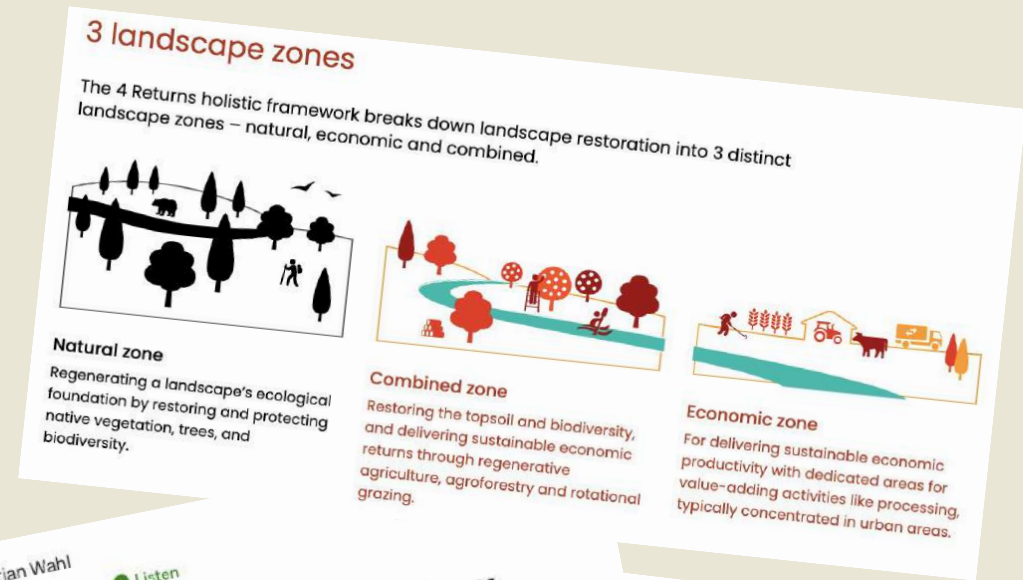
SE TU Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Oirdheiscirt South East Technological University

Department of Architecture

HCI project
Resilient curricula
4th year studio projects

Bioregional Weaving Labs –
joining dots for socio-ecological change

BIOREGIONAL WEAVING LAB Waterford



Daniel Christian Wahl
Mar 8, 2017 · 28 min read · Listen

**Design and Planning for People in Place:
Sir Patrick Geddes (1854–1932) and the
Emergence of Ecological Planning, Ecological
Design, and Bioregionalism**

What if architecture was reimagined for a new economic reality?
Shifting the field of architecture and building into the Doughnut

Upcoming: Participation on panel in Brussels – Giving recommendations to Deputy Head of Biodiversity Unit at European Commission (see next page)

Ashoka Changemaker Summit 2022

November 29-30 > Brussels, Belgium

Venue > Maison de la Poste, 5 Rue Picard

Every year, we bring together more than 300 systems-changing social entrepreneurs, young leaders, corporate partners and philanthropists to multiply their social impact. Ashoka's most important global milestone, the Ashoka Changemaker Summit, is the space for these pioneering changemakers to connect, learn and work together to build a world where everyone is a changemaker and therefore, a world where everyone can thrive.

This year, the Summit will be part of the Belgium Impact Week, co-organised by the Impact Finance Belgium, EVPA and Ashoka.

Reading of Waterford bioregion manifesto will open the session

Weaving for bioregional regeneration: how can policy support the bottom-up transition into healthy ecosystems, regenerative economies and thriving communities?

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM



Victoria Gutierrez
Commonland



Geert van de Veer
Stichting Herenboeren
Nederland



Sarah Prosser
Bioregional Weaving Lab
Waterford, Ireland, based
at GIY (Grow It Yourself)



Lettemieke Mulder
Inner Green Deal



Karolina D'Cunha
European Commission

Upcoming: Recommendations for New Green Deal. Written by Commonland and partners. Invited submission. Basis for panel in Brussels (last page). Features Waterford BWL.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON

DELIVERING THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL THROUGH LANDSCAPE RESTORATION:

INSPIRATIONAL, SOCIAL, NATURAL, AND FINANCIAL RETURNS



A 4 RETURNS FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

FIG. 1 Recommendations for delivering the European Green Deal through holistic landscape restoration, grouped according to the expected 4 Returns

INSPIRATIONAL RETURNS	NATURAL RETURNS	SOCIAL RETURNS	FINANCIAL RETURNS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission should unequivocally promote holistic landscape restoration, and with it stakeholder and right holder engagement, in the publication of new guidelines informing national restoration plans. In preparing their national restoration plans, Member States should include long-term planning tools linking bottom-up methods involving engaged communities with top-down strategies that take into consideration the time scale and commitments required. The Commission should recommend that national restoration plans budget the cost as associated with building strong multi-stakeholder group processes designed to build trust, create cohesive and inclusive collaborative action, and mitigate conflict at the landscape scale. National restoration plans should include restoration measures designed to develop shared purposes, vision and responsibility among landscape stakeholders. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission should conduct a thorough systematic review of the state of holistic landscape restoration in Europe to understand the extent to which the landscape approach is being applied to ecosystem restoration in the region. The Commission should recommend the protection and restoration of biodiversity across both natural and agricultural ecosystems at the landscape scale. The Commission should encourage the integration of landscape restoration into adaptation action planning, in improving their adaptation strategies and plans. Member State governments should implement measures to achieve smarter, more systemic and faster adaptation. The Commission should ensure that all EU policies are aligned with preserving and restoring Europe's biodiversity and natural capital at the landscape scale. The Commission should provide guidance and promote integrated landscape-scale restoration approaches to address cross border needs and maximize synergies between various land and sea restoration measures. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission should mainstream social inclusion and equity objectives in national and subnational landscape restoration plans. The Commission should ensure that national and subnational restoration plans include proactive measures to address social fairness and justice based on an understanding of the social landscape. The Commission should promote national restoration plans that empower and invest in community driven landscape restoration programmes that have demonstrable pathways for social investment and impact. The Commission should ensure that national restoration plans include pathways for aligning cross institutional and organisational arrangements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission should mainstream environmental, biodiversity and climate change objectives in all European funds and programmes deployed at the landscape scale. The Commission should present options for earmarked funding of restoration, to enable the fast tracking of restoration planning and action. The Commission should identify opportunities where climate finance and funds from results based payments can support the delivery of wider landscape objectives, and clarify the role of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to define future compliance and voluntary carbon markets, and how they can support carbon finance investments in landscapes. The Commission should establish and provide significant finance for technical assistance facilities for the design of landscape scale blended finance mechanisms. Technical assistance promotes bankable projects and mitigates financial risks in the initial phase of restoration projects. The Commission could achieve this via EIB and EBRD and other key institutional financiers.

ACHIEVING CLIMATE NEUTRALITY **SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT** **CLEAN, RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY**
PRESERVING EUROPE'S NATURAL CAPITAL **A ZERO POLLUTION EUROPE** **TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY**
TOWARDS A GREEN CAP **FARM TO FORK** **FINANCING THE JUST TRANSITION**

HOW TO REALISE SOCIAL MOBILISATION ON A LANDSCAPE SCALE?

BIOREGIONAL MEETING LABS

Landscape restoration efforts cannot lead to systemic change without the people who live and shape them. Beyond engaging with various stakeholders to deliver a programme, bio-regional meeting labs are a participatory system changing assembly of organic actors. The Bio-regional Meeting Labs (BML) Collaborative is a stakeholder engagement assembly of organic actors that have expertise in effective methods for inclusive participation. The ambition is to mobilise 7 million citizens by 2026 who will contribute to protecting, restoring and improving 1 million hectares of land and sea in Europe, with significant and observable impact on the ground by 2029. To this end, 'Bio-regional Meeting Labs' are being established in 10 landscapes in Europe to build capacity and catalyse multi-stakeholder partnerships, and to mobilise at least 100,000 changemakers per landscape.

