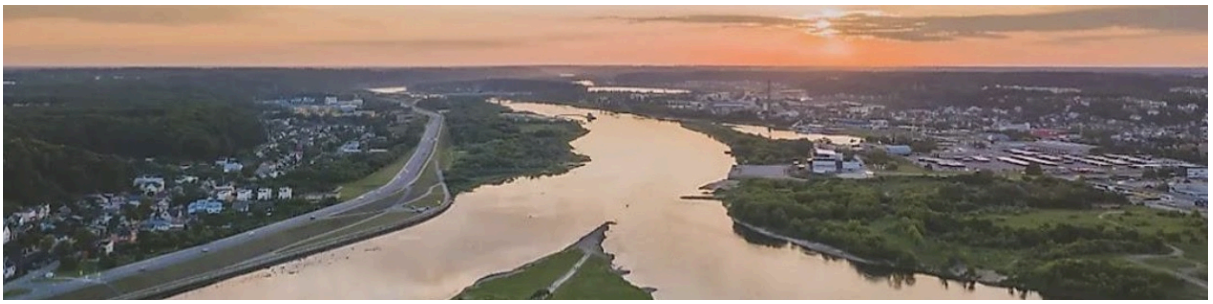
Redesign
Resilience
Regeneration

AND NOW WHAT

Bioregional Confluencing Guidance:
Conferencing → Confluencing → Congressing



r3.0 Open Dialogues on Bioregioning
January - December 2025

→

12th International r3.0 Conference (Online) + Bioregional Confluences
9 & 10 September 2025

→

Global Confluence Debrief Day
11 September 2025

→

Monthly Continental Confluence Debrief Days
October - December 2025

→

Bioregional Congressing
2026?

→

Continental Bioregional Congressing
2027?

→

Planetary Bioregional Congressing
2028?

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This brochure was developed by r3.0 and Advocation Partner AndNowWhat as guidance to support Confluence Organizers logistical and content-related organization of Confluences. This is Version 1.0.

1. Introduction to r3.0 2025 Conferencing: *A series of interconnected, mutually reinforcing events*

We welcome you wholeheartedly to the r3.0 Conferencing process – in particular the Confluences convening in parallel in bioregions around the world. This *Bioregional Confluencing Guidance* document, developed by r3.0 and its Advocation Partner AndNowWhat, aims to support you, Confluence Organizers, in the stages of the process, from registration to planning and designing, to convening to documentation to debriefing. You are receiving this document now because you've taken the first step: you registered on the Confluence Expression of Interest Google Form!

Overall, Confluences are part of a broader process of r3.0's 2025 *Convening Strategy* in support of the Bioregioning Movement. This Confluencing also fits into a bigger picture of revitalizing the practice of Bioregional Congressing, which combines gathering and governance. Bioregional Congressing has a half-century history that peaked in the three decades from 1980-2010 with Continental Bioregional Congresses convening 10 times in North America. Our goal is to support Congressing at the bioregional scale, then the Continental scale, then the Planetary scale in the coming years. We're honored you're taking the first step in this bigger process!

Here's a snapshot of this process in 2025:

Monthly Open Dialogues seeding Conference Themes

r3.0 is hosting a series of monthly Open Dialogues on Bioregioning, all of which plant thematic seeds to bloom at the Conference (and beyond!) The series soft-launched in 2024 with Session 0.1 on the history of Bioregional Congressing, and a follow-up Session 0.2 braiding "waves" of bioregionalists.

The 2025 Season kicked off with Session 1 exploring *Histories of Bioregioning,* followed by Session 2 on *Bioregioning & Permaculture*, Session 3 spotlighting the *South Asia Bioregionalism Working Group*, and Session 4 on *Bioregioning in Australia.* You can find recordings and slide decks for past Sessions, as well as details on upcoming Sessions, on the Open Dialogues Landing Page.

