BIOREGIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMMONING
Shared Knowledge. Collective Stewardship. Regenerative Futures.
CURATE
Local & Indigenous Knowledge
SHARE
Permissioned Access & Exchange
STEWARD
In Service of Life
ACTIVATE
For Thriving Communities
LEARN & ADAPT
Through Reflection & Feedback
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r3.0 conference
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This is Not a New Idea

Vision and Goals

A federated, community-governed ecosystem for place-based and Indigenous knowledges — held digitally and relationally, connected across bioregions without flattening their differences.

STEWARD

Gather stories, practices and lived knowledge with consent — oral, somatic, spiritual, written, digital, sacred, secular.

DISCERN

Surface recurring practices, capacities, and dilemmas while preserving meaningful or unique exceptions.

REWEAVE

Share learning back into communities and across places through permissioned, reciprocal exchange.

The goal is not just a database.

It is a living learning system.

Purpose and Reason

PERCEIVED PROBLEM

Bioregions hold profound knowledge about how to live in place. Yet this knowledge is often fragmented, under-visible, and at risk of extraction or erasure with no durable bridge between local action and cross-regional learning.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The BKC project creates the relationships, processes, and infrastructure to gather, steward, and share bioregional knowledge responsibly – so places can benefit themselves and contribute to a thriving network of learning bioregions.

Knowledge is held in relationship, interpreted in context, governed by those closest to it, returned as a resource for ongoing learning.

Project Timeline

SEED PHASE

2024 - 2026

- Secondary Research
- Initial Ontology & Schema
- Preliminary Interface
- Launch Prototype
- CoIP Team Engagement
- Advisory Engagement

EMERGENT PHASE

2026 - 2027

- Protocols & Permissions
- Primary Research
- Pattern Discernment
- Ontology Refinement
- Initial Governance Design
- Pilot Workflows & Training

GROWTH PHASE

2028+

- Expand Bioregional Coverage
- Deepen Interoperability
- Refine Governance
- Strengthen Steward Capacity
- Iterate BKC Playbook
- Bioregional Financing

Commons Design

FEDERATED STRUCTURE

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Stewarded within specific bioregion: context-specific, ecological knowledge, cultural practices, and governance. Communities retain full authority.

Owned and governed by bioregional communities, Indigenous knowledge holders

META KNOWLEDGE

Federated, connective layer that surfaces shared patterns across territories and supports co-creation of tools and methodologies.

Populated only where local communities grant permissions

FRACTAL PATTERN

PRINCIPLES REPEAT

Knowledge sovereignty, consent, reciprocity, stewardship, community authority operate locally and shape relationships among bioregions and wider knowledge commons.

NESTED WHOLENESS

Bioregions retain control of own situated knowledge while selectively contributing permissioned patterns and learning to larger network — connection without centralization or flattening difference.

RECURSIVE LEARNING

Commoning can occur locally, across a bioregion, among bioregions, allowing patterns discovered at one scale to inform—and be transformed by—learning at others.

Core Commitments

Knowledge Sovereignty

Communities maintain control over their knowledge, access, uses, and circulation.

Epistemic Justice

We redress historical harms and honor Indigenous and non-dominant knowledge systems

Ontological Pluriversality

We recognize multiple ways of knowing and being – no single framework [or term] is universal.

Inherent Complexities

SHARE | PROTECT

A commons is not synonymous with open access. Some knowledge should remain bounded, oral, sacred, or local.

PATTERN | SPECIFICITY

Cross-place patterns can reveal learning — and can erase minority practices or local meaning.

DIGITAL | RELATIONAL

Platforms can widen access, but relationship, ceremony, and embodied knowledge resist digitization.

MUTUALITY | BIASES

Common language can enable mutual understanding while risking misappropriation of cultural and ontological uniqueness.

SCALE | STEWARDSHIP

Federation can increase reach while creating maintenance, governance, and capacity burdens.

AI | HUMAN JUDGMENT

AI may surface hypotheses at scale, but consent, provenance, and human stewardship remain non-negotiable.