A BML is a carefully curated multi-stakeholder participatory process that weaves together people and know-how on a landscape scale, equipping them with collective leadership capacity to organise themselves and to deliver their own systems change. Inspired by the practice of weaving and bio-regionalism, they align on a shared vision, map the needs of the landscape and gain a clear understanding of the root causes of the degradation, and collectively learn from local leaders by 2026 who will establish in 10 landscapes in Europe to build capacity and catalyse multi-stakeholder partnerships, and to mobilise at least 100,000 changemakers per landscape.

Each BML is facilitated by an ambassador and team of local activists, and starts with a cohort of 50-80 committed stakeholders in a landscape. This cohort will be equipped to become changemakers and actively participate in actions with the highest environmental and socioeconomic impact, enabled by a knowledge network.



The Meeting Team in Waterford, an Irish county covering 16,000 hectares, conducted workshops with 28 stakeholders in July 2022. The participants consisted of 1) people working with nature-based solutions, education and social movements for a Waterford water restoration, 2) Community groups from Tralee as a non study town where players' who can offset the deeper levels of change, no matter where they live.

HARNESSING NATURAL CAPITAL AT THE LANDSCAPE SCALE FOR INTEGRATED CLIMATE, COMMUNITY, BIODIVERSITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS ACROSS IRELAND

PEATLAND FINANCE IRELAND

Ireland currently holds a large proportion of Europe's remaining functional peatlands, with deep peat land being over 1.5 million hectares. However, 30% of that and has been drained, forested, eroded, eroded, converted to pasture, and only a fraction of what remains is protected. These peatlands provide food, amenity, water filtration, carbon storage, and increasingly recognised amenity services. A limited number of large stakeholders control the vast majority of any remaining functioning or degraded bog, including a state mining company, a semi-state forestry company and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). An increasingly diverse set of restoration actors is now emerging to help rebuild these areas.

On behalf of NPWS and the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Landscape Finance Lab led a broad consortium of Irish stakeholders including University College Dublin and Natural Capital Ireland, to establish Phase 1 of **Peatland Finance Ireland**. A 12-month technical assistance programme between May and November 2021 has demonstrated potential for establishing a financing model to restore peatlands in Ireland and secure significant carbon and related commercial investment.

Current Irish peatlands emit more than 5.7 MtCO₂e per year. With effective restoration there is potential to sequester up to 4.5 MtCO₂e per year. Restoration activities can be conducted to meet the 4.5 MtCO₂e target. Preliminary investigations suggest that restoration activities can be conducted to meet the 4.5 MtCO₂e target. Further, this can be achieved by regenerating at least part of the 4.5 MtCO₂e annual government expenditure with carbon credit purchases from non-companies who have committed to the science-based targets. Consultations with the Irish industry show potential for investment projects and scaling pathways in the energy, forestry, agriculture and water sectors. A wide range of government departments and stakeholders have been engaged with workshops containing broad support for the policy direction.

The aim of Peatland Finance Ireland Phase 2.0, which received the green light from NPWS and EIB in July 2022, will be to establish a national and landscape scale financing system for up to 700,000 ha of peatland restoration in Ireland. This will provide a framework for integrating and mobilising with local economies and broader water management by supporting a strategy for scaling a community-led approach and adopting catchment management as a tool.

The objective of the second phase of NCFE activities will be to finalise the design for financing instruments and investable actions to leverage opportunities on peatlands for creating lasting benefits for regional economies, optimising downstream effects, as well as to investigate possible strategies for decarbonisation of agriculture on peat areas.



Upcoming: Minister visit after follow-up with Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

In the last online BWL meeting on October 21st – recording available on BWL website – Jack Nolan asked about our interest in exploring possible state funding. Mick Kelly (GIY) followed this up and as a **result Minister Hackett will be visiting us on 5th December** as part of World Soil Day. We will use this opportunity to ask for funding from DAFM discretionary funding for organics to match our current funding from Commonland and commitment by GIY.



Coffee Catch-up

13th Nov



We talked and talked....

Key words from the conversations (many other names and places in addition):

Several coffee-catchup people had been to **BioFarm 2022** on 7th Nov. Talks available now online. The speakers and fellow participants had inspired what is possible to achieve. For example **Paul Holmbeck who talked about “Best Practice: Creating Organic Market Breakthroughs”**. Paul advises on political strategy, advocacy. Policy frameworks and market development around the world. We might ask him to 16th Dec.

Community-led mapping and natural heritage resource audit from the Waterford Estuary Area (2014).

Fermented Japanese Knotweed
Mountaineering Ireland biodiversity pamphlet. Sligo booklet.
ACRES issues – farmers saying no
Good food too expensive?

Sean McGlowin NOTS – mobile abattoir, deigned, costed, got a no from Dept Ag. Clive Bright, Sligo, Rare Ruminator – regen meat.
David Dennison – Dunmore winemaker. Irish craft brewers – Daltons Kilkenny, no longer hopps.

Skillsnet, organic skillsnet, board organic trust certifies. NOTS have mobile training unit for 25 people. Money for training?

Mapping Geohive, GLAM, precision farming (Dingle), grassland and water. Covered fields, TAMS2 GIS funded for fertiliser distribution. ESRI in Dublin.

Farmers Journal and James Foley – example of big industry tie-in behind journalism. Ella McSweeney – now only in The Guardian

Expansion fuelled by the banks. Should not be possible without environmental. Nitrates Directive + Water Protection Directive: no checks, messed up system.

Pollard Farm Wexford – direct sale milk. Faithlegg supply vegetables.

150% subsidy – input – beef
How to best channel my energy?

Organic strategy plan wishful thinking?
Adopt a calf and reconnect
Old Forest Mills Piltown – millers

Portalis project.
Laura Burke (EPA)
Seaweed coated fertiliser. Objection to cheese factory Tashkill

OCBs – 2 organic boards – Trust and Association, split from IOFGA.
Bord Bea – oversold Green, **need specific market group for organic**

Regenerative Agriculture Ireland founded by Pippa Hackett. Tallif Beo – living ground EIP.

... and talked some more...

Good things:

- EIP: ground level, but no road map for scaling up
- TAMS scheme – organic, more funding available
- Horticulture – new organic scheme does have increased premium for vegetables. 2000Euro per hectare. CAP area based payment.
- Apples: Galvin and Flavahans. Family businesses, no shareholders, pay quickly, happy farmers.
- Aerobic digestion (smelly)

70% of organics are imported

O'Shea brothers – Tim Murray agronomist: time pressure, no diversity in carrots (Nairobi only).

Artisan dyers, Fibreshed, knitting, wool market
Mitchelstown, Clonmel, veg garden Ballybeg.

Community gardens to a critical mass

Landscape characteristics, international and local. **Landscape development into next Development Plan** for Waterford? Emily.

Disconnect from the system

Prof John Ryan. Lillian Smith. **Soil Atlas of Ireland** should be available everywhere.