Online Conference (9 & 10 September): 4 Themes + much more

The heart of r3.0's 2025 Convening activity is the **12th International r3.0 Conference** happening online on September 9 & 10. The overarching theme is *Braiding Bioregional Resilience & Regeneration: Learning To Reinhabit Earth Together*, with a Program covering 4 themed Panel Sessions (with 4 Speakers each):

- Session1: *Bioregional Earth – Braiding Bioregions Globally Across 3 Horizons*

- Session2: *Two-Eyed Bioregional Knowledge Commons – Braiding Patterns & Practices Across Cultures*
- Session3: *Bioregional Co-Governance – Pluriversal Self-Determination*
- Session4: *Bioregional Resourcing – Regenerating & Sustaining Diverse Resource Flows*

The Conference also features Keynote Sessions with Joe Brewer and Lyla June Johnston, an Embodied ProSocial Matrix process, Bioregional Art, and more.

Local Bioregional Confluences across 5 Continents

We invite the bioregional curious and the bioregional committed to gather in-person in small- and medium-sized groups and larger teams to screen the Conference together on September 9 & 10. These **Confluences** also serve as opportunities for bioregions to pursue their own deliberations on coordination and self-governance work outside the screening times.

The timing of the Conference aligns well with about half of global time zones, but misaligns with the other half of global time zones, so to navigate this time-zone spread, we will share Conference recordings as soon as feasible with Confluences in misaligned time zones, and host Confluence Debrief Days at times convenient for them within a week after the Conference.

As you will see further below, Confluences, pending the level of depth and breadth, can go well beyond what is intended in this flow aligned with the Conference and Debrief. This Guidance Document will help you with that up to a certain degree. Our Advocation Partner AndNowWhat, who have helped with this brochure, can be contacted for more support, if you wish.

Global Confluence Debrief Days (11 and 18 September)

After the 2-day Conference, we will host a **Global Confluence Debrief Day** on 11 September to share cross-bioregional learnings. Each Confluence will have an opportunity to present their reflections on the Conference content as well as on their own deliberations and developments. We will offer a second opportunity on 18 September for those in time zones that misalign with the Conference timing – we expect they will be able to hold their in-person Confluences by watching the Conference recordings, which will be made available to them immediately after the Conference – enabling them to view the recordings together by 17 September.

The Day is themed ***Ambling Toward Planetary Bioregional Congressing*** in a nod to Peter Berg's 1976 essay, *Amble to Towards Continent Congress*, which planted seeds for the practice of congressing to emerge 4 years later at the bioregional scale, with the first Ozark Area Community Congress (OACC)

in 1980, and 8 years later at the continental scale with the first North America Continental Bioregional Congress (CBC) in 1984.

Continental Congress Pre-Ambles (Oct-Dec 2025)

To support the amble toward continental bioregional congressing, we will host **Congress Pre-Amble** sessions on a continental basis in the months after the Conference – from October to December 2025. r3.0 will work with Confluence Organizers throughout each continent to co-create a program that honors the context of the bioregions in each continent. The ultimate goal is to seed the practice of Congressing at a bioregional scale next year, followed by continental scale Congressing the year after, and Congressing at the planetary scale the year after that. More on this will be developed and communicated in the coming months.

2. What is Confluencing? An Introduction

The term *confluence* originates from Late Latin term cōnfluentia ("a flowing together, conflux"), and refers specifically to "the act of combining that occurs where two rivers meet" and more generally to "a convergence or combination of forces, people, or things; flow or run together".

We recognize there is no one-size-fits-all model for Confluences and Confluencing. How *you* choose to organize your Confluence will depend on your own bioregional context. We invite Confluence Organizers to adopt an *emergent* approach.

Facilitating emergence with direction starts by acknowledging:

- different levels of maturity and systems understanding;
- different initial ideas about how to build group-coherence and align priorities;
- different appetites and capacities for self-organising;
- different levels of understanding of bioregioning and your bioregion; and
- different levels of collapse awareness / acceptance / resilience (which affects priorities and sense of urgency).

All of these influence the speed and depth of coherence achievable.

In our context, we define a **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.

