# 1 PLACE-BASED PATHWAY

Many transformations enablers and initiatives are focused on bringing about the transformation of specific places. These may be bounded by modest-sized political units (such as cities), bioregions (such as watersheds), or larger units, such as nations or even continents. This pathway is one for working with such efforts to create powerful transformations systems and actions.

## 1.1 TRANSFORMING PLACE-BASED SYSTEMS

### 1.1.1 THE TRANSFORMATION SYSTEM

Place-based work is where important transformational innovations are occurring with the energy of local transformations leaders as the critical organizing ingredient. Core drivers are environmental degradation and desires for greater economic well-being and social justice.

A core concept for place-based work is "regeneration" or some associated term. It marks a significant evolution in the concept and application of sustainability. Practices in sustainable or green design have focused primarily on minimizing damage to the environment and human health, and using resources more efficiently, in effect, slowing down the degradation of earth's natural systems. Advocates of a regenerative approach to design, economics, and community transformation believe that a much more deeply integrated, whole-systems approach is needed. Regenerative approaches seek not only to reverse the degeneration of the earth's natural systems but also to support human communities that can co-evolve with natural systems, while enhancing social equity and economic inclusion.

This approach is producing important innovations in business and economic organization, in social and governance approaches, and in cultural values. However, the initiatives remain peripheral, as they struggle with deep systems, fragmented as they emerge out of local contexts, and mixed in technical-social sophistication, as they find difficulty in accessing the necessary knowledge and tools that are necessary for their rapid advance.

### 1.1.2 ACTION GOALS

**Broad Goals**

To support transformation systems to see, connect, and accelerate the social, cultural, economic, and ecological regeneration of specific geographical regions and networks of regions.

**Three Year Goals**

The PB ST will focus on expanding and accelerating growth of place-based energy for transformation towards a regenerative future by:

1. Gathering intelligence about the diverse place-based transformations initiatives, networks and existing systems to understand their dynamics, structures, and development issues, and the different kinds of place-based transformation work occurring in the world;
2. Creating a powerful ST that includes participation of diverse place-based transformations enablers and initiatives working towards the ST goals; and
3. Undertaking four regenerative communities actions:
   a. Creating a network of networks;
   b. Expanding an existing network's activities (the global Regenerative Communities Network);
   c. Going deep to strengthen a particular local region's efforts (the Gulf of Maine in the US-Canada); and
   d. Establishing a continental strategy (LINEA in sub-Saharan Africa).

   This work will be organized by developing the overall Place-Based Steward Teams, and a ST for each of the other (b, c, d) actions.
4. Work with the Forum and its parts to (1) access other STs' expertise, and (2) provide vehicles for the other STs to develop their work in particular places; and
5. Advance leading transforming places knowledge and practice.

## 1.1.3   ACTIVITIES

**Line Allocations Summary**

Core Funding Request – Total:  €630K

- Steward Team Years 1-3: €450K
- Seeing and connecting – Place-Based Initiatives: €150K

Year 1 RALIs

- Transformations Assessment for Place-Based Innovations €30K

**Revenue Generation Potential**

Many place-based transformations networks that are gaining momentum are ideal candidates *for sourcing tens of billions of dollars of regenerative, well-managed, de-risked, community-driven projects per year.*

### 1.1.3.1 YEAR 1 DETAILS

Year 1 will focus on mapping-connecting, development of the ST, identification of RALIs, and specific RALIs.

#### 1.1.3.1.1 YEAR 1: SEEING, CONNECTING

**Place-Based Initiatives Transformations Systems: €150K**
There will be a global analysis of networks and their frameworks, with respect to PB transformations efforts.  This will be accompanied with a convening and setting the priority agenda and development of the ST.

#### 1.1.3.1.1 YEAR 1: RALIS

**Transformations Assessment for Place-Based Innovations: €30K**

There are many needs and opportunities for place-based transformations.  In association with the mapping and convening, an assessment will be undertaken to identify place-based innovations.  This includes:

- Development of learning journeys and Bioregional Learning Centres with associated platforms to generate revenue, awareness, expertise, and connection with potential investors, advocates and supporters;
- Ecosystems services markets;
- Infrastructure for bioregional investment platforms that connect regenerative investors with regenerative projects sourced through community-based processes.

### 1.1.4 LEADERSHIP

The ST Lead Steward is Dr. Stuart Cowan (committed at 50% time) and several strong candidates have been developed for Councillor. The ST group will contract up to 10 ST members with modest stipends of €2,500 each through its networks.

Strategic implementation partners are the Regenerative Communities Network, LINEA, Gulf of Maine Collaborative for Bioregional Action, Learning, and Transformation (COBALT), Guyana Shield SourceCode4Life initiative; and secondarily global action networks including: Global Ecovillages Network, Transition Towns, Seeds of Good Anthropocenes, Well-Being Economy Alliance (WEAll), 100 Resilient Cities, C40, Club of Rome, Commonland, Ecosystem Restoration Camps, and others joining as part of community building efforts.

Dr. Stuart Cowan is the Architect of the Regenerative Communities Network, a project of Capital Institute, and has served as its Director/Systems Convener since 2017.

## 1.1.5  CONNECTIONS TO OTHER STS

The Place-Based Transformations Systems ST will support strong ST leadership and, through participation in projects of other STs, the following:

- Transforming Evaluation: A place-based evaluation for the transformation framework and process for the Place-Based Transformation Systems
- Transforming Narrative:  Narrative development for the Place-Based communities
- Transforming Finance:  Testing of bioregional investment platform and related innovations
- Transformations Systems Analysis: Working with the ST for the system analysis