Follow up after catch-up

Thank you John Geraghty

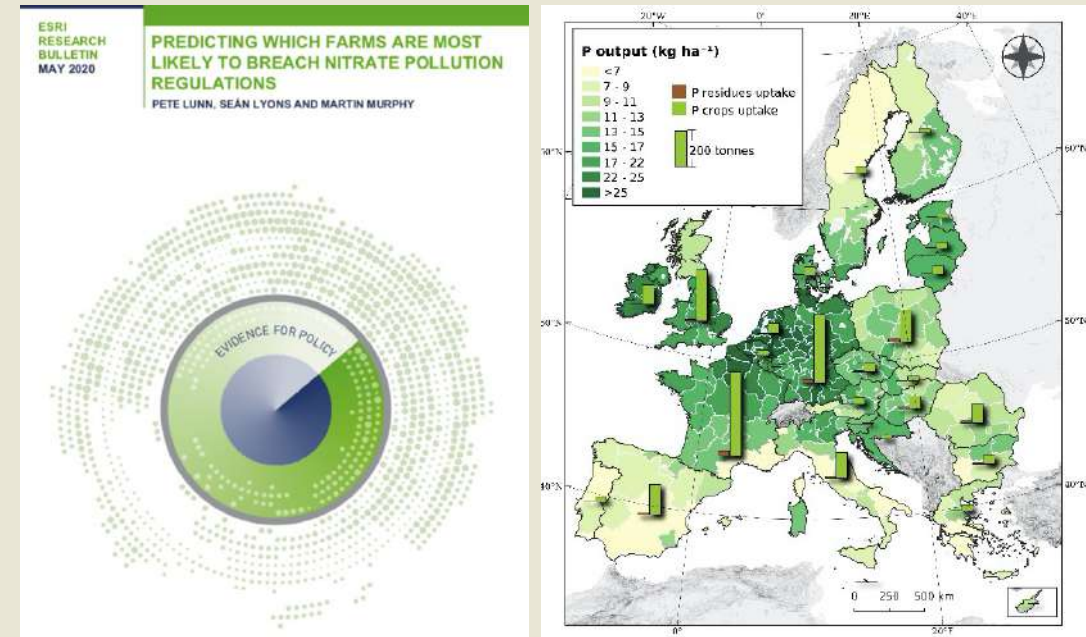
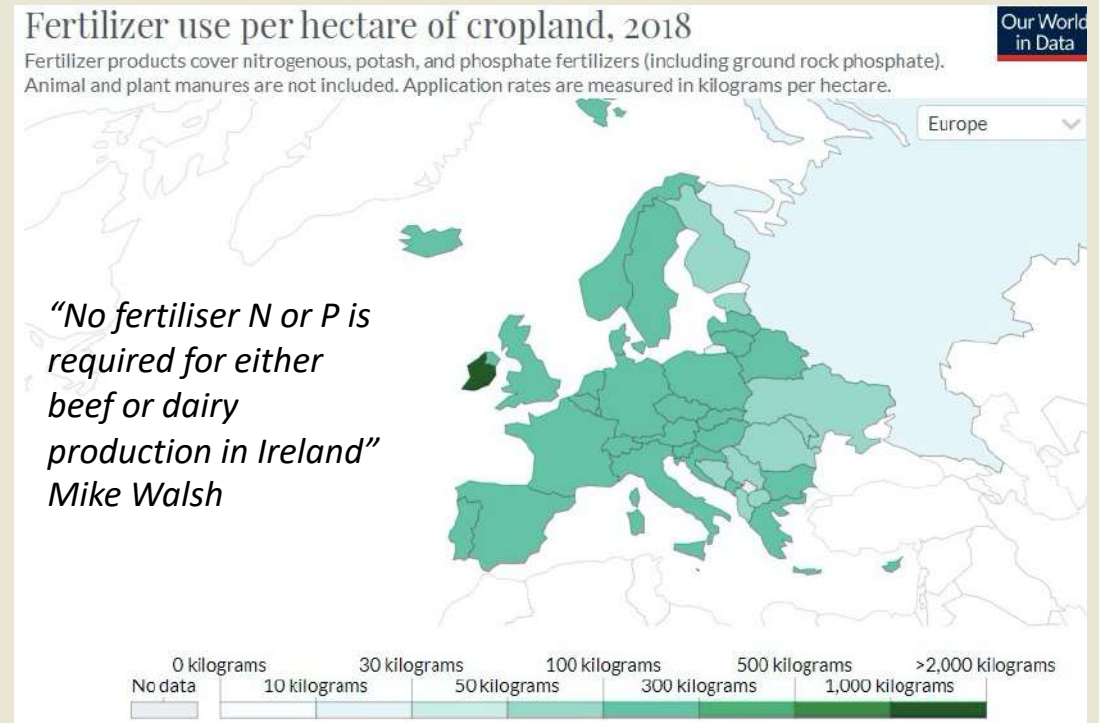
Mapping: There is GIS capacity in SETU. Michael Pedini does a lot of GIS mapping in our forestry section. ArcLabs up in Carriganore, West Campus, developed the AgriSnap application for mapping terrestrial features based on Land Parcel Identification System(LPIS) field numbers in the DAFM roll out of agri-environmental schemes.

Copy of booklet about the north-west region (Sligo area), produced using the GSI support fund (2019)

Procurement - Organic Denmark, Paul Holmbeck. An article on holistic upscaling of the successful efforts in Denmark with a conversion to healthier, climate friendly, and organic meals in public kitchens. Inspired DAFM to get organic into their canteen

[ASSAP in detail - Teagasc | Agriculture and Food Development Authority – greenwashing??](#)

Comeragh Uplands EIP: is a fenced off area, where the used different grazing practices with mountain sheep - very interesting result. EIP now finished, lovely brochure on wildlife published.



Future thinking workshop 14th Nov

How to build
the futures
we aspire to?



Rationale behind today's workshop

We have previously held workshops on collective knowledge, ideas and system leverage points (5th July). We have written a creative manifesto that captures our beliefs and our desires for the future of food in the bioregion (11th Sept). We have also discussed a Landscape Plan as a document to collect concrete ideas for linking the two streams of thought so far. **The Landscape Plan will be gradually written over the next year, but action pathways are required on a different time scale – both short and long.** This workshop was designed to capture what those actions might look like and use a tool that helps discussion focus on that.

Themes from Collective Knowledge Workshop

- Education at all levels
- Tramore as a case town for food partnerships and changemakers.
- Regenerative farming becoming the norm
- Procurement is powerful
- Water quality and holistic ecosystems are key

Futures described in food manifesto (example extracts only)

- We want future food to come from a place where community is core
- Food which is grown and eaten with passion, without which we will fail.
- Pristine food, Nutritious food, Rich soils
- Easy to get, affordable for all
- Secure in a system where farmers and consumers share a role in this security



Action please!

Waterford Bioregion's Food Manifesto *(to be read out loud)*

Food is not a luxury.

Food is a basic social need to which everyone has a right. It is a right not only to enjoy food, but to be able to create it.

Food is a way of building ideas, connections and communities. Through food we become aware of ourselves and of each other.

Food is a common good. It is grounded in our common need, and our common vulnerability.

Food is revolutionary. How we grow food, how we consume it, how we think about it, can lead to radical change.

Food is not only about the present: rethinking our relationship with food is a call for a different future, a better one.

We, the local producers and consumers of food in the Waterford bioregion, assert:

We have the right to disagree, to disrupt the status quo.

We have the right to respect, even while we dissent.

Our dissent is moral, philosophical, cultural, affective, economic and political. Sometimes all at once.

Our dissent is about building a better world.

We stand for:

The breaking-down of barriers between thinkers and doers. We are, all of us, both thinkers and doers.

A reinvention of the relationships between retailers and producers, because we are the ultimate decision makers

Food that is sustainable for our health

The protection of the land.

The richness of the soil.

The flourishing of the imagination.

New ideas. New stories. New inspirations.

New ways of relating to the food we grow and eat.

We want future food to come from a place where community is core. Our aims are both idealistic and practical. We want to create new habits, and new ways of working. We want viable ways of living. We want to protect our rivers, restore nature, cherish life. We want a world where everything is connected, from rocks to the human heart.

We want our children and grandchildren to know the taste of wild salmon and the foods those before us enjoyed. We want to be good guardians of the soil, and of our traditions. We want to become good ancestors.

We want future food to be:

Grown and eaten with passion, without which we will fail.

Inspirational

Easy to get and affordable for all.

Connected to people and communities

Familiar

Surprising

Secure, in a system where farmers and consumers share an interest in this security.

Pristine

Fair

Seasonal

Delicious

Nutritious

A tool to uncover how we might build the future we aspire to

Rationale

- We need a simple framework in a complex world that allows for complexity to exist, not disappear.
- The future is already in the present – look for it and make it mainstream
- We can't take time to stop and redesign the current systems; we can lift new futures up within that.