Confluences can involve **various levels of intent, direction, ceremony and facilitation** to guide **emergent outcomes**. **Simple guidance** supports emergence, and, as times are urgent, we also need agreed **direction** – which means thinking about where we are now, where we are headed, with whom, how quickly we can move, and how we can self-organise for greater efficiency and effectiveness within the boundaries we agree on. Joe Brewer might describe it as gathering to *"experience what it feels like to be in a web of human relationships that all act in service to the healing of a territory."*

Simple Confluencing Guidance

Based on the experience of prototyping and piloting the Confluence model in Belgium in parallel with the 2024 r3.0 Conference, And Now What (ANW) offers some of its learnings on creating conditions for emergence:

- **Prioritize Relationality**: Aim for ***connection before content.*** If people do not know each other, you'll need to create some space to get to know each other (especially if that is your networking intent!). If people do, you might need to give them time to catch-up and collectively connect with the gathering question and the bigger systems context;
- **Center Intentionality:** Consciously ***ponder your intent*** and the level of ambition for organizing your local Confluence – including *outcomes* you might aim for *beyond* the Confluence;
- **Identify Confluencers**: Consider ***who*** (not just names, but also constituencies and roles) you want to invite as participants and/or co-facilitators, and match your invitation and communication process accordingly;
- **Design Emergently:** Plan a program with sufficient structure, while simultaneously allowing ample space for the unexpected to emerge, thus envisioning desired outcomes while inviting generative energy;
- **Create "Safe Enough" Containment**: Match the depth of ***facilitation and holding space*** according to the level of group coherence.

To get you kick-started, we will offer some initial guidance here. For those who want to dig a little deeper, r3.0 will schedule at least two online sessions with ANW where we will provide further guidance as well as answer questions.

Assess Current Context: *Where are we now?*

Before you design a Confluence, it pays to appraise where you are starting from. What you can reasonably expect to achieve will depend on your local **bioregional context** and how well-prepared you are to deal with whatever comes up when you bring people together. If you already have a mature network or ecosystem of networks, then you will likely already have a deep understanding and practical experience in much of what follows.

Keeping in mind *both* yourself (and your organizing team if you have one) *and* your (potential) participants, you might consider these three dimensions of context:

Connection

Questions to ask:

- How well-connected are (potential) participants already?
- Are there already mature networks and trustworthy relationships?
- Are there organisations that already bring multiple bioregional parties together?
- Could you partner with anyone?
- Do people already share a common context (e.g. positive example: a well-run annual festival that gathers bioregional players; negative: shared bad experience of a natural disaster & poor institutional response)?
- Are there power imbalances?
- Is there unresolved trauma that might surface?
- Etc.

If there is no connection at all, we recommend designing a 'get to know each other' phase either before or at the start of the Confluence.

If there *is* a pre-existing connection, we recommend a first, quick assessment of **the level(s) of networking that already exist** *before* designing your Confluence (see the next section, Project Your Direction: *Where to head post-Confluence?*).

Content Proficiency

Questions to ask:

- How much do people already know about bioregioning?
- Are there already maps, books, and Indigenous knowledge about your bioregion or important elements (natural features, land use, cultural landmarks, etc)?

- Are there initiatives and organisations that are already doing aspects of bioregioning?
- Is there a critical mass of people ‘on the same page’ already, and just waiting for the opportunity to self-organise?
- Etc.

The newer the content, the more time and space participants will need to integrate – even more so for those for whom English is not their native language.

As sustainability psychologist Renee Lertzman says: *design to energise - not to drain and fatigue*.

