



Developing a Watershed Consciousness: a comparison of Southern Finland & East Africa

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r3.0 Confluences

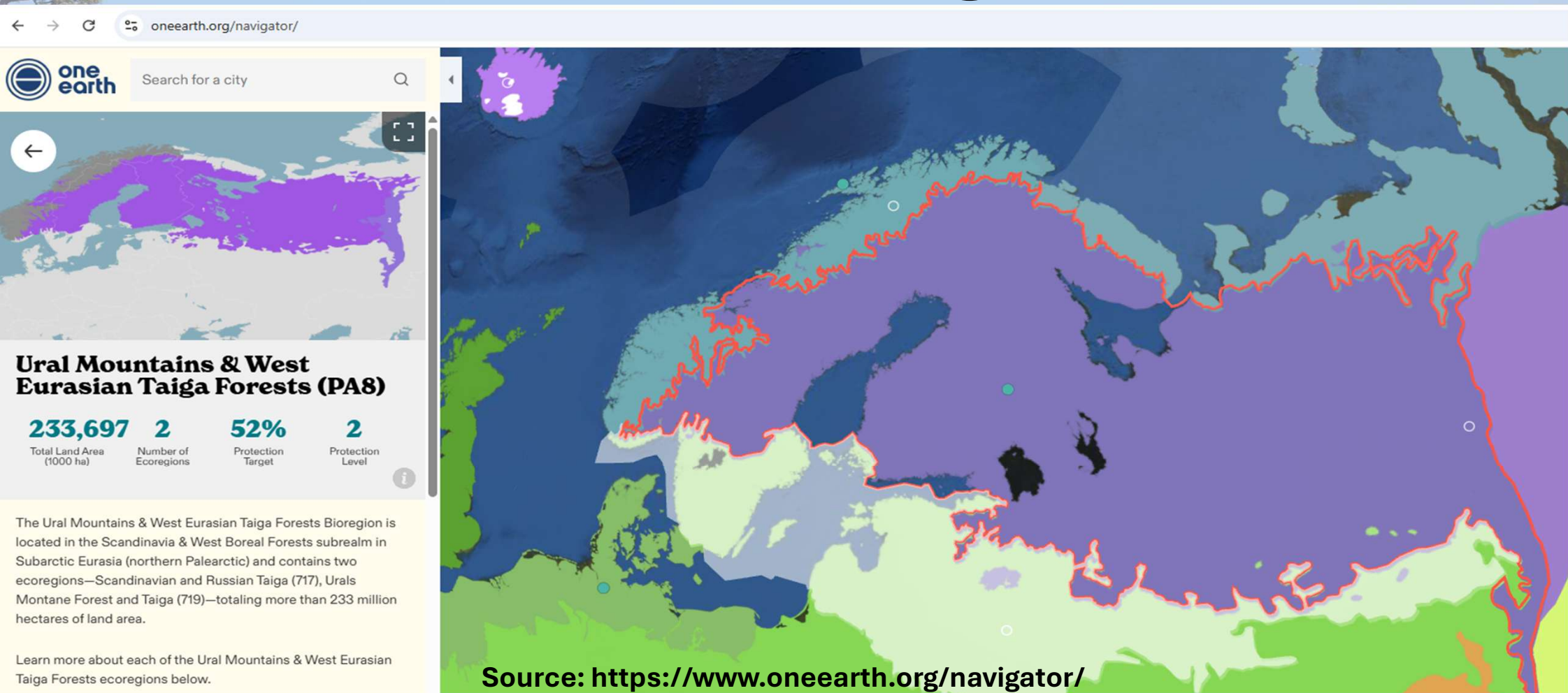


12th International r3.0 Conference 2025 — 9 Sept – 11 Sept ;17-18 confluence reflections
Braiding Bioregional Resilience & Regeneration: Learning to Reinhabit Earth Together