Three Horizon tool

The three horizons tool opens discussions to uncover:

- What future do we want to bring about? (*our manifesto results*)
- What seeds today are already in the future? (*our collective knowledge workshop results*)
- How can they be scaled and spread? (*good question for today's workshop finding action pathways at different levels*)
- How make sure new disruptions are captured to positive change not negative (*always have in mind*)

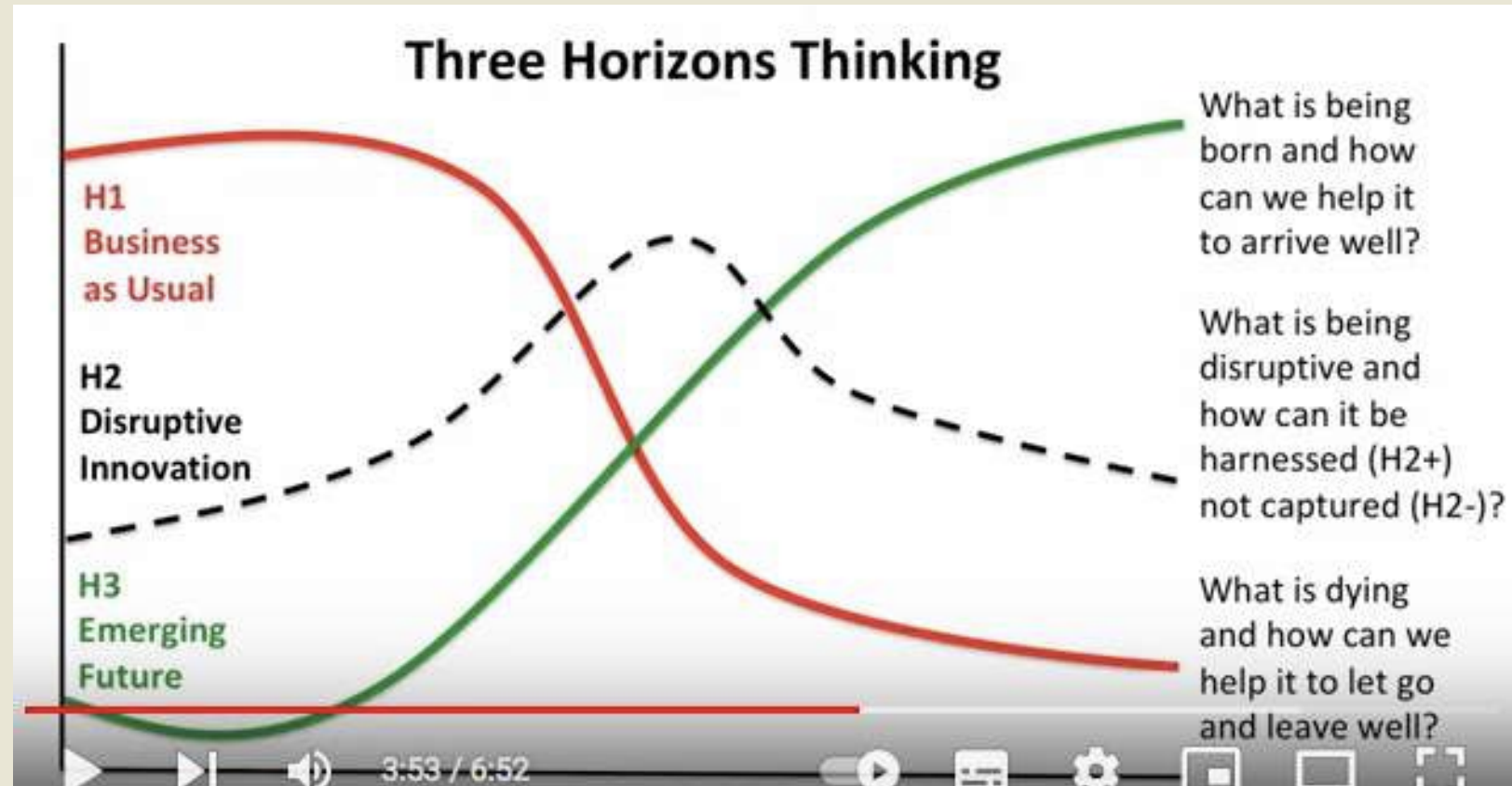
Take the time to watch this film (10 mins) which gives a good overview of how Three Horizons Framework works
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5KfRQJqpPU

Three Horizons - theory

H1 – Our current projects, organisations, systems and mindsets that are no longer fit for purpose, that feel out of synch. with modern context. A lot of innovation is trying to sustain this old system. Some good parts of the old system will remain in the future, the rest must be helped gently out of existence

H2 – Disruptive Innovation: Capture it for H3 not H1. Here we can experiment for a new future, small conversations and concrete projects. H2 is an innovation space, transition space. We can use this to find our pathways: what are we going to do?

H3 – Pockets of the future are in the present. This informs H2 and what actions we can take. These things are our aspirational futures, completely new ways of seeing, being, doing, that fit with the world that is emerging.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5KfRQJqpPU

Three Horizons - workshop process

Process (about 1 hour + discussion)

1. The group was invited to **find a part of the food manifesto they wanted to work with as their aspirational future** and write it top right on H3 – where we want to end up in a radically different future.
2. They then discussed **what pockets of that future are already present today**, and wrote that on H3 bottom left: the current moment of time.
3. Examples of **projects, organisations, systems and mindsets that are no longer in synch with, and not longer fit for purpose form the emerging world** were written top left on H1.
4. **Ideas for experimentation, entrepreneurship and disruptive innovations needed to lift H3 into the future** were clustered on H2. **These are the starting point for our action pathways**
5. **Discussion** in plenum