Collapse Awareness / Acceptance / Resilience

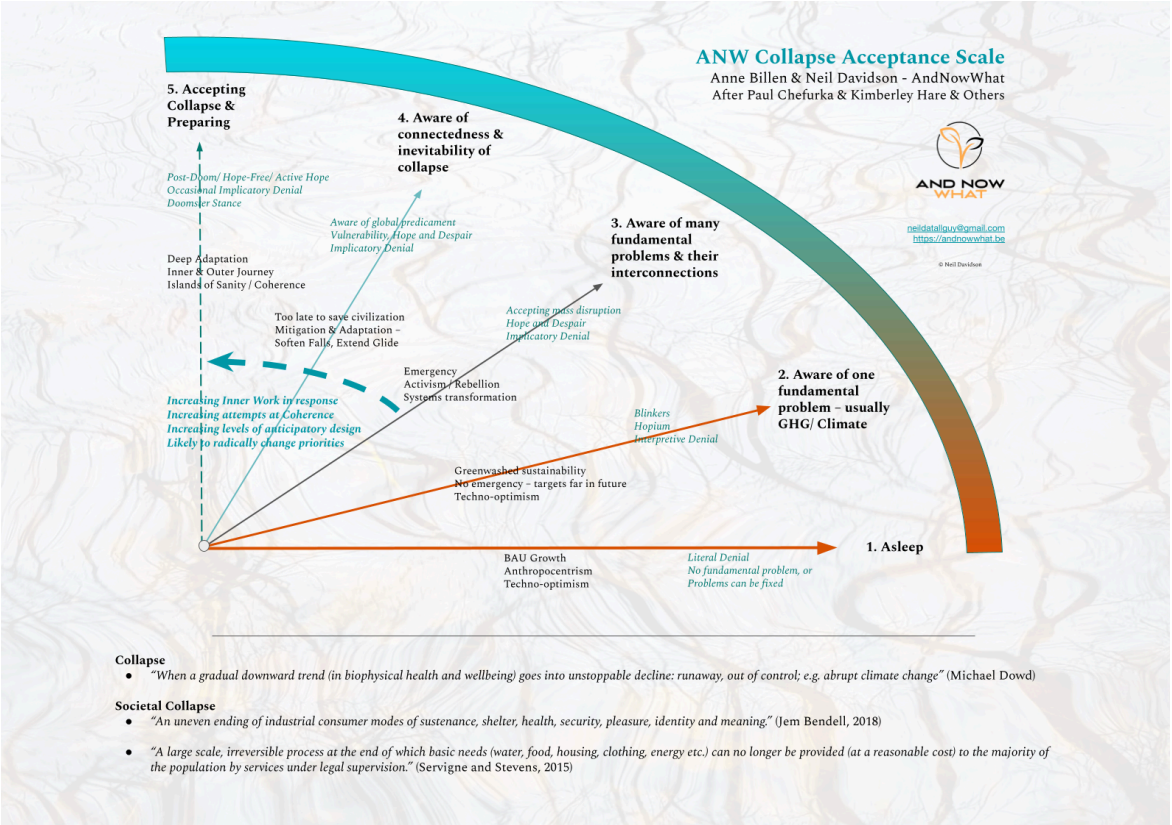
Just as varying sea conditions should inform fit-for-purpose boat design, collapse-awareness informs pragmatic design for resilience, and collapse-acceptance can change it again, until participants gain skills and understanding for collapse resilience. Deeply grokking our global predicament (some call it polycrisis or metacrisis) has a fundamental impact on individual agency, sense of urgency, and evaluation of (collective) priorities.

Consequently, collapse can be a difficult issue. It takes courage to raise the spectre of collapse, especially if others are in denial—but denial doesn’t make it go away—which is why we are making it explicit at the pre-design stage to ease the way.

In our experience, collapse *will* be present, if not in the framing or specific presentations, then at least in the hearts and minds of most people who participate (even if not expressed). For example, several speakers in the first r3.0 Open Dialogue (Histories of Bioregionalism) have already mentioned collapse, and social-media feedback from participants has mentioned the impact this had on them. There will be different individual levels of acceptance and comfort to deal with it on a personal and public level, yet effective self-organisation requires alignment of direction, purpose, and priorities.

The extent to which Confluence Organisers and Facilitators *can* hold space for their group, depends on the level of depth and processing they have personally achieved.

Consider where you might position yourself in this diagram – and where your participants might position themselves:



Consider to what extent you are willing and able to make and hold space for this dimension, as it *will* impact individual choices, individual priorities, and collective alignment around priorities for future resilience.

If you are inviting this level of depth you (and your team) will need adequately designed spaces, structures, and facilitation tools / skills, as well as a holistic approach that engages head, heart, and body.