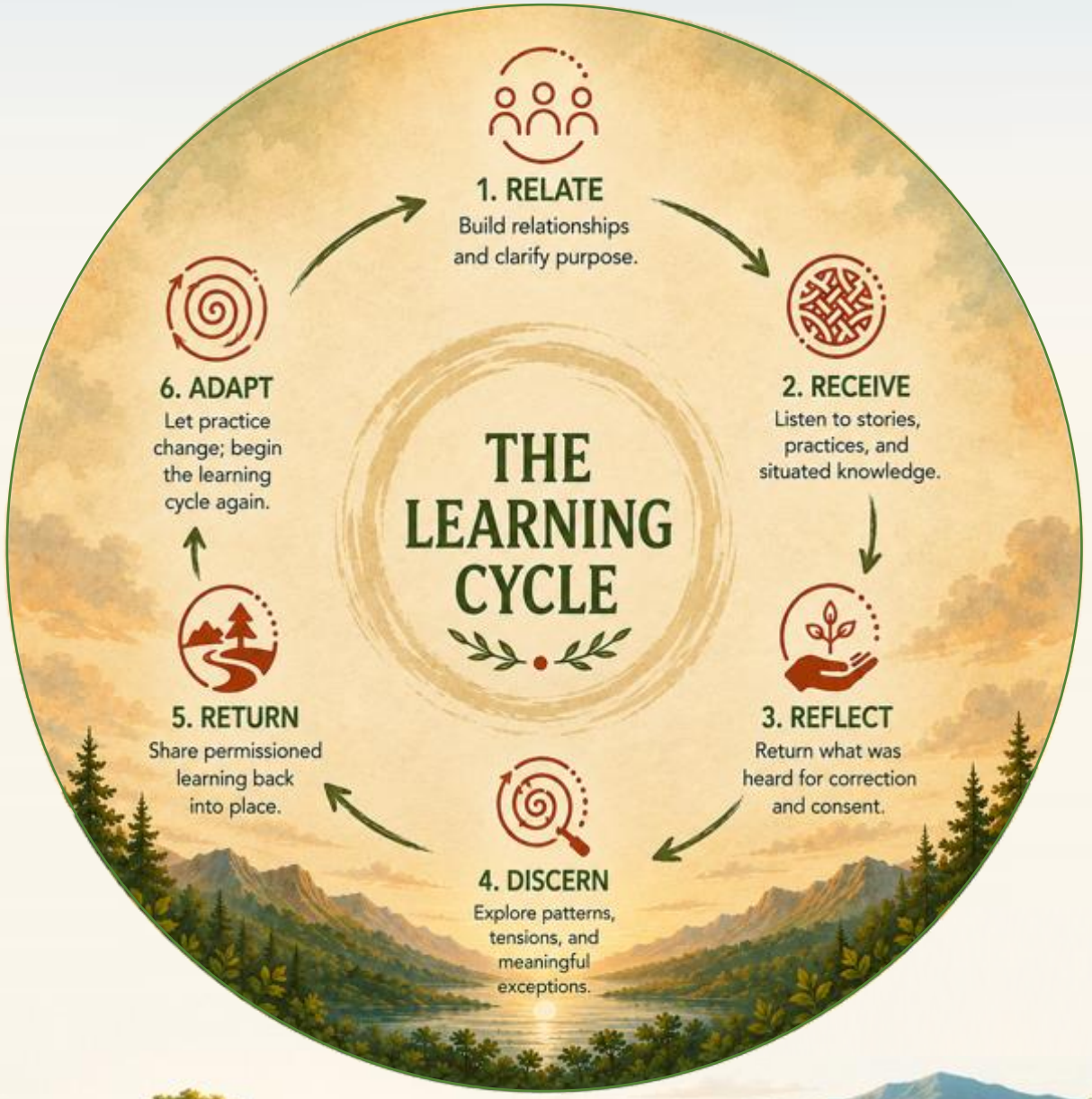
Emergent Phase

PRIMARY RESEARCH

- Engagement
- Patterning

CORE VALUES

- Relationship
- Reciprocity
- Co-Creation
- Care and Consent



Engagement Protocol

1 INVITATION

Optional first call to build trust, clarify purpose, explain the BKC, permissions, and understand boundaries.