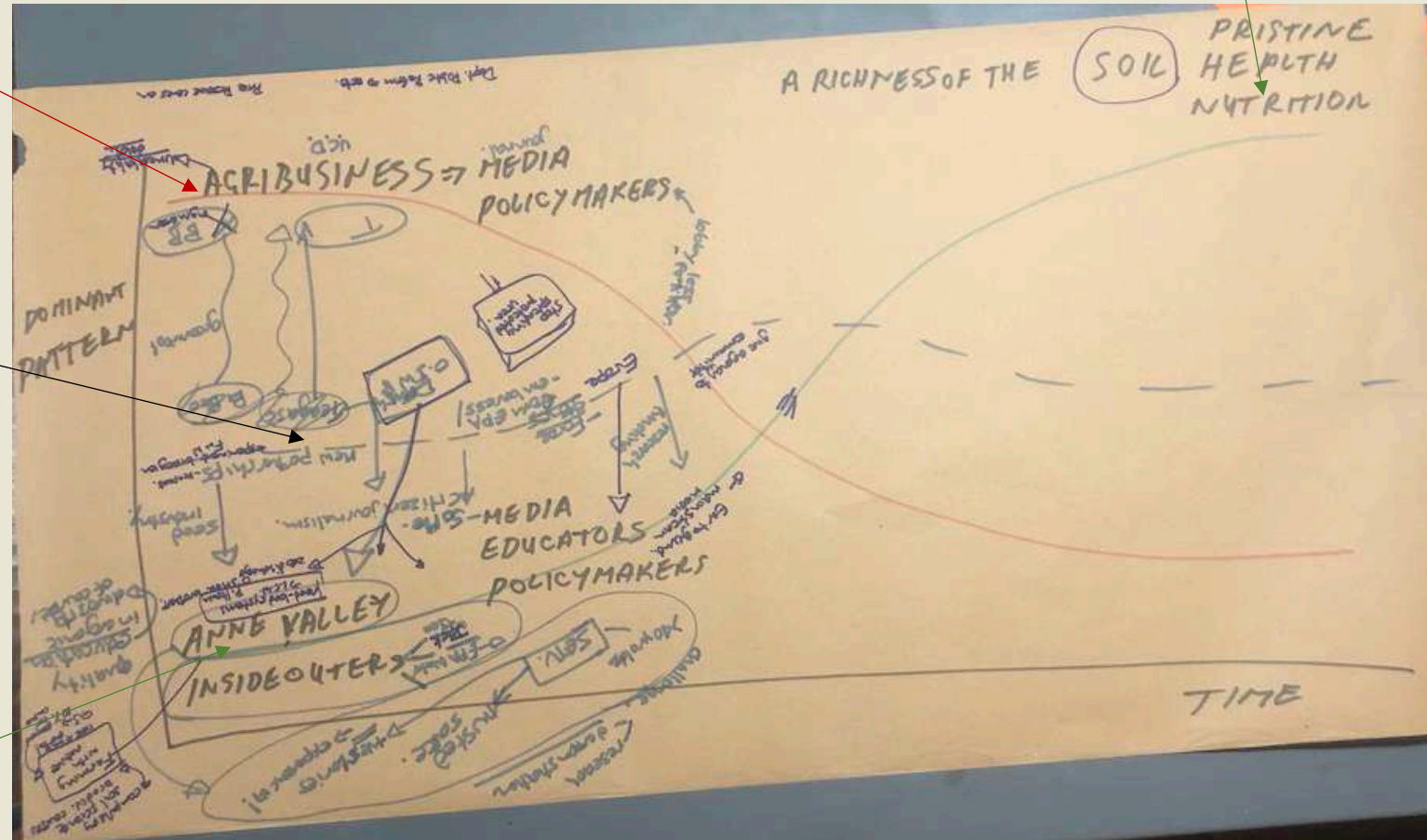
Three Horizons - Group 1

Aspirational future from manifesto: **A richness of the soil**, giving pristine, healthy and nutritious food

H1 – Business as usual: Agribusiness (is vulnerable); Teagasc (most of it); farmers media and press; Bord Bia has got stuck in own Origin Green branding; policymakers are lobbying for fertilizer. UCD working with Agribusiness; greenwashing.

H2 – Disruptive Innovation: new organic body like in Denmark; new media with no bias against organic/regen; quality assured education for farmers; citizens journalism; new partnerships e.g. w Keepak, seed industry; campaign and data behind it, stop spreading protected urea; more research funding, EU too; give supported agency to communities to keep going; SETU as a beacon of quality education and research; compulsory biodiversity and soil science for everyone; pilot FwNature in bioregion QR codes; use the LPIS nr for maps to show where not organic/regen.

H3 – Emerging Future: Anne Valley, reed-bed systems, ICWs, O’Shea brothers at Piltown; good organisations (EPA, Water and more) and ‘inside-outers’ are out there – link to them; SETU are already home of quality assured education, research demonstrations and story-telling, SoMe, Ear to Ground; farming with nature.



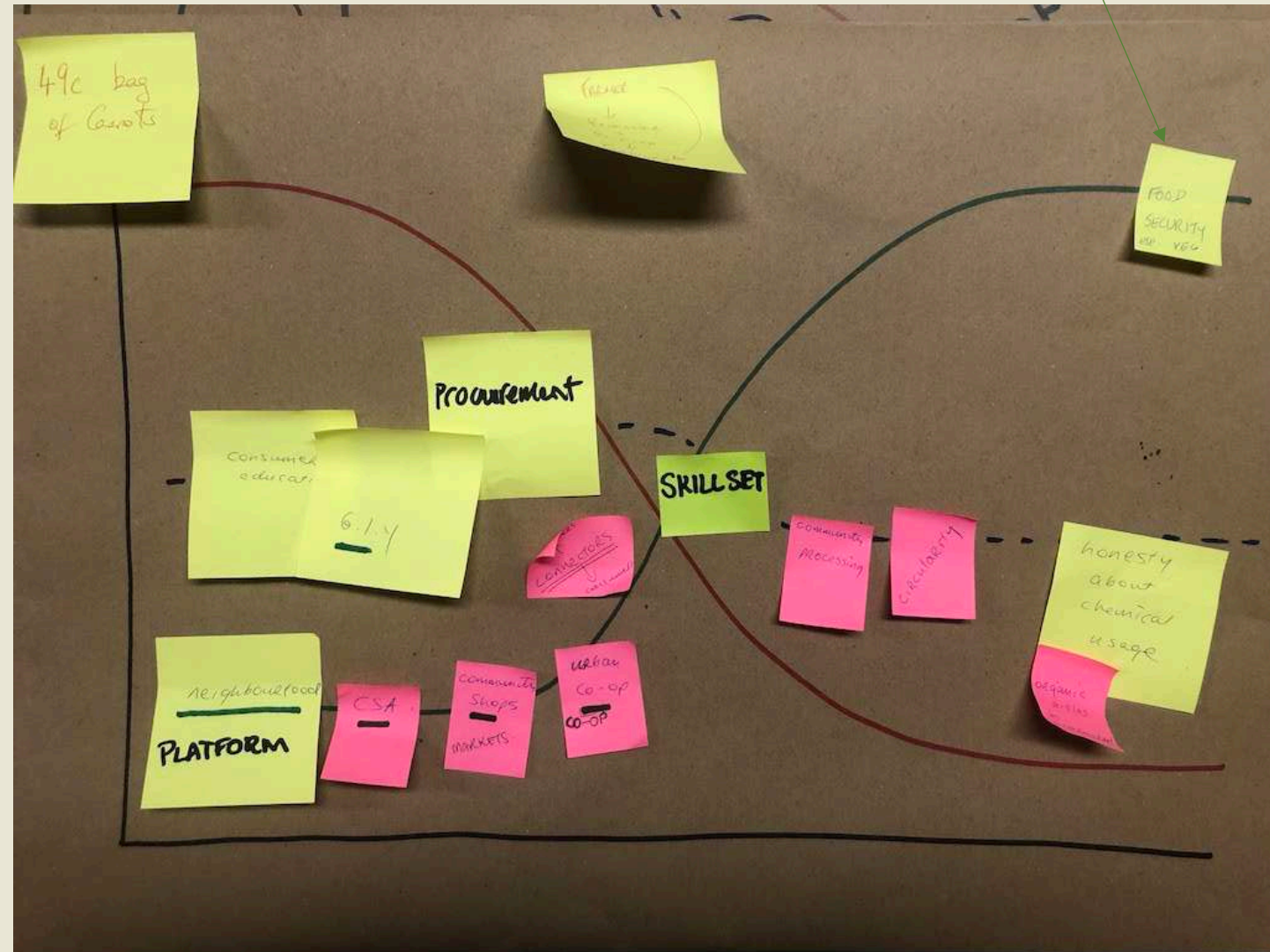
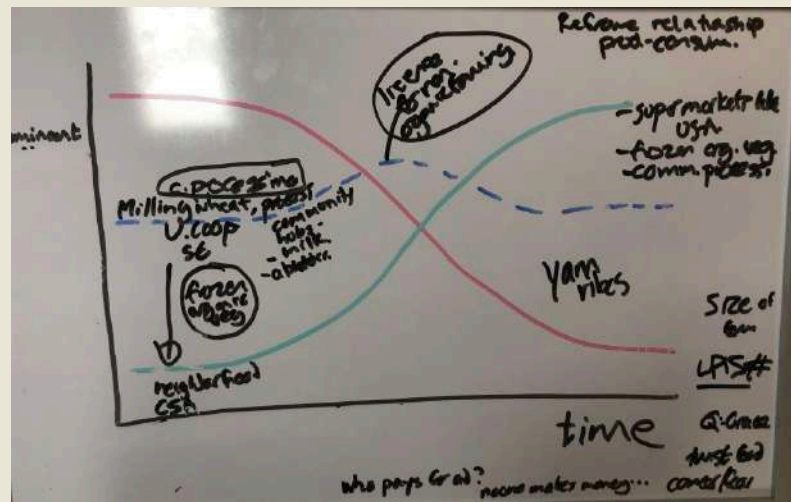
Three Horizons – Group 2