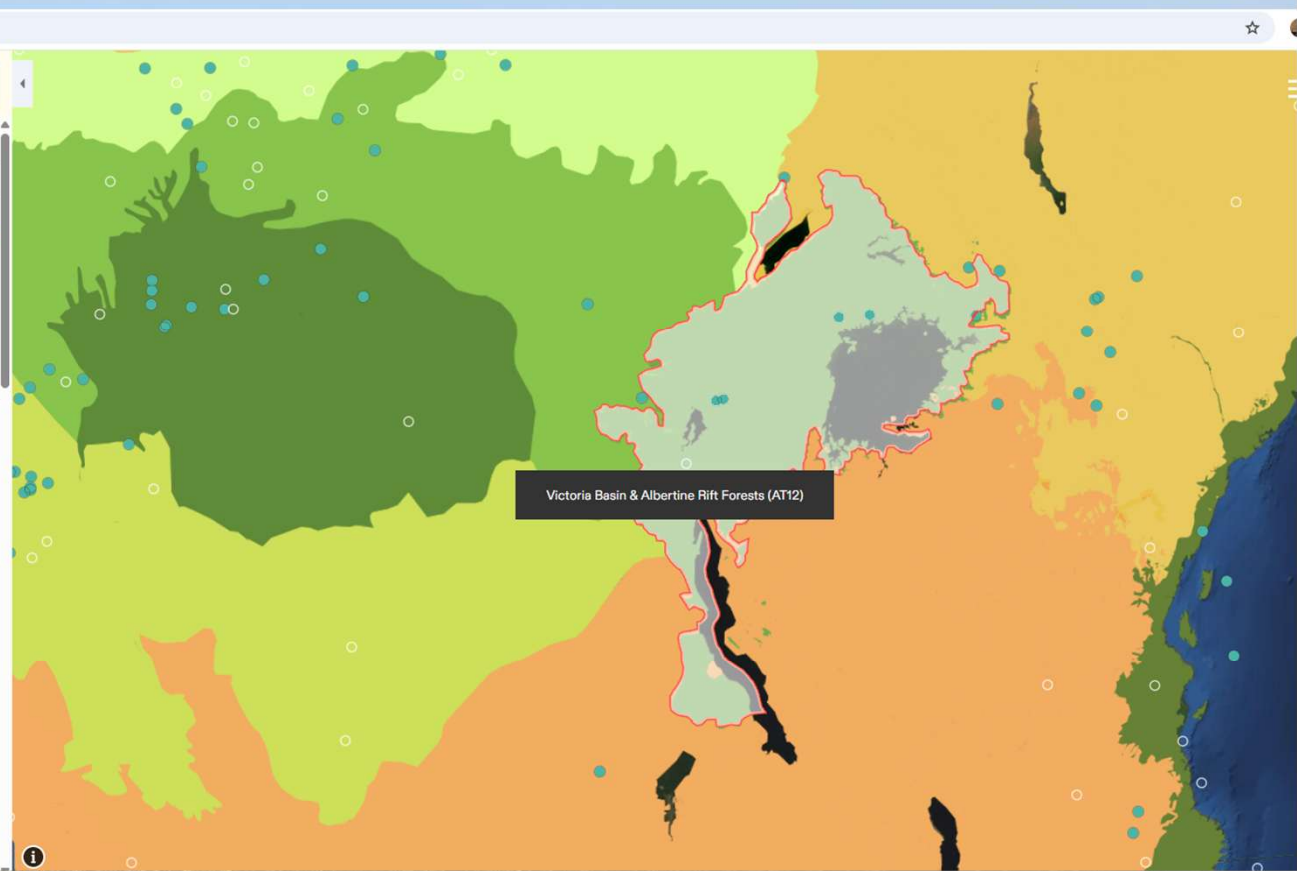
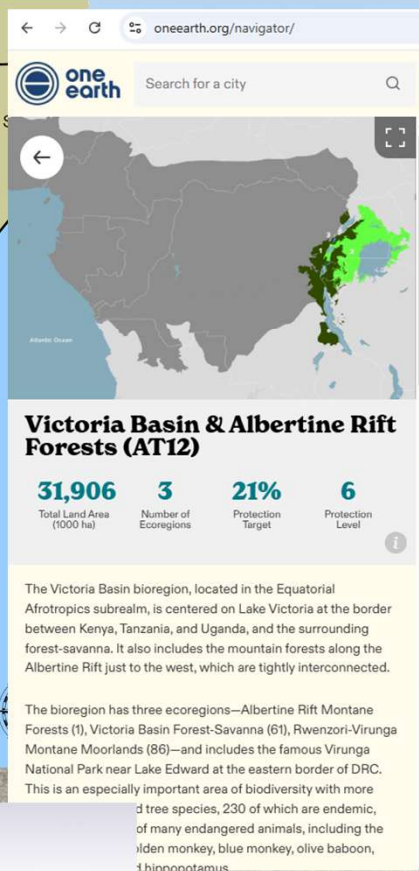
Confluence as a self-organized, place-based gathering where diverse knowledge streams and perspectives can be respected, mixed and held together long enough for new patterns to form, or, as Melanie Goodchild might describe, we “let the medicine flow at the interface where two bodies of water come together”. So “confluencing” is “the act of flowing together” – used here to refer to the bioregional gatherings flowing “together” with the r3.0 Conference; with the other bioregional gatherings happening globally; and the convergence of experiences and perspectives within each individual Confluence.