2 AGREEMENT

Confirm consent, access, recording, attribution, sharing, circulation, and withdrawal.

3 GATHERING

Open-ended questions to glean stories, practices, situated knowledge.

Oral sharing to maintain context.

Multiple participants for 360° perspective.

4 REFLECTION

Validate, reflect back, clarify, and honor what was shared.

Return transcript/ recording and a practice reflection for correction and approval.

5 STEWARDSHIP

Store source, provenance, permissions, and context together; private by default where unclear.

Ask how we can be useful? Stay in relationship.

Advisory Insights: Engagement

ENGAGE RELATIONALLY

- Begin with relationship-setting, not information gathering.
- Make participation optional and purpose explicit.
- Use open-ended questions that let people describe their work in their own terms.
- Treat every diagnostic as an intervention: the encounter should offer value, not merely take information.

STEWARD RESPONSIBLY

- Clarify recording, transcript, attribution and sharing permissions before use.
- Return recordings/transcripts and interpretations for review.
- Respect oral, sacred and non-digitizable knowledge forms.
- Attend to representation, power, language, geography and who can responsibly speak for a place.

Ontology Before Taxonomy

START WITH MEANING

- How do you understand your relationship with place?
- What brought this initiative or your efforts into being?
- Are you trying to change anything? If so, what and why?
- Who and what relationships make the work possible?

TAKE THEIR LEAD

- Governance and power
- Provisioning and resource flows
- Knowledge stewardship
- Trust & Indigenous relationships
- Finance and sustainability

Explore these domains through language and relationships that emerge to prevent categories from becoming the taxonomy we're warning against.

DISCERN NOT REDUCE

- What assumptions proved wrong?
- What did you have to unlearn and relearn?
- What practices travel and what must stay rooted?
- What would enable the next stage?

Patterning Protocol

1 PREPARE

Clarify questions, scope, and permissions.

Begin with documented practice and permitted stories.

2 CURATE

Synthesize insights with content and provenance.

Link pattern to sources, limits, permissions and revision history.

3 DISCERN

Look for recurring relationships, not sameness.

Look for counterexamples, exceptions, and ontological mismatch.

4 RETURN

Return patterns for reflection, validation, and testing in community.

Invite correction, renaming, rejection and contextualization.

5 SHARE

Refine and share what's appropriate, with proper attributions and permissions.

Let practice evolve; begin learning cycle again.

Advisory Insights: Patterning

PRELIMINARY PRINCIPLES

- **PATTERNS, NOT PRESCRIPTIONS:** Find recurring dynamics without creating universal formulas.
- **RESONANCE, NOT SAMENESS:** Look beneath different practices for shared relational patterns.
- **CONTEXT IS CONSTITUTIVE:** A pattern takes its particular form from place, culture, and circumstance.
- **RELATIONSHIPS, NOT CATEGORIES:** Discern how elements interact rather than simply sorting them into buckets.
- **RECURRING ACROSS SCALES:** Patterns can recur within and among commons without requiring uniformity.

What’s Next

NOW · FALL 2026

Finalize engagement guidance

Consent + knowledge sovereignty defaults; interview roles; question arc; prototype outreach.

NEXT · FALL 2026

Prototype + test engagement

Test with select bioregions; return transcripts/reflections; document what breaks and what builds trust.