H1 – Business as usual: 49 cent bag of carrots

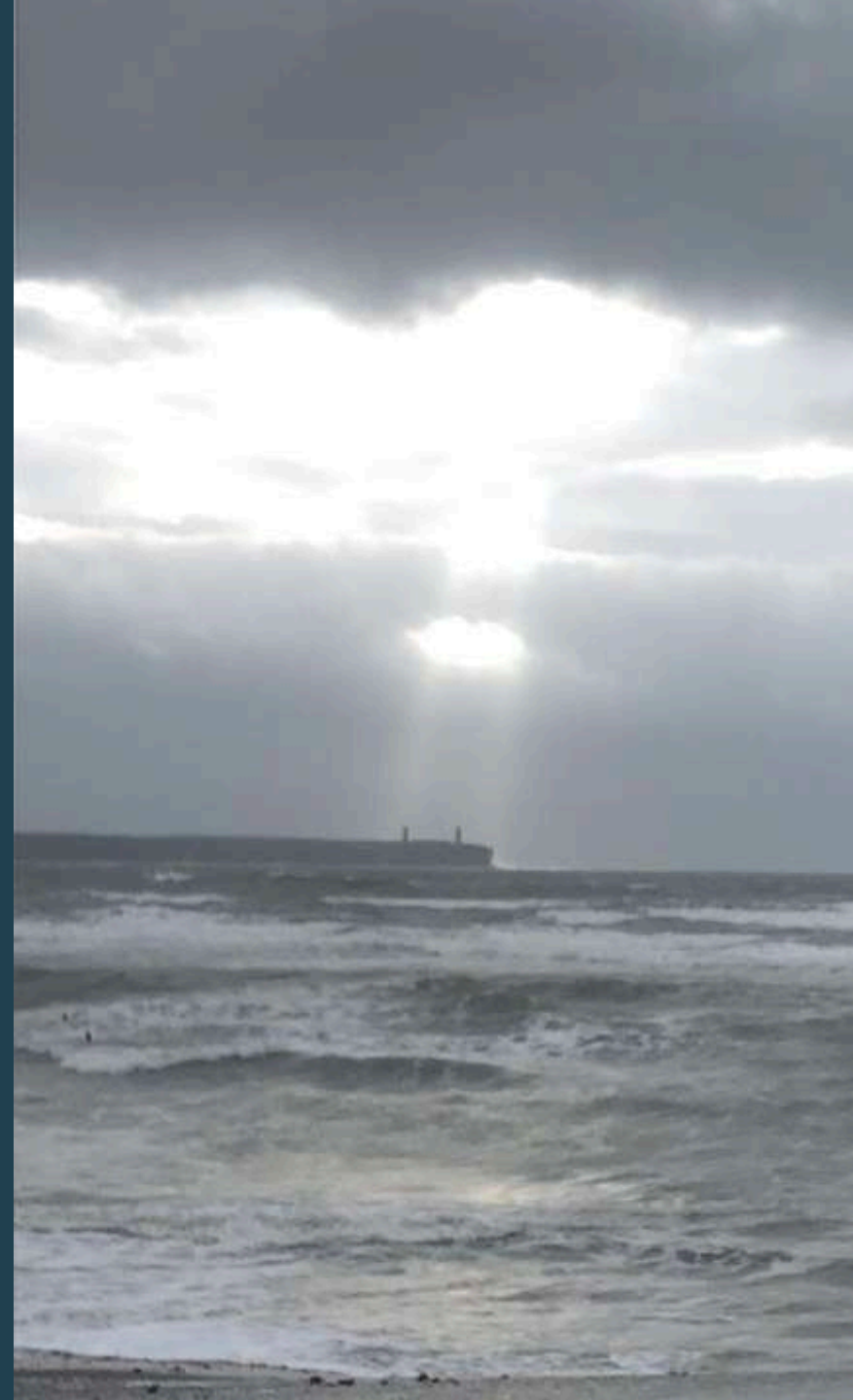
H2 – Disruptive Innovation: use procurement; educate the consumer (how?); more GIY; community processing hubs and mobile units (milling, abattoir, milk); circularity; honest reporting on chemical usage; organic aisles in supermarkets; skillsets; farmer-producer-consumer linked; frozen organic veg; need a licence to farm non-organically; reframe relationships producer/consumer;

H3 – Emerging Future: Neighbourhood Food digital platform; CSA community supported agriculture; community shops and markets; urban coops; GIY

Aspirational future from manifesto: **Food security** (Secure, in a system where farmers and consumers share an interest in this security).



Workshop analysis -
developing action
pathways to change

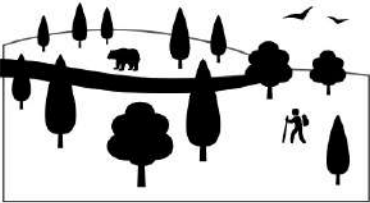


Backdrop: When we start to define action pathways, we want to include enough interventions to include aspects of:

Three landscape zones

3 landscape zones

The 4 Returns holistic framework breaks down landscape restoration into 3 distinct landscape zones – natural, economic and combined.



Natural zone

Regenerating a landscape's ecological foundation by restoring and protecting native vegetation, trees, and biodiversity.



Combined zone

Restoring the topsoil and biodiversity, and delivering sustainable economic returns through regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and rotational grazing.



Economic zone

For delivering sustainable economic productivity with dedicated areas for value-adding activities like processing, typically concentrated in urban areas.



Four returns (or losses)



Inspiration

Giving people hope and a sense of purpose.



Social Capital

Bringing back jobs, business activity, education and security.



Natural Capital

Restoring biodiversity, soil, water quality and capturing carbon.

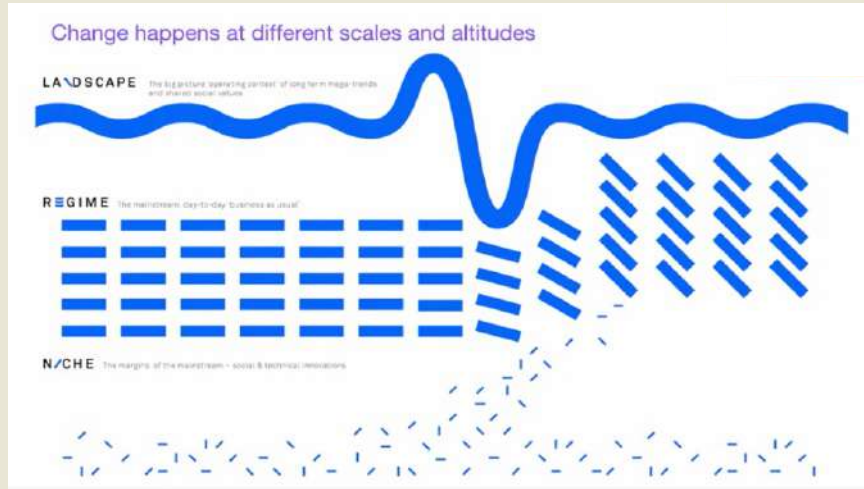


Financial Capital

Realising long-term sustainable profit.



Short and long term initiatives at same time, with a systems lens



Backdrop to analysis 2

So there might be value in checking we are covering all zones in the bioregion, the different scales of impact and keep focused about which returns they will deliver.

To be explored in future....

