

NAVIGATING THE
UNIMAGINABLE PAPER 5



oasis

School of Human Relations

EMERGING RESPONSES

oasishumanrelations.org.uk
info@oasishumanrelations.org.uk

Oasis School of Human Relations

**OASIS SCHOOL OF
HUMAN RELATIONS**

RECAP

Our world is being transformed. In every country, on every continent, ordinary people are doing extraordinary things. They are greening cities, bringing diverse communities together, growing food regeneratively. They are supporting each other through the pandemic, building local renewable energy grids, running repair shops and grief cafes.

Together, these initiatives are building a new human civilisation, from the ground up. This is a civilisation that cares deeply about people and planet. It dares to dream big and act small. It is the future. Here and now. This is an emerging civilisation based on the exchange of gifts, the regeneration of land, air and water and on harnessing the raw human potential in each and every one of us.

At the same time, something else is happening. A rapacious economy beyond political or social control is steadily destroying life on Earth.

As the pursuit of profit and economic growth speed ever faster, our window of opportunity for systemic change is shrinking. It is becoming clear that the Business As Usual path will risk the collapse of civilisation as we know it.

Yet this does not mean it risks killing off the grass-roots initiatives that are building a new world. Because they are local, decentralised and self-organised they are resilient enough to survive even the collapse of the out-going civilisation.

What's more, anyone, everyone can contribute to building the new world. Now is the time to join the movement of the future. Think Global. Act Local. Start Now!

Where is your place in the transformation?



The System will not be overthrown. It will be overgrown
Chris Taylor, The Tao of Revolution.

INTRODUCTION

The future the world needs is already happening. It's in the everyday, grass-roots initiatives of marginalised and oppressed peoples around the world. It's in the emerging movements to green cities, restore landscapes and champion the rights of indigenous peoples. In every region of the globe there is a memory of how to live in respect and harmony with the rest of the living world. Everywhere people are rediscovering these lineages and working out how to make them the bedrock of a 21st century civilisation.

These forces are transforming city centres into thriving food-growing areas. They are welcoming migrants, regenerating degraded land and transforming the way we educate. They are building Teal Organisations and finding ways to deeply distribute power and decision-making.

These efforts and initiatives begin at the margins. The most radical and fundamental change never starts in the centre of a system – that's where the status quo is strongest. Paradigm-shifting change begins in the fringes, in the places where different eco-systems touch, where the rules of the existing order do not apply, where experimentation and creativity collide with survival and commitment to future generations.

And because change begins at the margins, it is the marginalised who take the lead in the process of reimagining. Their voices, suppressed and unheard are to be placed front and centre if we truly wish to reinvent the future in a way that heals the wounds of the past. One example of this is an initiative entitled Learning From Women to Reimagine the Future, which we are proud to be supporting. This project gathers inspiring stories from women in the Global South who are already creating pockets of the future. Some of their projects are included below.

REAL WORLD EXAMPLES



Our progress towards the goal will be in exact proportion to the purity of our means
Mahatma Gandhi.

All six aspects of our Framework For Navigating Collapse are already evident across the world – often operating at the margins or in an “alternative” economy. This section explores all six areas for action in more detail and highlights examples from movements and initiatives around the world that are already starting to make a difference to the person, the system and the relationships between them.



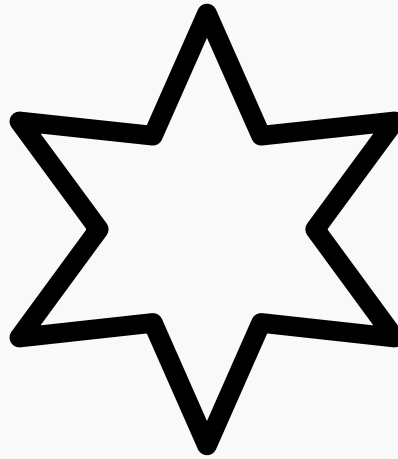
1. Whole Person Responses

6. Structural Reconciliation

2. Resilient Communities

5. Regenerative Ecosystems

3. Embracing Mass Migration



4. Resilient Systems

1. WHOLE PERSON RESPONSES

The world has seen an explosion of initiatives in the self-help and personal wellbeing field. The more grounded and comprehensive of these provide tools and approaches that helps to build personal development and growth.

Underlying this growth is the development of a person being more awake, more open of mind and heart, more in touch, more centred, more compassionate, less anxiety driven, more able to choose and be a leader in their own life. It arises from the person bringing more of themselves, learning for tomorrow, to becoming a planetary citizen - options and possibilities emerge.