43 registered for 12th International Conference (3 in Africa; 11 Europe; 20 North America)

Bioregion: Ural Mountains & West Eurasian Taiga Forests



Bioregion: Great Lakes of Kenya & East Africa



Great Lakes Regions (KE)

Kisumu, Kenya and Great Lakes Region (KE)

Minds of Kenya & Finland

Agents of change are the activists making & raising awareness:

Finland – Fridays for Future, XR (Elokapina, Scientists' Rebellion) SKEY (GEN-Europe)– **Foreign influence**

Confluence and bioregionalism comes from USA

Localisation by Marcus Petz* – deliberate bridging and creation of Finnish way

Support by Sustainable Development Institute (now Regenerative Development Association) Muhammad Ali*

Kenya – Fridays for Future, Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance - **Foreign influence**

Confluence and bioregionalism from USA / bit mediated by Marcus Petz

Econet (Andrius Kulikauskas* and Jere Northrop* – USA connection)

Localisation by 1. Millicent Olal-Muchilwa & Family – Michelle and Jeremy (Luo and Kenyan)

Talk: TEENS FIGHTING TO RESCUE & RESTORE LAKE VICTORIA, AFRICA--from the triple planetary threat of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss

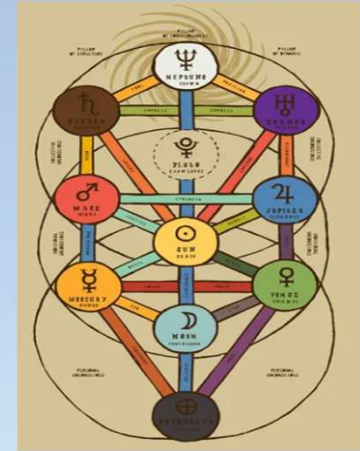
Localisation by 2. Horace Otieno Ongili (Luo and Kenyan) of “Hope Rootz CBO”

NB these “activists” are also scientists / had academic learning

* Have PhDs

Sensibilisation in Finland - Koli

- Links in with Sephiroth / and syncretic process –
- traditional Finnish approach to religion / “hippy” or “esoteric”
- Links in with National romantic landscape
- Links in with existing project ideas
- Academic input (Drs of varied Sciences, students)



- SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES:
- Pro Action Café - 30mins
- Dragon Dreaming –Group /Individual
- Cosmic Kitchen – silent connecting in a group and then sharing like a piiri / circle



Sensibilisation in Kenya – Lake Victoria

Did not take an academic route – instead reached out to fishers, women and pastoral people.
Enquiry based – ask questions and ask for answers so that people “discover for themselves”

Related directly to livelihoods e.g. Fishing, Traders

“Uplifting Stories” – practical table banking,

Mama Eunice & Her Group of Experimental Agriculture

The Fisher’s Story

and actions e.g. Crocodile Attacks

(rising water climate change

Displaces crocs & overfishing etc.)