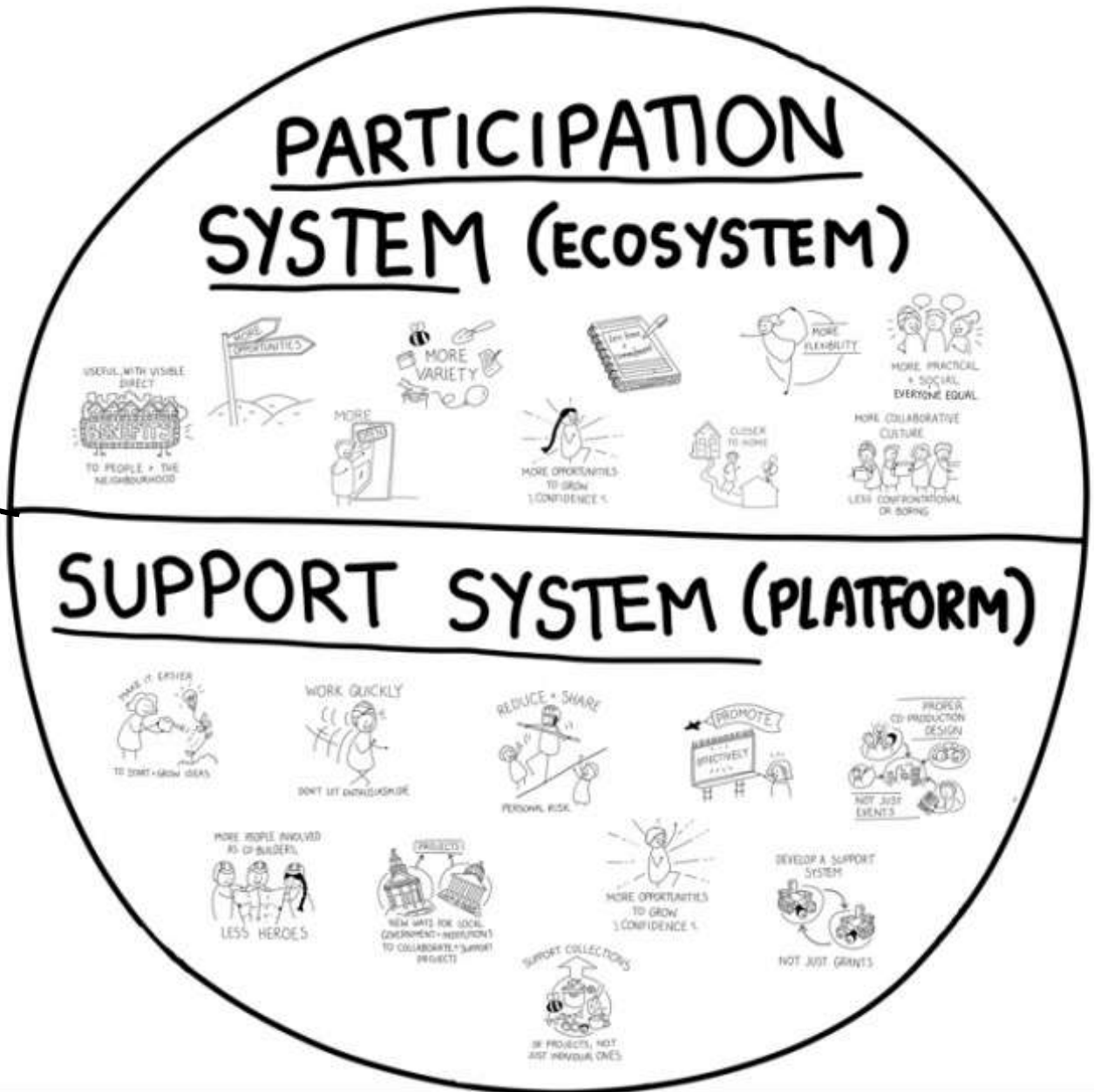
	macro landscape	meso system	micro niche-entrep
Zone 1 Natural	Inspiration from Peat-Finme?		Schools → Buy veg.
Zone 2 Combined	I S N- E - ecosystem services rewarded	Change relationships laws incentives	Farm conversion Rural schools → place-based -connect-farmer. Harenkroonen.
Zone 3 Economic	I } S } upup. N } E }		Schools → connect to communities. Buy veg. Open spaces Neighborhoods Sea Rangers

Backdrop to analysis 3

The communities and stakeholders should be well supported in their individual and collective actions and participation to build the futures we collectively aspire to.



The BWL support system will aim to support by 'weaving for system change' that delivers our contribution to 1 million hectares and 1 million changemakers, guided by the Food Manifesto and within the four returns framework.



Action pathways 1

Stakeholder projects and participation

From the outputs of the future thinking workshop the following patterns for action could be seen:

1. Reframe **producer-consumer relationships** – neighbourhoods and townships, work to establish food partnerships and biodistricts
2. Develop strategy to create a **new body to promote organic, regenerative and non-chemical farming** in Ireland
3. Look for opportunity to partner with, or start new, **media channels that communicate quality assured stories** about org/regen/no-chem farming, food, and changemaking for future we aspire to.
4. Campaign to **stop spreading protected urea**
5. Building a **proper support structure for community participation** – e.g. water-related
6. **SETU** as a beacon of sustainable and regenerative mindsets, research, teaching and practice. Demonstrations of what works for soil, water, food and education.
7. Short and long **skills training** (NOTS ++) for Regen farming, biodiversity and more
8. **Farming with Nature** – can this grow to be piloted in the bioregion?
9. **Community processing hubs and mobile units** – what would these look like and how to get them going in the bioregion?
10. The power of **procurement** and new business forms

Plus:

11. **Schools** - schools in community, heritage and place. Schools as places to give children opportunities to experience being changemakers

Action pathways 2

BWL support platform and documentation

From the work of the BWL in Waterford and through the wider BWL collective we see potential patterns of action in the following areas:

- 1. The role of BWL as facilitating collective impact network**
 - Communications – connecting, stories, website, learning.
 - Events, workshops, analysis and visits
 - Tools for systems change – identify and design systems change strategies
 - Indicators that mean we are getting there (local 4Rs) – collective impact collation.
 - Governance and decision-making processes – what will they be?
- 2. Co-weavers within other key orgs?** And inside-outers.
- 3. Strategic partnership building** for long-term collaboration
- 4. Building an financial ecosystem for transformation** by system and landscape change, for both stakeholder projects and actions, and support platform role
- 5. Landscape Plan** – writing and reporting
- 6. Portfolio** of Nature Based Solutions and System Innovations – bioregional, national and international
- 7. Map-making** – for inspiration and clarity
- 8. Weaving out of the region** – upwards to decision-makers, outwards to other BWLs and regions.

Question for you reading this:

Are you curious about the topics summarised in the action pathways below?

Do you want to contribute to them or enable others to make them happen?

Then let Sarah know, please, or if not come and discover more on 16th Dec. This next event will respond – through external inspiration and internal getting on with it – inspiration, learning and doing.

1. Food partnerships in neighbourhoods/townships, biodistricts
2. New organisational structure and media to support organic/regen/no-chem farmers
3. Quality assured education and storytelling – SETU?
4. Map-making with our GSI grant
5. No-chem Nitrogen or Phosphorous farming – good things happening, but not certified or verified.
6. Community processing hubs and mobile infrastructure (wool, milk, meat, veg etc) – how and where?
7. Supporting community participation properly – eg water, growing, farming
8. The power of procurement
9. Schools in their community, future changemakers
10. Innovative finance for transformation
11. Indicators – SFNI Returns. What works, how do we know, and can we apply widely?
12. Building a portfolio of possibilities: NBS and SI.
13. Could we have co-weavers internal in organisations, linked to this bigger network?
14. Water quality in every way, from first raindrop to pristine nutritious food
15. What else?