Several of these initiatives have started to frame their work within the context of the climate emergency and the possibility of Collapse. These include:

WARRIORS FOR THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Established by complexity theorist and community organiser Margaret Wheatley this programme aims to develop leaders and others who are able to navigate the chaos ahead:

“Warriors for the Human Spirit are leaders, activists, and citizens who want to make a meaningful contribution in this time of increasing assaults on the human spirit and all life. To serve well, to be effective with their energy and influence, they train to refrain from fear and aggression and to embody the best human qualities of generosity, insight, and compassion.” [\(Link to quote\)](#)

Based around intensive training retreats the programme shares skills and approaches to support a community of people who can build “islands of sanity” as society passes through the Age of Decadence and Decay.



• THE WORK THAT RECONNECTS

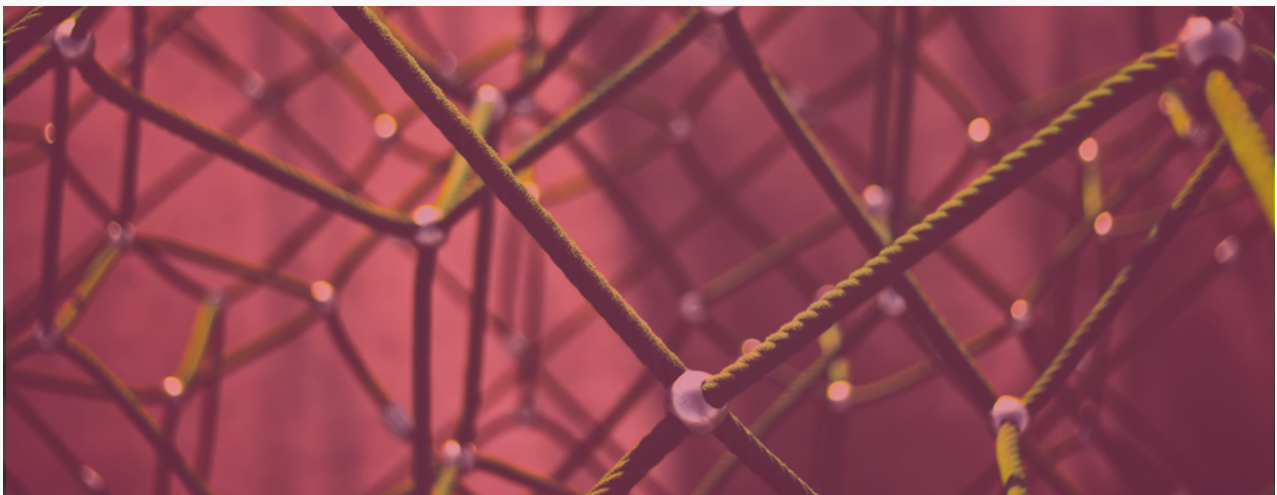
We have described this work in Paper 3. Perhaps the original programme in the West dealing with social and ecological breakdown, The Work that Reconnects helps us to process our grief and to move into Active Hope.

Based on the assumption that “The experience of reconnection with the Earth community, human and other-than-human, arouses desire to act on its behalf”, this approach encourages sensing into our relationship with the natural world, rekindling this connection and then acting to protect or repair.

Three categories of actions are identified for those willing to embrace active change ([see Active Hope](#))

- Holding actions - to prevent further harm or injustice
- Changing Actions - creating life sustaining systems and practices
- Visioning Actions - ways to shift consciousness towards greater concern and compassion

All are seen as essential, depending on the circumstances and the skills and attributes of those involved.



DEEP ADAPTATION

The Deep Adaptation Network was established in response to the groundswell of interest that followed the publication of Jem Bendell’s paper on collapse ([Link here](#)). The forum has a range of themed groups including community organising, facilitation, education, business and government. All are self-organising and comprise members from across the world.

The Deep Adaptation core team also run leadership training programmes for those wanting to reflect on their leadership approach within the context of impending collapse ([referenced here](#)).

PERSONAL RESILIENCE

One crucial aspect of our personal response to the prospect of collapse is developing personal resilience. Without it we risk falling into overwhelm or else burning out in our activism. We describe this further in Paper 3: Coming To Terms With Collapse. In essence, by resilience we mean the ability to respond to unexpected or unsettling situations and especially the process of staying in or returning to a centred feeling.