SOON · 2026–27

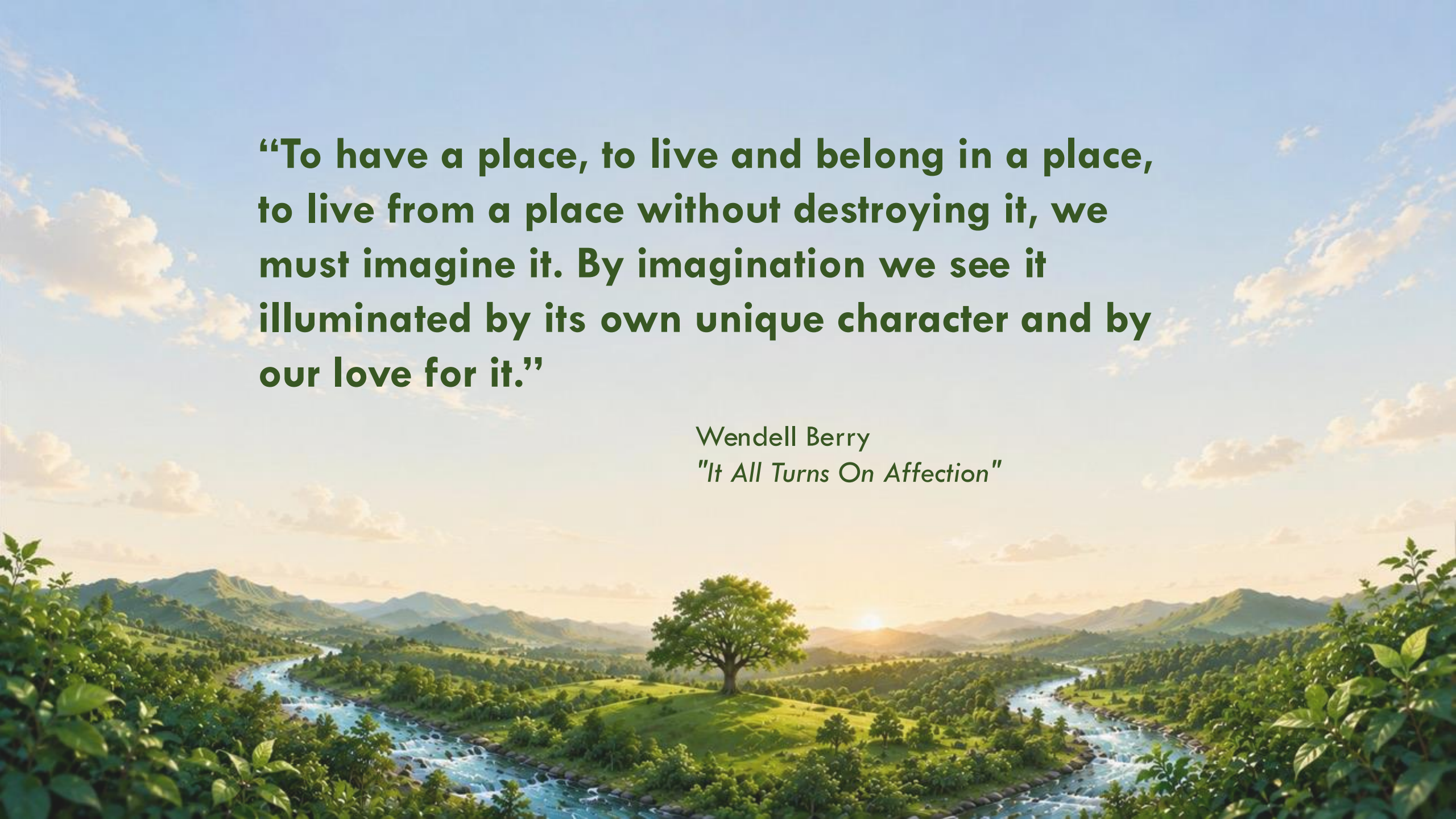
Discern + validate patterns + refine

Refine coding after interviews; run pattern discernment; preserve exceptions and ontology.

THEN · 2027

Build commons + feedback + training

Integrate permission-aware infrastructure; steward review; community validation and training.


“To have a place, to live and belong in a place, to live from a place without destroying it, we must imagine it. By imagination we see it illuminated by its own unique character and by our love for it.”
Wendell Berry
"It All Turns On Affection"