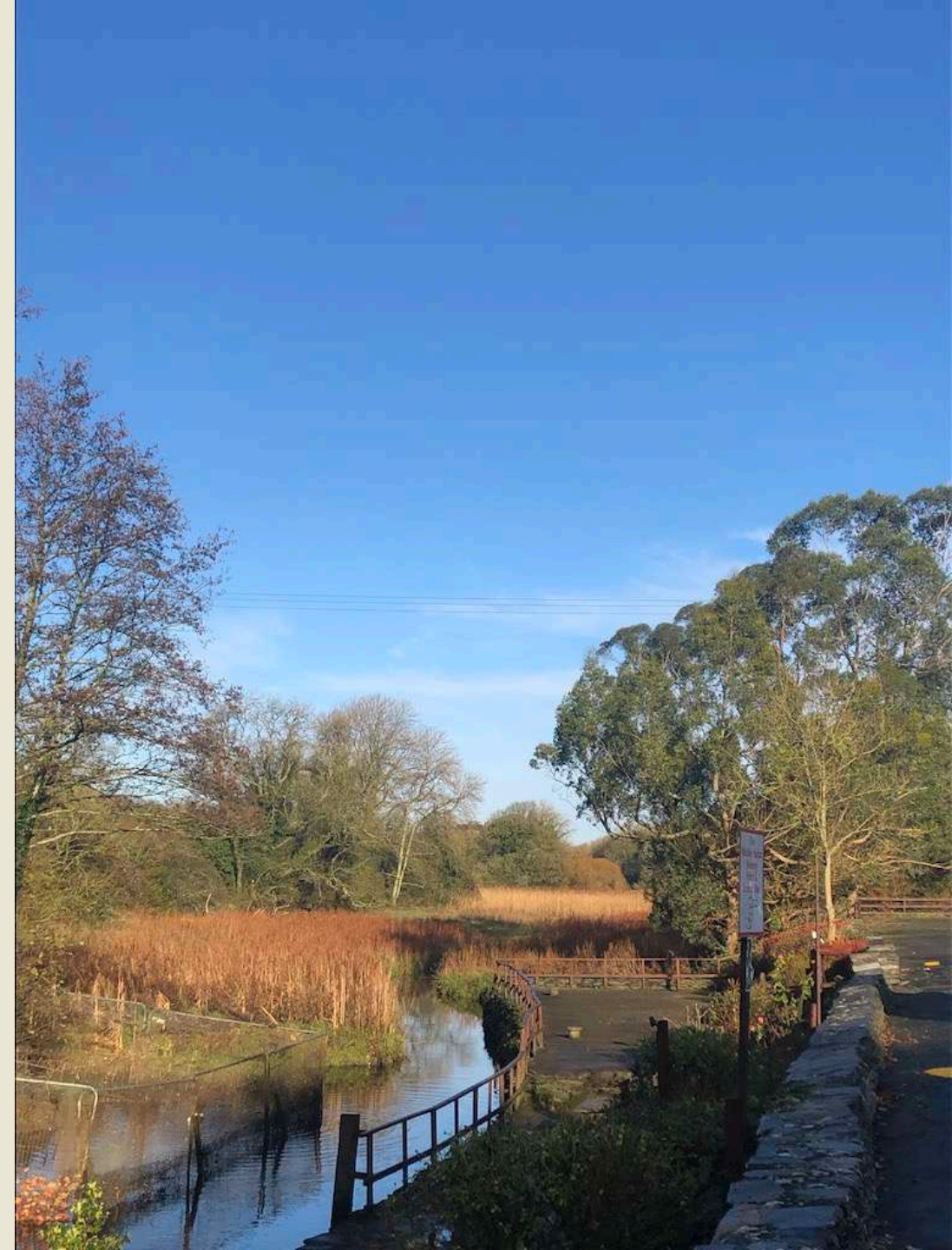
Looking forward

Developing the action pathways, being truly inspired by what others have shown is possible within and outside of the bioregion, learning and starting to do.... These are the aims of the next BWL event on 16th December.

We will then be able to weave our collective way and our impact into 2023 and beyond, with a horizon that has shifted from six months of exploration to a three-four year initiative.

Weave on!

We want future food to come from a place where community is core. Our aims are both idealistic and practical. We want to create new habits, and new ways of working.



See you on 16th December
Dunhill Multi-Education Centre

[More information soon](#)

Optional Festive Supper at GROW HQ afterwards

[Buy tickets now on giy.ie](#)

Sarah Prosser
sarah@giy.ie



1. Co-initiation phase

12 months

BWL local activities:

- Partnership contract, kick-start grant
- Partnership alignment
- Build weaving team
- Map and engage 60 stakeholders or more
- Invite 60 stakeholders to participate in the lab journey
- Co-initiation workshop to define a shared goal and confirm collective commitment.

Outcome:

60 stakeholders that represent the system, feel energised to join the weaving lab journey

BWL backbone activities:

- Learning network
- Landscape financing
- Scaling systemic innovations
- Changemaker activation

2. Co-sensing and sensemaking phase

9 months

BWL local activities:

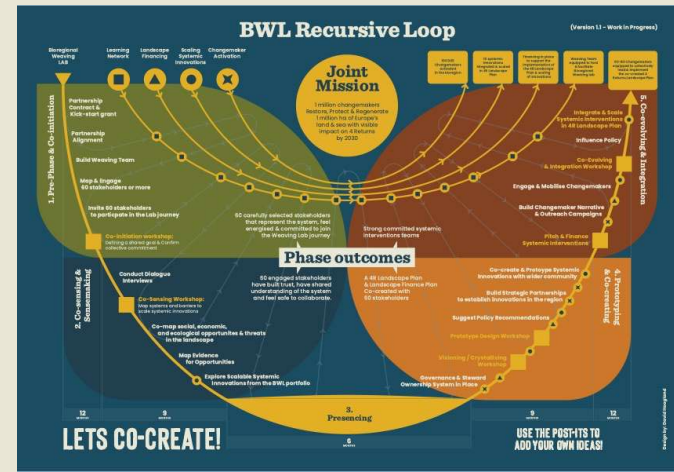
- Conducts dialogue interviews
- Co-sensing workshop – map systems and barriers to scaling systemic innovations
- Co-map social, economic and ecological opportunities and threats in the landscape
- Map evidence for opportunities
- Explore scalable systemic innovations from the BWL portfolio

Outcome:

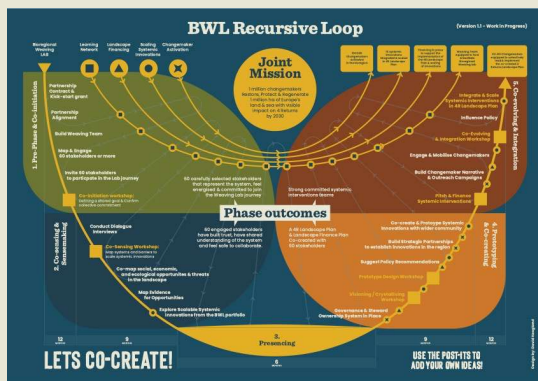
60 engaged stakeholder have built trust, have shared understanding of the system and feel safe to collaborate.

BWL backbone activities:

- Learning network
- Landscape financing
- Scaling systemic innovations
- Changemaker activation



Detail from BWL backbone view of process



3. Prototyping and co-creating

9 months

BWL local activities:

- Governance and steward ownership system in place.
- Visioning/crystallising workshop
- Prototype design workshop
- Suggest policy recommendations
- Build strategic partnerships to establish innovations in the region
- Co-create and prototype systemic innovations in the region.

Outcome:

A 4R Landscape Plan, and Landscape Finance Plan, co-created with 60 stakeholders

BWL backbone activities:

- Learning network
- Landscape financing
- Scaling systemic innovations
- Changemaker activation

4. Co-evolving and integration

12 months

BWL local activities:

- Pitch and Finance systemic interventions
- Build changemaker narrative and outreach campaigns
- Engage and mobilise changemakers
- Co-evolving and integration workshop
- Influence policy
- Integrate and scale systemic interventions in 4R landscape plan

Outcome:

Strong committed systemic intervention teams

BWL backbone outcomes:

- **Learning network** – weaving team equipped to host and facilitate BWL
- **Landscape financing** – Finance in place to support the implementation of the 4R landscape plan and scaling of innovations
- **Scaling systemic innovations** – 10 systemic innovations integrated and scaled in 4R Landscape Plan
- **Changemaker activation** – 100K changemakers activated in the bioregion