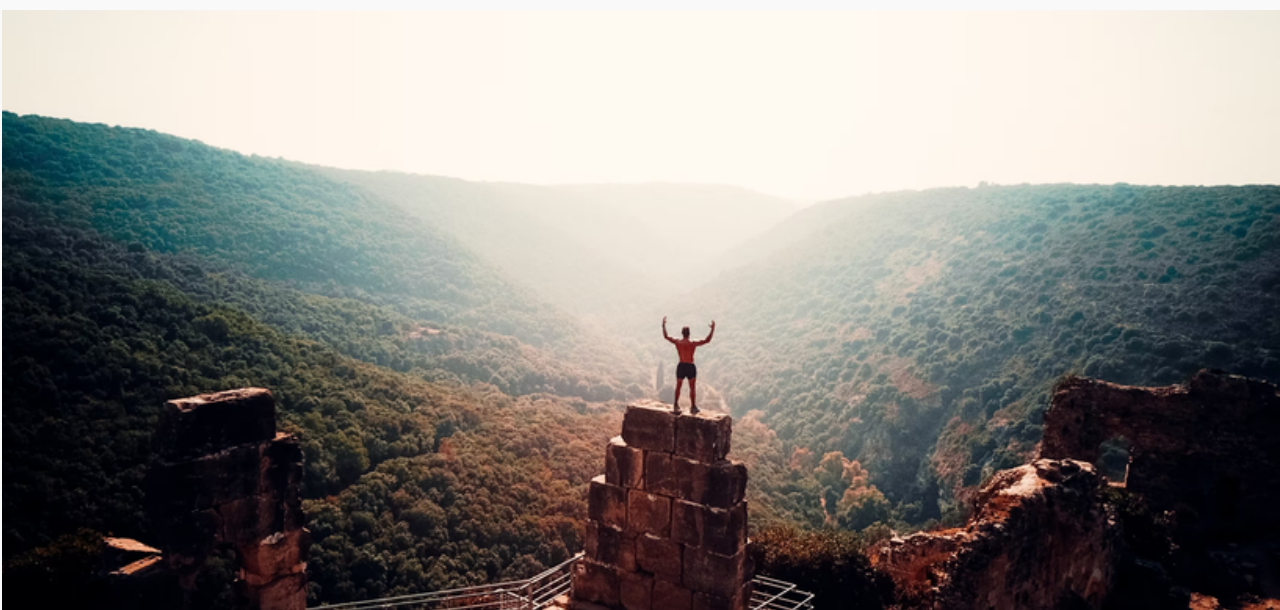
Research suggests that in a crisis groups tend to revert to past patterns and approaches because these help them to feel safe. The downside is that this can lock out innovation and flexibility. On the other hand, when there is trust and respect within a group they are able to respond more adaptively to create positive outcomes. Relationship creates possibility.

While building this kind of trust and mutual respect is becoming more common within organisations, creating it across diverse communities, across civil society and within a context of mass migration is another order of magnitude.

Throughout the coming crisis, there will be a need for us to support and hold each other through difficult times. There is some evidence to suggest what might be helpful here:

- More contact with nature
- Time to recognise and explore our differences together
- Building understanding and relationship around trust and acceptance
- Responding to crises in a way that supports self-organisation rather than defaulting to control and clamp-down
- Avoiding panic and repression
- Time to process our grief and trauma (both individual and collective).

These are some of the things that will help to build personal and community resilience. At a more therapeutic level many practitioners are starting to address climate anxiety and build resilience directly. This work is being led by the [Climate Psychology Alliance](#) and other similar organisations.



2. BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The notion of building resilience will also be crucial at the community level. Many see resilience as linked to inner resources and the way we can build these over time to help us to be more resilient. But in addition to this, resilience is intricately linked to the strength of our social and community relationships. These ties of mutual inter-dependence help to support us through good times and bad.

In our work with communities we have come to understand many of the aspects of community living that help to build resilience and cohesion across diversity. Because this is such a central aspect of building the future world.

SMALL TOWNS MAKE BIG WAVES



The Transition Network seeks to address the world's major problems by creating change at the local level. Transition Towns (and neighbourhoods) have now been established in 50 countries. They focus on a range of initiatives to build community, improve local environments and grow local organic food. There are local currencies, a wide range of practices to improve participation and a focus on creating a more sustainable and resilient future.

Transition Totnes

The Transition movement started in Totnes, a sleepy town in the South West of England. Originally a response to fears about “peak oil”, Transition Town Totnes has become the flagship for a global movement. It now boasts a wide range of initiatives including affordable housing, local food growing, community renewable energy and skill sharing. The latter works on the basis of ‘The Gift Economy’ meaning people pay what they can afford and what they believe a service is worth. Skills include cooking, gardening, basket making and eco-building.