And Now What has some guidance to offer as to how to facilitate and hold *'safe-enough space'* for what we call *Courageous Conversations*; leading up to, or as components of, what we expect will become *Courageous Confluences.*

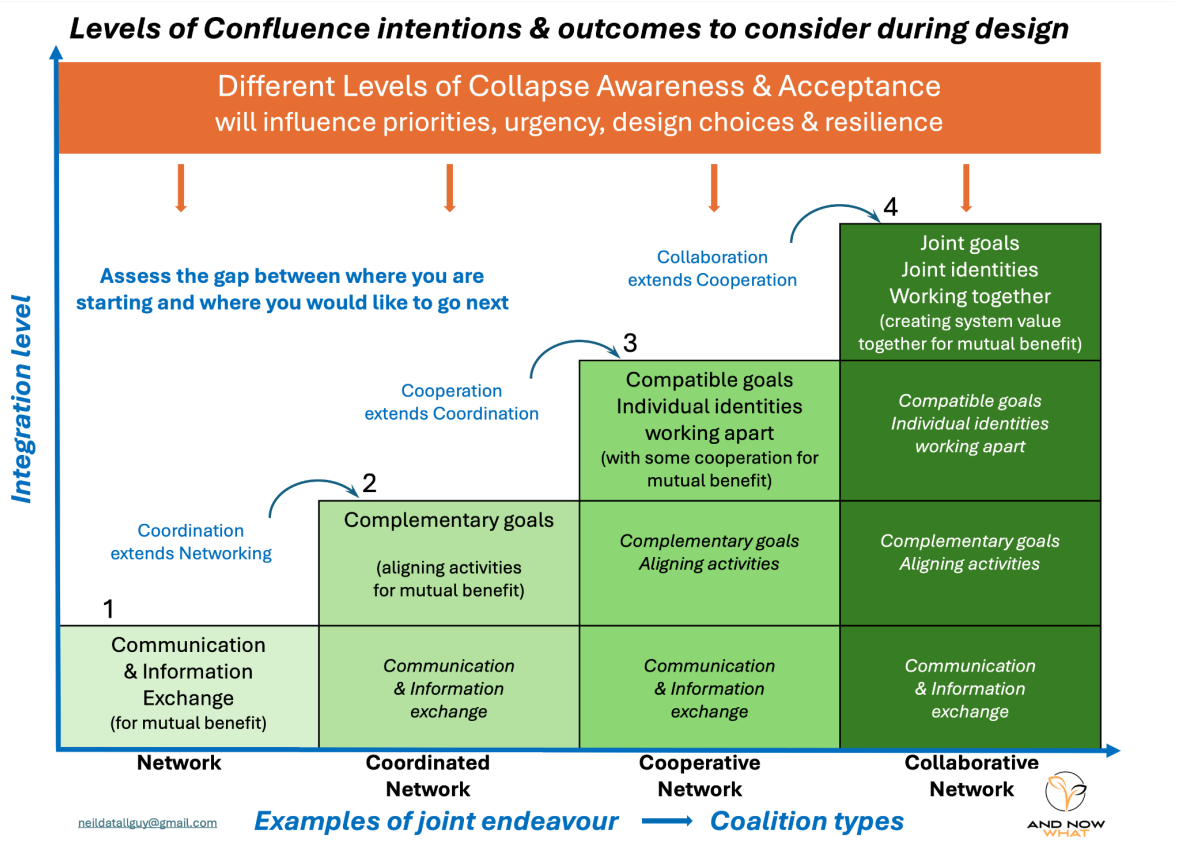
Project Your Direction: *Where to head post-Confluence?*

The **direction** of our 2025 Confluences is set by its tagline, ***Ambling Toward Continental Bioregional Congressing****,* as well as the 2025 r3.0 Conference Theme, ***Braiding Bioregional Resilience & Regeneration: Learning to Reinhabit Earth Together.***

This is our common *Guiding Star* that will be highlighted through the curated content. A Confluence *event* is not the destination; it is a *next step* on a path toward self-organizing bioregional resilience—to move *away from* approaches that no longer serve our context, and thereby confront collapse while accelerating resilience and regeneration. The speed at which you can move will depend on how well people are able to align and self-organise to move coherently.

The way your Confluence engages with the online Conference content depends on your own context – some Confluences may lean on it heavily for early-stage learning, while others will tune into the nuances of advanced-stage bioregioners. As well, we expect Confluencers will use the opportunity of time together to advance your own bioregional priorities. Remember: Congressing combines gathering and governance, so we support bioregions to advance internal organizing efforts.