Sad state to the fishing family along the lake region

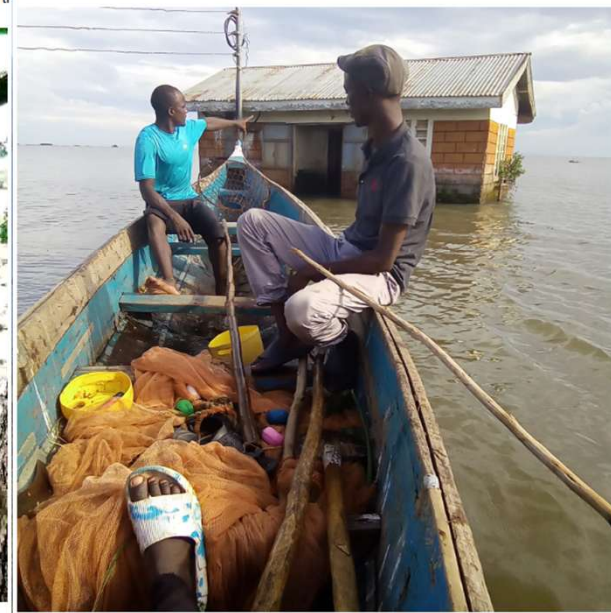
The dreaded crocodiles have claimed yet another life in Rarieda. Second victim in a month. We have KWS officers in Rarieda and it seems they're as lost for words as the residents. Interview with this teenager last week when he actually asked us to provide them with the



Aderecrocodileattackvictim in

The Fisher's Story

"I am Kevin Rapemo 28 years old and a resident of Mabinju village. Fishing at Kowang'e Bay. I lost both my mum and dad after a long illness and have been surviving through this active table banking groups where I save and even get loans for emergencies. I would encourage



Osiepe Sango

Osiepe Sango in collaboration with KMFRI and EALVBC and working closely with like minded organisations and individuals seek to synergise efforts to reclaim L. Victoria's lost glory.

Vision: Return Lake Victoria to its pristine condition.

Mission: A plastic free Lake Victoria.

Goal: Eradicate plastic pollution.

Objectives:

- Awareness creation and sensitisation on dangers and negative effects of careless disposal of plastic waste.
- Initiate conversation amongst different players on the way forward concerning management of plastic pollution.
- Advocacy in terms of content creation in social media.
- Enforcement of EMCA and implementation of national extended producer responsibility.



Millicent Olal-Muchil...



Sharing Clean-up Data Results to workers, youth, scientists



Nurturing the young on Environmental Stewardship



Scientists' Circle – to bond scientists, community members, corporate organisations & students before clean-up



Trash segregation explained to Kisumu county officials

Point of Comparison	Finland	Kenya
Colonisation	Crusader boundaries	Unnatural boundaries drawn by colonists
Water / Lakes	Methylmercury from forestry & drainage operations	Reckless extraction leading to the extinction of multiple species and pollution as to division of labour and preservation of the water
Cultural diversity	Lowest in EU	43 tribes and a large migrant population. These were thrown together by unnatural boundaries and forced movement of people destroying socio-cultural ties
Biodiversity	12% spp threatened, nearly half all habitat types threatened.	Extraction is the mantra causing a widespread loss of biodiversity. Natural spaces are no longer honoured and respected.
Societal Evolution	Generational disconnect suspected – but still high ecosocial culture, foraging, hiking – nature becoming leisure location	Population's total disconnect from nature. The colonialists destroying the transfer of oral history from generation to generation has meant that we have no database/baseline to track the loss of species
Legal framework	Good enforcement: Hukkajoki Fresh water pearl muscle Stora Enso incident, EU laws strong (but under pressure - wolves)	Many laws are in place to protect nature and reduce pollution but there is weak enforcement. Centralized government with little knowledge of local ecosystems.
Regenerative practices	Emerging paradigm from sustainability	Competencies mismatch. People with no knowledge of an ecosystem making decisions about the future of that ecosystem.
Sensibilisation of population	Change in praxis e.g. Metsähallitus- forest admin moved from stopping CCF to encouraging it. more nature oriented.	While we have good laws, the government does not budget for active sensitization of the populace.
Shared nature-human consciousness	Industrial society alienated people from nature, but ecological thinking has become quite important in cities. A network of ecological communities leads the way in bringing people back to nature connection. Still in Finnish language.	Mostly lacking. Lake Victoria has been consigned to the fringe of the city, destroying the public's ability to connect with it.
Confluence activities	Regen*Dependence Day, New Network, various projects planned. To repeat next year. Aims to reach more regions, to reach other countries.	Reconnecting young people to nature through lakeside activities Connecting urban-rural populations, Intergenerational discussions and storytelling, Sensitization theatre performances, Demystifying