It's all based on the premise that waiting for the government or local authorities will mean nothing changes. It's communities organising themselves that can start the transition to a sustainable future.

Kingston, New York

Another small-town radical response can be found in the US city of Kingston in New York state. It all started in 2010 with a festival that combined music, street art and free medical care. This evolved into a network of complementary initiatives that are creating an alternative economy that prepares the town for collapse if and when it comes. There's a local currency, wellness clinics, a local radio station, plenty of bike trails and a network of civic engagement opportunities.

A WORLD OF ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

The Global Eco-village Network is an umbrella organisation for local communities which organise themselves around ecological principles. It now has over 30,000 members globally. These range from small intentional communities of a few families up to thriving towns with farms, shops and other communal amenities such as laundries and communal kitchens.

Senegal has taken a leading role in recent years, with an ambitious plan to transition 14,000 villages to sustainable ecovillage status. Elsewhere, many ecovillages act as education centres to teach local people the practical skills needed to create both robust communities and resilient ecosystems. ([For a map of eco villages, go to this link](#))

3. PREPARING FOR MASS MIGRATION

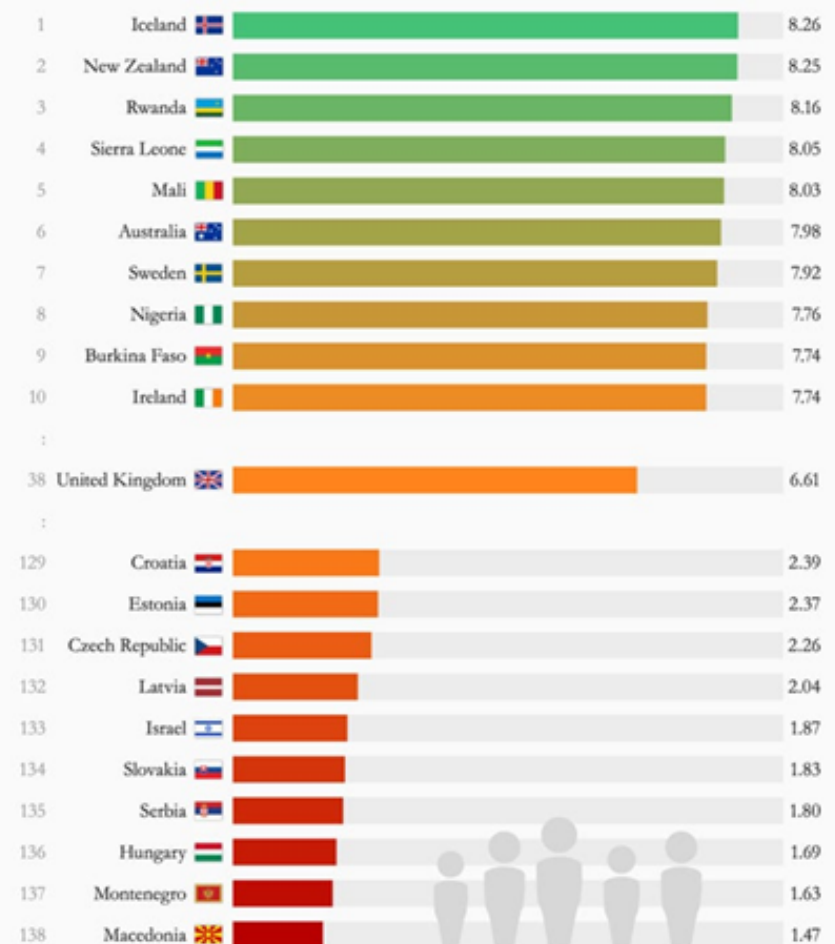
It seems certain that we will see significant shifts of people around the world. We have already seen climate related migration from Syria plus increases in displacements and migration in Central America, across the Mediterranean and in South-East Asia.

Public attitudes towards migration vary widely from country to country as this survey from 2017, conducted by Gallop shows.

It seems that unless we change attitudes towards migration we risk civil unrest, entrenched borders and the resurgence of racism, nationalism and hostility towards difference.

The countries most and least accepting of migrants

Top and bottom scoring countries in Gallup's Migrant Acceptance Index (top possible score is 9.0)



Based on three questions asked in 138 countries. Source: Gallup

INDEPENDENT statista

THE DREAMERS

United We Dream is a grassroots movement of young migrants in the United States. Many are undocumented or were born in the US to undocumented parents. With over 400,000 members they have become an effective lobbying force in US politics. In a cross-party initiative The Dreamers brought forward an act that would provide a pathway to citizenship for children brought to the US without documentation. The campaign supporting this legislation was devised and run by undocumented migrants themselves.