To offer some scaffolding we have built on a diagram from this paper on network integration. It describes different types of coalitions *"along a continuum from networking to collaboration, and the increasing amounts of common goal-oriented risk taking, commitment, and resources participants invest into the joint endeavor."* These are shown as building blocks - we advise you hold them loosely; they are to help scaffold pragmatic thinking, direction and next steps, not distinct end-points.



When you contemplate your local Confluence and context, what type of process and result do you have in mind? Remember to mind the gap between where you are and where you hope to go!

- **A networking event for a collective download** of r3.0 content, with some collective integration and feedback (Level 1)
- **Deeper explorations of the impact** of this content on each participant's life in your bioregional context (inner & outer work): '*what does this new knowledge/experience mean to me?'* + *'what can we do together that we cannot do alone?'* (Levels 2 & 3 - complementary or compatible goals.) Here, more design and deeper facilitation might be required to achieve alignment of directions and priorities.
- **An exploration of joint goals (and potential joint identities)** in service of growing toward a place-based Island of Coherence. In this case, the Confluence content will likely be embedded in a larger (ongoing?) process of aligning people/ stakeholders towards committed *awareness based collective action* and potential co-constitution for bioregional governance. How *will* we learn to reinhabit Earth together? How *will* we govern ourselves?

In Chapter 4 we will explore in a bit more detail some of the characteristics and design questions you might consider at each level.

(If you're new to this, remember: any level of networking is better than trying to go it alone!)

3. Three Confluencing Scales

We are foreseeing confluences to be different in size and nature. In general, to keep it easy, we have clustered these sizes into three groups. This also helps to assess financial support that r3.0 is able to support confluence organizers with. The 3 levels of Confluences are:

- ***Living Room Confluence****:* small (~5-10 people), self-hosted gatherings, geared toward the *bioregional curious* who are early in their journeys (€3k available to share equally amongst Confluences)

- ***Bioregional Group Confluence***: mid-sized (~10-20 people) gatherings of emerging bioregional groups in need of logistical support to host in their own venues (€6k available to share equally amongst Confluences)

- ***Bioregional Team Confluence****:* larger (20+ people) gatherings of more established bioregional teams needing to rent venues and support more complex logistics (€12k available to share equally amongst Confluences).

Three-Step Confluencing Process: Design | Convene | Debrief

We've distilled the Confluencing process down to Three Key Steps (with one Pre-Step and one Continuous Step), which we walk you through below.

The fact that you have this document in-hand means that you have (most likely) already taken the **Pre-Step**: you have filled out the ***Confluence Expression of Interest Form*** (here). (An optional next step is to share this link with others in your network who are bioregional curious or bioregional committed, so they can take this pre-step.)

We accept Expressions of Interest from Confluence Organizers until 31 May 2025, based on our belief that three months (June through August) is the minimum time needed to design a successful Confluence. After that, we think it doesn't make sense to start an organizing and immersion process – we encourage folks who remain interested to register for the Conference itself.

And we strongly encourage Confluence Organizers to apply a **Continuous Step: Document** activities throughout the entire process to add to **Bioregional Knowledge Commons** that archive the key *practices* and *protocols* that underpin the act of bioregioning – in this instance, Confluencing in particular.

Design

This first step comprises the lion's share of work, and accordingly, we have already provided significant guidance above, in the *Simple Guidance*, *Assess Current Context*, and *Project Your Direction* sections. And we provide deeper guidance in the next Chapter, *4-Level Scaffolding for Confluence Organizers*.

In addition, we at r3.0 will host (with our Partner AndNowWhat) a set of 2-3 ***Confluence Design Calls*** for Confluence Organizers to provide further guidance and answer questions. We will convene these *Calls* 3:00 - 4:30pm UTC on 8 and 22 April, and on 14 May if needed, leaving 2-3 weeks in between to digest the content and get clarity about the further planning. We will record all these *Confluence Design Calls* to share with those who register Confluences after the calls were held.