Cultural Expressions

- Parallel Events - Music & Movement

KENYA – there is dancing at confluence gatherings

- There is music and singing at gatherings
- There is a lot of storytelling, mythologies shared, past ways of doing things, current events and what we have seen and heard. This storytelling is important because the ecosystem is under researched, so the stories are a vital way of understanding past and current conditions of the ecosystem.
- The creation of art from waste plastic (flowers for example) &
- communication/sensitization through artworks (fish filled with plastic bottles)

FINLAND

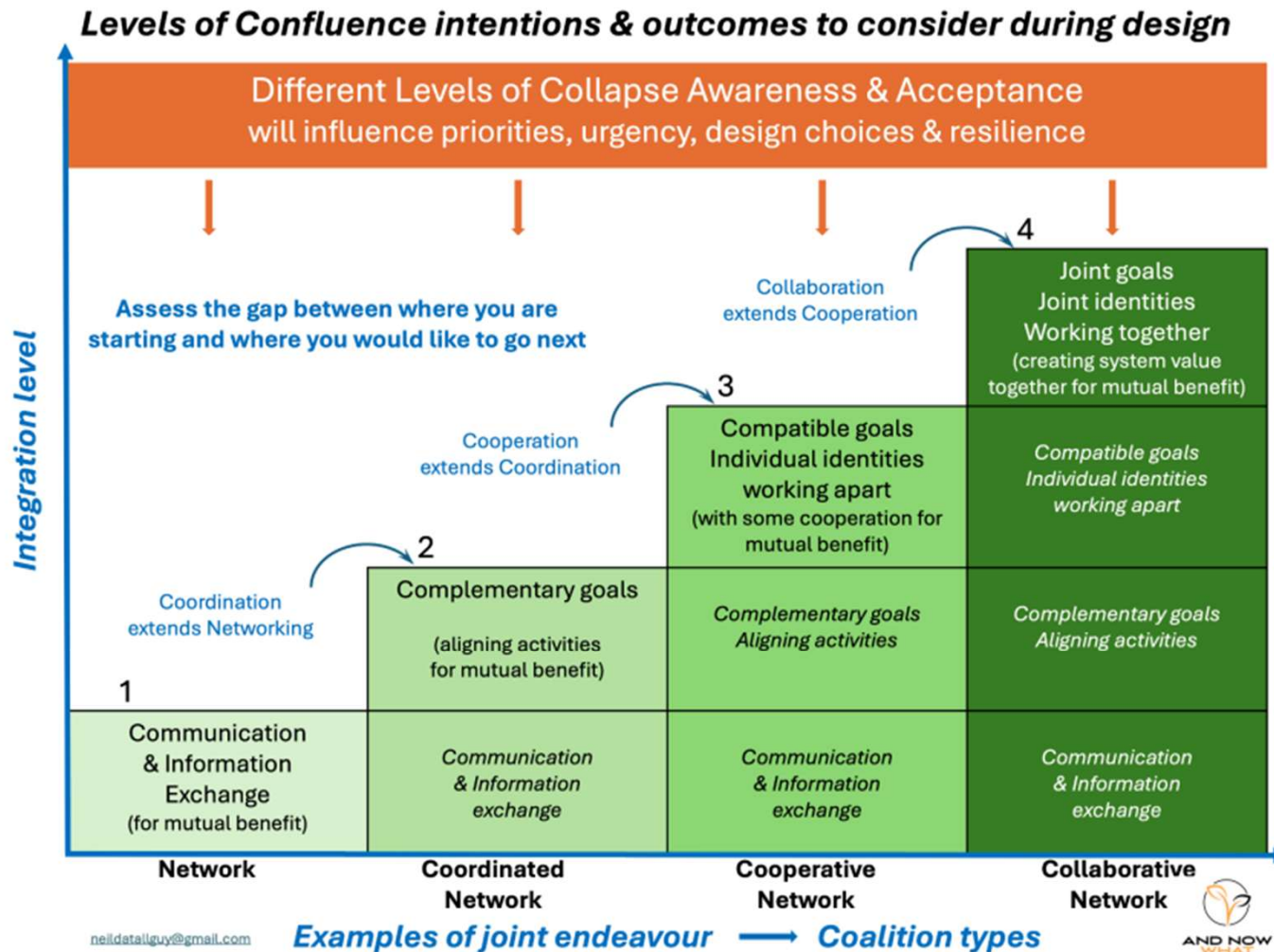
- Sauna - sang rainbow songs
- Candlelit suppers & magic chocolate game
- Joint hiking expedition to special site “birth of Finnish consciousness” – Sebelius wrote Finlandia here
- Cosmic kitchen game played on Ukko-Koli Hill