BEST PRACTICE IN EUROPE

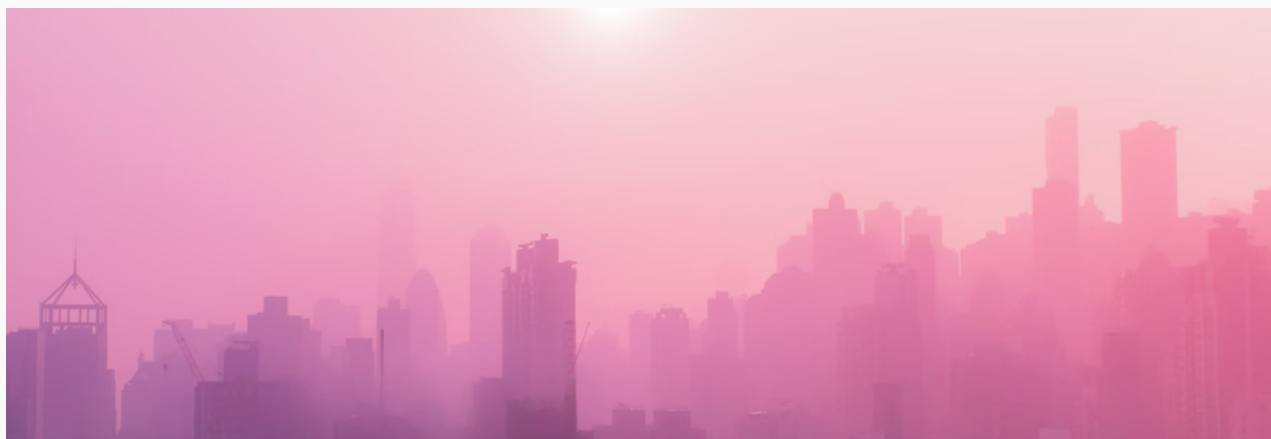
Europe experienced an unprecedented flow of migrants from around 2015 onwards. This amounted to 2.5 million in 2015-16 alone. Several countries, including Austria and Sweden enacted housing policies to provide social housing for the new arrivals. In Italy over 1,000 migrants were welcomed into the homes of Italian citizens for a six-to-nine month period to ease their integration.

EU countries also supported new arrivals with their social needs and their mental health. In France the Youth Guarantee scheme was extended, offering training, housing and health support. Some countries also provided support to access the labour market and protection against racketeering and crime.

SANCTUARY CITIES

Cities around the world have declared themselves sanctuaries for refugees and asylum seekers. They pledge to welcome refugees and see the influx of diverse cultures as an asset. Often they provide support for entrepreneurship as a way to help stimulate local economies. Examples include a number of US cities such as New York, Philadelphia and Berkley, plus a number of counties and states, including California, New Mexico and Washington. ([For an interactive map go to this link](#)).

On a less formal basis, many cities in the global south have also developed approaches to support migrants, including Amman, Kigali and Jakarta ([link here](#)). Often it is neighbouring countries in the Global South that have been doing most to accommodate and support refugees.



4. RESILIENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS

Resilient communities will be built on a network of social systems that create security and unity in difference. This is likely to be based on the reimagining and reconstruction of economy, social support and ways of decision-making (democracy).

In this section we explore a range of social systems and how these might be restructured to enhance resilience and adaptation. We focus in particular on food production, decision-making, energy and the economy.

A holistic approach to change might include elements of reducing harm, then building new social systems that are based on local resilience before moving on to more regenerative practices. This might include: protecting healthy environments, restoring degraded ones, mitigating the worst elements of change and adapting to the inevitable ones.

Certainly it would involve moving towards a civilisation that sees the Earth as a living system and formulates responses in that context. If we see the Earth as a system that is alive, intricately interrelated, with all parts playing an essential role, it completely changes our approach to the challenges we face. The focus shifts from profit and exponential growth to health, restoration, bringing abundance and thriving life.

