

Bioregional Weaving Labs

Weaving communities across Europe for climate action, biodiversity and regeneration

SUMMARY

WHO

We are a **growing Collective of 20 international system-changing organisations** who have joined forces to weave thriving communities to take concrete action in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss while also creating regenerative economies.

OBJECTIVE

Before 2030, we aim to transform 1 million hectares of land and sea in Europe by launching **ten Bioregional Weaving Labs** that mobilise local communities and international socio-environmental entrepreneurs to work and learn together in driving their own system change.

HOW

This is achieved by establishing Bioregional Weaving Labs that facilitate **multistakeholder partnership processes** that engage and align key local innovators, farmers, policymakers, corporates, NGO's and citizens towards a **shared purpose for their region**.

By bringing together international expertise & scientific data on effective interventions and by introducing scalable and proven nature-based solutions from the socio-environmental enterprises in our collective, we **support local communities** in accelerating a holistic transformation process in their bioregion to optimize impact as quickly as possible.

This model is highly scalable. We facilitate a joint learning ecosystem for all Labs that are established, to continuously build expertise and exchange best practices.

NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

Ashoka is known for the selection and support of the **world's leading system changing social entrepreneurs**. Worldwide, more than 3,600 Fellows are selected out of which 437 are focused on Planet & Climate related issues. Bioregional Weaving Labs are currently being co-created by 20 organisations, of which 16 are led by Ashoka

Fellows. We expect to grow this number of solutions to 50 by 2023. All nature-based solutions in our portfolio are **proven, innovative, entrepreneurial and scalable models** that tackle specific environmental problems such as desertification, deforestation, depleted soils, sea pollution and biodiversity loss while also including socioeconomic benefits and climate resilient pathways.

EXAMPLES

The following models are examples of the growing number of scalable solutions in our Collective.

- › **Herenboeren** is a scalable model that supports local people in developing nature-driven cooperative farms, so that food production practices coexist with the regeneration of the soil and landscape while resulting in cohesive communities and economic sustainability. It is based on a cost-sharing model that makes it a financially stable approach whereby the food is produced and distributed in socially connected ways.
- › **Savory Institute** equips land managers with innovative tools and curricula for regeneration. Additionally, it researches the ecological, social, and financial outcomes associated with holistic land management. Holistic land management is perceived as the understanding of the whole, including people, plants, soils, and animals, that cohabit in harmony. Desertification was the first driver that became connected with climate change. Deriving from this, the mission of Savory Institute is the large-scale regeneration of the grasslands of the world through holistic land management.
- › **Farming for Nature** is turning farmers into valued ecosystem providers who produce food sustainability and preserve biodiversity. Farming for Nature sees farmers as the 'first responders' to our climate and biodiversity crisis. They aim to change the system for subsidised agriculture in a model where farmers are rewarded when they produce sustainably, thus nurturing biodiverse ecosystems. Farming for Nature puts farming communities at the center of the solution, supported by targeted policies, research, and resources.

Our Collective offers scalable models that focus on landscape & seascape restoration and on nature conservation. Every model is connected to green job creation and is community-based; facilitating people to find their own agency and supporting local communities to take collective action.

WHY

We realize that we must now, urgently, accelerate the spread of effective Planet & Climate solutions. By combining our wisdom and forces, bioregion by bioregion, this will be much more than simple 'ecosystems restoration.' It will be a pathway to regenerating our natural resources, our communities, and our bioregional economies: nature-driven, socially bonded and economically embedded.