Ruma Tabletop Banking Group

Ruma Group which is one of the table banking group celebrating after sharing out their end year savings



Confluence to Congress



The Longer Arc: From Bioregional to Continental to Planetary Congressing

Bioregional Congressing emerging next year (2026), and Continental Bioregional Congressing emerging the year after (2027), culminating in Planetary Bioregional Congressing the subsequent year (2028) as a loose timeline.



Turtle Island Bioregional Congress

Monday, September 14, 2026, 12:00 PM – Sunday, September 20, 2026, 11:00 PM

Port Townsend, WA, USA (map)

2026 Turtle Island Bioregional Congress

REKINDLING A CONTINENTAL MOVEMENT FOR PLACE-BASED REGENERATION

After more than a decade, the Turtle Island Bioregional Congress (TIBC) is returning, this time to the Cascadia Bioregion, on the ancestral lands of the S'Klallam and Coast Salish Peoples near Port Townsend, Washington.

Organisational Ecosystem

UKY – Uudistavan Kehittämisen Yhdistys ry Regenerative Development Association

Osiepe Sango (Friends of Lake Victoria) Rescue Team

HopeRootz CBO (see Uplifting Others.org)

Earth Regenerators

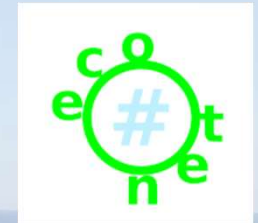
BioFi on Hylo
R3-0.org

And Now What (in Belgium)

Econet (TimberFish Technologies)

Math4Wisdom

SKEY (GEN Europe)



The name "hylo" comes from hylozoism, which means: *everything is alive*

Bioregionalism * Regenerative Paradigm

Are we there yet? (no – sustainability paradigm is not dead yet!)

Systems thinking (more and more)

Integral approach (beyond post-post-modernism in science) – a different kind of science?

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From paradigm blindness to paradigm shift? An integrative review and critical analysis of the regenerative paradigm

Getting to Solutions: Moving Beyond Theory to Practical Methods for Change | [Open access](#)

Published: 12 September 2025

Volume 54, pages 1985–2004, (2025) [Cite this article](#)

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Ambio

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Vanessa Taveras-Dalmau , Susanne Becken & Ross Westoby Griffith University, Australia [Use our pre-submission](#)

Hi Marcus,

As I upload more photos I would wish to emphasise that our key goal is to bring people from all the different sectors or facets of the society into a common alignment concerning the urgent need to rescue our precious resource, the Lake Victoria, and indeed arousing bioregional consciousness. It requires concerted efforts and a multi faceted approach from reforestation to stem the tide of chemical fertiliser laden surface runoff into waterways that eventually end up in the Lake, to proper waste management right from the household to City levels, proper consumption and utilisation of scientific research to gaining an understanding of how indigenous knowledge worked in the past, proper enforcement of laws governing the environment but also proper sensitisation of the populace and also incorporating the faith based leadership and community in disseminating critical information to the masses.