HOLISTIC POLICY MEASURES

- Protect and expand nature reserves
- Create vast Marine Reserves
- Promote land regeneration
- Ban drift nets and bottom trawlers
- Undertake mass reforestation and afforestation
- Promote urban ecosystems and food production
- Localise all food systems
- Phase out the use of pesticides
- Institute a global moratorium on logging, mining and drilling
- Demilitarise society

From a longer list of policy measures in Charles Eisenstein, *Climate: a New Story*



BRINGING THE FARM TO THE CITY

Detroit is a city built on the automotive industry. But as that industry declined and the so-called Rust Belt spread, the city faced poverty, unemployment and rising crime. Some folk moved out, following the jobs elsewhere. Others stayed and decided to use vacant land and derelict neighbourhoods to their advantage.

Led by the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, a movement to tackle food deserts and share growing skills, was born. It now includes a seven acre urban farm, youth development programmes and a bulk-buying food cooperative.

The movement for food justice and urban farming has spread to many declining inner-city neighbourhoods - both in the US and across the world. Initiatives to green the world's inner-cities are diverse and creative, including:

- A recycling scheme led by school children in the Mexican city of Torreon (best known as a battleground for drug gangs)
- Honey production on the roof of Vienna Opera House
- The Incredible Edible town of Todmorden in North England
- Migrant-led food growing schemes in a range of European towns including Traun (Austria), Middlesbrough (England) and elsewhere
- Urban Aquaponics (fish farming) projects run by The Urban Farm Guys in Kansas City (USA).





While parliamentary democracies have many strengths they have a tendency to focus on short term objectives and to become polarised along party lines. This will make it difficult for them to develop the measures needed to address the global challenges we face. International institutions have also been powerless to marshal the global change effort required. Despite at least 26 UN sponsored climate conferences, greenhouse gas emissions have continued to rise.

Within this context, many are now looking for alternative decision-making processes based more on citizens democracy, deliberation in counsel and consensus building.

Citizen's Assemblies are an innovative approach to the exploration of challenging or divisive topics. They have been used to explore gay marriage, electoral reform and flood defences. They are based on a randomly selected group of citizens who deliberate on a complex topic having heard expert testimony from a range of advisors. The underlying theory is that careful deliberation based on good sound evidence can yield consensus and unexpected recommendations.

Citizens Assemblies have been used successfully in Ireland to explore gay marriage and abortion. They have also been used in a number of other countries including Australia, Canada and the US.

The climate movement, Extinction Rebellion has demanded a legally binding Citizens Assembly to consider how to reach a carbon neutral economy by 2025. It believes this will produce a more realistic and achievable set of proposals than government would.

Citizens Assemblies have already been used in a number of cities to explore local responses and an Assembly (which unfortunately is not binding) is being established in the UK. A Global Citizens Assembly was established to run alongside the 26th UN Climate Talks. It involved people from around the globe and its findings can be found at <https://globalassembly.org/>

OXFORD

Oxford City was the first local authority to launch plans for a Citizens Assembly to explore a local response to the climate emergency. It involved 50 randomly selected residents who were paid to attend a series of sessions over two weekends. Expert evidence was presented before residents explored detailed policy proposals.

WEST MIDLANDS YOUTH ASSEMBLY

In Birmingham and the surrounding area, the Citizens Assembly approach was targeted at young people aged 16-18. 30 young people met for a day to explore practical local solutions to four areas: energy, transport, housing and food/agriculture. Follow-on meetings brought together an authoring group which produced a detailed report of findings. The focus on youth brought energy and imagination to the process and a deep commitment to making radical change. Recommendations included:

- Normalising a vegetarian and vegan diet
- Improving draught proofing and insulation on all homes
- Making all public transport free
- Creating an energy self-reliance scheme for all local communities

FRANCE

Following mass street protests by the Gilets Jaunes, the French government agreed to a Citizens Assembly to devise recommendations to reduce the nation's greenhouse gas emissions by 40% ([see here for reference](#)). The government agreed to enact 146 of the convention's 149 recommendations, although many feel sceptical about the level of commitment from the government and the national legislature ([see here for reference](#)).



5. ECOSYSTEMS REGENERATION

Communities, cities and whole regions across the world are starting to generate innovative programmes to protect and enhance their local ecosystems. While international structures often feel unwieldy and national governments are preoccupied with short term goals, local communities are more easily rallied to the cause of environmental protection and social justice. There is more commonality of interest.

Bringing entire landscapes or ecosystems back to life has many benefits. It can increase food production, bring back diverse wildlife and provide emotional and spiritual sustenance to local people. There is also compelling evidence that it can help to halt and even reverse global climate change. (This argument is evidenced in Charles Eisenstein's seminal work: *Climate, A New Story*, North Atlantic Books).



LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

The environmental damage caused by modern economic systems might seem profound but it can usually be remedied by harnessing the power of nature to heal itself. This understanding has been the basis for indigenous farming and land stewardship for millennia. Taking inspiration from indigenous approaches, the system of permaculture has developed over the past fifty years to becoming a leading force for environmental restoration, as well as a leading form of small scale food production.

While normally applied at the level of a single garden or farm, permaculture's design systems can also apply to entire landscapes. Trained in permaculture and other associated methods, Chinese-American film-maker John Liu has documented a series of impressive initiatives to restore depleted landscapes in China, Ethiopia, and a number of other countries. In China, the restoration of the Loess Plateau, over a period of just ten years, turned a desert back into a fertile agricultural region. Over 2.5 million people were lifted out of poverty in the process. Incomes in participating households doubled, employment rose from 70% to 87% and harvests increased from an average of 365kg to 591kg per person. All due to a focus on landscape restoration.

John Liu has now moved on to found [Ecosystem Restoration Camps](#), a global initiative which is setting up projects on severely degraded land to reverse desertification and bring back fertility to whole landscapes.

Similarly, the [Regenerative Communities Network](#) is seeking to embed a regenerative approach across whole watersheds by linking projects, initiatives, businesses and others into an ecosystem of restoration and regeneration.

BRINGING LANDSCAPES BACK TO LIFE

The land at Altiplano in Spain has been severely degraded by years of deforestation and intensive agriculture. This is the site of the first Ecosystem Restoration Camp, launched in 2017. In the first year, with the aid of 41 experienced camp volunteers, 40 tonnes of compost were added and 4 hectares of land was protected from erosion. In the second year, infrastructure such as a bunkhouse and irrigation systems have been added as a foundation for long term restoration.

There are now six camps worldwide and new camps planned in Morocco, Senegal, South Africa and Thailand. The target is to involve a million volunteers by 2030.



BUILDING A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY

What would it look like if whole bioregions were based on a regenerative model? This is what is being explored in theory and practice by the Regenerative Communities Network. Eight regions across North and South America are currently working together to prototype regional change and share learning. These Regenerative Bioregions include:

- Hudson Valley, New York state
- Denver-Boulder, Colorado
- Mexico City
- Talamanca, an indigenous-led reserve in Costa Rica
- Bogota, Colombia

Another 75 applications are being processed across six continents. 40 of these are in various stages of launching. Each of these are exploring how to apply natural systems of systemic health, self-organisation and self-renewal to human society.

COSTA RICA

This small Central American country is at the forefront of developing a widescale approach towards regeneration. Led by the University for International Cooperation a national initiative [Costa Rica Regenerativa](#) is spearheading change. At the regional level there are numerous initiatives to restore landscapes, protect forests, explore regenerative agriculture and provide eco-tourism and learning opportunities.

GREENING THE AFRICAN DESERT

The Great Green Wall is an African-led movement with an epic ambition to grow an 8,000km natural wonder of the modern world. This will be a living forest that stretches across the entire width of the African continent.

A decade in and roughly 15% underway, the initiative is already bringing life back to Africa's degraded landscapes at an unprecedented scale, providing food security, jobs and a reason to stay for the millions who live along its path.

Once complete, the Great Green Wall will be the largest living structure on the planet, three times the size of the Great Barrier Reef.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Much of this regeneration of landscapes can be achieved without loss of food production. In fact, switching from chemical-intensive factory farming towards more environmentally sensitive methods can produce similar amounts of food while simultaneously enhancing soil, vegetation and wildlife.

This practice is growing globally, often under the title Regenerative Agriculture. A wide range of approaches have been developed, often to accommodate specific local or regional conditions. These include Holistic Grazing pioneered by the [Savory Institute](#) in Southern Africa, [Agroforestry](#), which has taken hold in Brazil and large-scale application of the [Permaculture](#) methods originally inspired by indigenous farming methods from Australia.



6. STRUCTURAL RECONCILIATION

In Paper 4 we argued that Reconciliation processes will help us to create a managed and peaceful transition through collapse. Without them we risk getting stuck in the anger stage of the grief curve, looking for retribution from those we feel were responsible for climate, ecological and social breakdown.

Perhaps the most well-known example of a social process of reconciliation is South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. But this is by no means the only example. Similar processes have been enacted in over forty countries to address the legacy of repressive regimes and human rights abuses.

Often based around the concept of Restorative Justice, these commissions seek to uncover hidden injustices and bring together the parties to these events (what we might refer to as the perpetrators and the victims). As such the overall aim is to find closure and where possible atonement or apology, rather than to pursue criminal charges or issue punishments.