These *Calls* will be held on the r3.0 Zoom line (see below) and calendar invites will be sent to all Confluence Organizers who expressed interest in the Expression of Interest Form:

https://zoom.us/j/4785801785?pwd=RU50bUFWSG5wUnBBc21JMFUyaEhyUT09
Meeting ID: 478 580 1785
Passcode: 902564

We envision our Conference content on bioregioning to be only one element of Confluences. Importantly, another key element is bioregions using Confluences as an opportunity to develop and advance their self-governance in collaborative ways that braid together the diverse cultures contained within the bioregion. This governance element is a key distinguishing feature of Bioregional Congressing, so we believe it's a fundamentally important element to start integrating into the Confluencing process.

Toward that end, we are in conversation with both OpenCivics and MetaGov about co-hosting a workshop to co-create templates / playbooks on integrating governance into Confluencing (and future Congressing). This work can draw on the long history of Bioregional Congressing, with knowledge and experience held by many practitioners (including David Haenke, perhaps the most informed Bioregional Congressing practitioner, who will keynote the Global Confluence Debrief Day.) More on that to come.

Convene

Screening the r3.0 Conference is an instigating invitation for Confluences, so a focal aspect of the convening will be setting up a means for viewing the Conference together (ideally a large screen with an ample sound system for collective viewing). The next Section (*4-Level Scaffolding for Confluence Organizers*) provides copious guidance on how to provide support for the convening process.

And the Conference material is only one element of Confluencing; we expect Confluences to also serve the needs of the specific bioregional contexts in the places where they're hosted. Given that Confluences are autonomous, we leave it to Confluence Organizers to discern the bioregion-specific priorities as complementary focal points.

From a logistical perspective, we recognize that our ambition of global reach butts up against the reality of time zone spreads. Accordingly, we will record the Conference Sessions and make these recordings available to Confluences convened in time zones that misalign with the Conference timing, for them to view at their convenience before the Global Confluence Debrief Days.

Debrief

We expect a rich experience at each Confluence, and an even richer experience on the **Global Confluence Debrief Days** convening 11 and 18 September, in the wake of the 2 days of Conferencing (we will host a subsequent Debrief Day to accommodate Confluences in time zones that don't align with the Conference timing.)

The primary goal of the Debrief Day is two-fold: first, to invite Confluences to reflect on their own learnings and developments during their time together engaging with the Conference content and their own deliberations; and second, to braid learnings between bioregions, such that the individual Confluences flow together into a larger *Confluence* across Continents and across the world.

We encourage Bioregional Confluences to further debrief internally in the weeks and months after the September convening.

In the remainder of the year after the Conference, we will host monthly **Congress Pre-Ambles** on a Continental basis, to support bioregions transition from Confluencing to Congressing – first at the Bioregional scale, as a precursor to the Continental scale. We believe that this transition process will be most successful to pursue in continental cohorts.

4-Level Scaffolding for Confluence Organizers

And Now What has developed a 4-level scaffold to support Confluence Organizers to identify the degree of ambition and developmental maturity of their bioregional group / team, in order to match the facilitation plan to the specific bioregional context.

Level 1: Networking: *Top down & horizontal communication & information exchange for mutual benefit*

Core Intent:

- Bring a group together around the shared r3.0 Conference content

- Benefit from the shared knowledge base provided
- Enjoy each others' company, share (learning) experience(s),
- Unstructured dialogue, networking, open for what wants to emerge
- At this level, organizers feel no need (or capacity, yet?) to *predefine* what might happen *after* the gathering - aspirations *might* emerge spontaneously during the Confluence (or not: which is OK!)

Tips:

- ***Before the Confluence:***
  - Consider organisation & logistics: scale, venue, catering, budget,…
  - Communication:
    - Reflect on who you want to attract / invite & why
    - Reflect on who might benefit & how / why
    - Write (an) inviting question/s to match the intent & participants
  - Pre-Confluence relationship building/weaving: minimal
  - Pre-Confluence design/facilitation organisation: optional
- ***During the Confluence*:**
  - Communicate any predefined goal/ intent/ structure that might influence the form and timing of individual or group interactions
  - Be aware / prepared to hold space for potential difficult emotions and conversations that might arise (see: collapse awareness)
- ***After the Confluence:***
  - tune-in and report back to r3.0's Confluence Debrief follow-up process to broaden your "networking" with other Confluencers globally
  - Make arrangements as to (how) to keep in touch as a group (or not)

Potential Benefits (over and above watching alone) :

- Deeper processing of content and/or individual takeaways
- Possible individual insights and transformations enabled by group interaction
- Possible (new - deeper) relationships - 'networking' benefits/ alliances
- Experiencing that you/ your bioregion is not alone
- Being inspired to take 'next steps' by others that might be further ahead

Potential Drawbacks:

- No starting common goal or structure to influence the form or timing of (future, individual) contributions, directions, priorities or actions;
- Limited / no common value generation except companionship.