We held a pre confluence cleanup in August where we invited the scouting community from across Kisumu, college students, high school and primary school students, musicians, artists, actors, scientists, teachers and journalists to assist fisherfolk and Lakeshore community members to clean up Usoma Beach and learn from community members the challenges they face. Participants learnt that most of the plastic they collected does not emanate from the community, Armed with this information they were better able to grasp what Bioregional confluencing is about and what roles they ought to play in better caring for Nature. They were able to begin relating to what it takes to get fish to their dinner tables and the negative impact plastic pollution has on aquatic life and the Lake's waters.



References

- <https://www.oneearth.org/navigator/> - look up your own bioregion with the One Earth Navigator
- <https://www.e-c-o.net/wiki/Econet/TimberFishTechnologies>
- <https://www.e-c-o.net/wiki/Econet/UpliftingStories> - Econet's Uplifting Stories
- <https://captainplanetfoundation.org/about/our-people/michelle-muchilwa/> - History of Friends of Lake Victoria
- <https://planeteeralliance.com/blog/nam-lolwe-youth-summit/> - Youth Summit in Kenya
- <https://www.r3-0.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UNRISD-r3-SDPI-Brochure-Final.pdf>
- Thresholds of Transformation: invitation for pilot testing "The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) has developed a set of Sustainable Development Performance Indicators (SDPIs) with support from r3.0 (Redesign for Resilience & Regeneration). UNRISD is partnering with r3.0 to pilot test these indicators with For-Profit Enterprises (FPEs) and Social & Solidarity Economy Organisations and Enterprises (SSEOs)." Ralph Thurm & Bill Baue
- <https://conference2025.r3-0.org/confluence/> - Bioregional Confluencing & list of confluences
- <https://www.diggers.org/images/posters/Amble/DSC6040-Edit-3-72dpi-2000px-2.jpg> & <https://www.diggers.org/images/posters/Amble/DSC6039-Edit-72dpi-2000px.jpg>
- Amble Towards Continent Congress 1976 Peter Burg
- <https://conference2025.r3-0.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/r3.0-Conference-2025-Confluence-Guidance-Document.pdf> - Bioregional Confluencing Guidance: Conferencing → Confluencing → Congressing
- <https://cascadiabioregion.org/upcoming-events/turtle-island-bioregional-congress> - Cascadia Bioregion Turtle Island Bioregional Congress
- <https://www.ymparisto.fi/en/state-environment/nature> - state of Nature Report in Finland
- <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15487733.2022.2097507#d1e109> - Voicing relationality: the nature connectedness of young Finnish adults in the promotion of sustainability (2022) [Tuula Heln](https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2022.2097507) <https://doi.org/10.1080/15487733.2022.2097507>
- <https://www.storaenso.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2024/8/stora-enso-comments-on-environmental-incident-in-hukkajoki-finland>
- <https://andnowwhat.be/> - the advocacy partner (assistant to facilitate new confluences)
- <https://www.hylo.com/groups/biofi/chat/general> - social network from Ning people, non-commercial, this group is BioFi promoted Confluences
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969798001016> - Development of fish mercury concentrations in Finnish reservoirs from 1979 to 1994
- Author links open overlay panel. (1998) P. Porvari [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0048-9697\(98\)00101-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0048-9697(98)00101-6) – so disturbed land means high concentration with runoff.
- Climate change means more intense rainfall events with higher runoff.
- There is a similar response of crocodile attacks increasing around Lake Victoria to changed climate, higher water levels, displacement and then human interactions