ARGENTINA

Argentina's process of examining abuses under its military dictatorship was the first commission of modern times to report its findings. It led to a process of trials of key figures in the military junta. Several other Latin American countries also held commissions, including Bolivia, El Salvador and Guatemala.

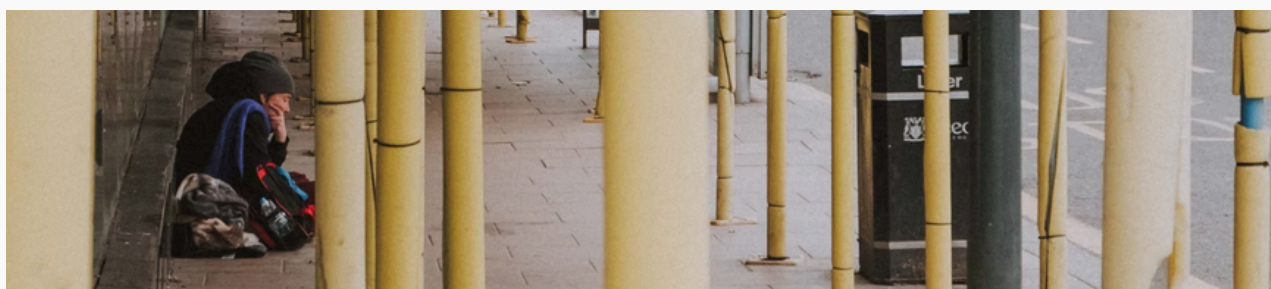
SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, chaired by Bishop Desmond Tutu heard testimony from thousands of people about the abuses of apartheid. Over 19,000 people were found to be victims of gross violations and over 7,000 people applied for amnesty from the Commission.

One notable innovation of the South African process was the use of public hearings, which added to transparency and the sense of an open and shared experience. Reviews of the process have found that both blacks and whites in South Africa see the process as having had positive impacts.

POVERTY TRUTH

A similar format has been used to surface the real-life impacts of poverty in a number of countries. Starting in Scotland, the process has spread across many cities in the UK, bringing together first-hand testimonies of the physical, emotional and communal impacts of living in poverty. Findings have then been shared with decision-makers in an attempt to influence future social policy.



REPARATIONS

A movement has also grown to spotlight the impact of colonialism and slavery, arguing that financial reparations should be paid.

Recently Glasgow University in Scotland acknowledged the debt it owed to slavery (both specifically as an institution and more generally) and paid a form of reparations by investing heavily in the West Indies.

Many museums in former colonial countries are also starting a “decolonisation” process. They are seeking to trace the origins of their various artefacts and are starting to explore whether these should be returned and/or whether the stories of how they were acquired need to be told. (*see for example*)

BENEFITS OF RECONCILIATION

At their best, these reconciliation and reparations processes can help to heal historical wounds. This allows people to come together in ways they might not have been able to otherwise. It is also important symbolically as a way to recognise past errors and establish a commitment to a different path in future.

Many climate movements across the world, particularly those led by indigenous peoples include ceremonial practices which promote reconciliation and seek forgiveness from Mother Earth.



TOWARDS AN ECO-CENTRIC CIVILISATION

When taken together, these six responses start to rewrite the DNA of human civilisation. They put the economy in service to the ecology and human life in service to the wider planetary ecosystem. The collapsing world system directs the whole of human society towards the pursuit of profit, driving a model of infinite economic growth. There is no particular reason for this - other than an ideological belief that a side-effect will be prosperity for all. But as we have seen, this model is at risk of undermining our planetary survival mechanisms.

What if we turned the whole thing on its head and made the health of the planet our focus? Because all life is mutually interconnected, this could have the side-effect of bringing health and wellbeing to human society.

What if we made the regeneration of ecosystems the focus of our future world? Not just sustainability or living within our means. But actively repairing the planet, regenerating the soil and nurturing biodiversity. What a world that would be to live in. What joy and satisfaction it would create for our children and their children for generations to come. As the examples we have showcased here demonstrate, that process is already underway. We have all the knowledge, systems and processes we need. The task now is to weave them together into a cohesive civilisation that can grow across the globe.

There is much about such a civilisation that we don't yet know. It has never before been done at a global scale and with the levels of technology we now enjoy. We are eager to explore the nature of this society. What are the principles that govern it? How will resources be stewarded? How will we organise cooperation, education, government?

This is the inquiry the future is asking us to make. When we can imagine that world we will start to create it in earnest.