Facilitation Questions to Ask (beyond Q&A):

- What is present for you here, now?

- What stands out for you? Surprises you? In what way?
- What does this mean to you?
- How does this impact you / your worldview / your identity / your priorities/ your dreams / your goals?
- What is yours to do? (questions *might* prompt collective responses such as "what could we do next/ together?")

Level 2: Exploring a coordinated network with complementary goals for greater harmony & efficiency, while still staying individual entities with your own resources (funding)

Core Intent:

- Get to know each other better ***in a shared systems context:*** identify places & realms we coexist, what our respective role(s) are, what we value, and how we decide what matters
- Explore 'what we can do together, that we cannot do alone' - how we can align for greater harmony & efficiency

Tips:

- ***Before the Confluence :***
  - Prepare logistics & facilitation tools appropriate for co-creation and emergence (venue, break out rooms, harvest wall, …)
  - Design: don't over-schedule; design to energize, not drain & fatigue; design to manage transitions (e.g. online content-to-reflection)
  - Depending on group size, identify a rapporteur/ conference interface to field questions/comments between group and those gathering online
- ***During the Confluence***:
  - 'Open with Intent' to set the Stage (provide the direction)
  - Provide place/s for individual needs/contributions to be exchanged
  - Provide a synthesis process to capture insights & shared-knowledge (start of a local knowledge commons)
  - 'Close with purpose' - *Where to from here, for You? Me? Us?*
- ***After the Confluence:***
  - provide a mechanism to ensure collated insights/ knowledge can be received by attendees (keep momentum)
  - Continue follow-up communication - (self-)nominated person?

Potential benefits:

- *Coordination extends networking*
- Bioregional network know each other better
- Bioregional network have some shared knowledge/ experience

- Start of a knowledge commons

Potential Drawbacks:

- Risk of non-alignment and fragmentation as *each entity might have different goals and uses its own resources and methods of impact/value creation; values are mostly created at individual level—which may lead to inefficiencies/later tensions*
- Limited or no intentional common generation of bioregional value

Facilitation Questions to Ask:

- Who can I be when I'm with you? Who can you be with me?
- Do we see/ share a common understanding of our bioregional context/ common future bioregional needs/ opportunities for collaboration?
- What would assist our relationships and future co-existence?
- What can we do together that we cannot do alone?
- Who among us has spare resources/ capacity to contribute to future coherence-building?
- How might we start to coordinate next steps?

Level 3: Exploring a cooperative network - independent participants coordinating around a common plan, sharing resources for achieving compatible goals

Core intent:

- Achieve (or maintain existing) group alignment, trust & coherence for post-confluence **sharing of effort & resources for compatible goals**
- Discuss whether we want - and if so how - **to align / alter activities** so that collective bioregional outcomes are achieved more efficiently than individual efforts would permit
- Reach **some form of common plan** (probably not defined jointly but agreed to be designed by a single entity on behalf of others?) that will require later agreement and low-level co-working to deliver
- Achieve a **commitment that each participant will do its part/ contribute its gifts,** in a quasi-independent manner - possibly coordinated with others

Requirements:

- ***Before the Confluence:***
  As for Level 2, *plus*
  - Identification/ briefing/ co-design with(?) a facilitator (or facilitation team) to suit the participants
- ***During the Confluence***:

As for Level 2, *plus*

- Provide place/s for needs/contributions to be openly shared (whiteboard? harvest wall for sticky notes? Miro Board?)
- Provide facilitation/ synthesis process/es to enable deeper conversations & connection (with content / each other)
- Ensure collated insights/ knowledge-shared are captured and considered -> start of a collective knowledge commons
- 'Close with purpose' - *Where to from here, for You? Me? Us?*

- ***After the Confluence:***
  - Schedule follow-up event(s)
  - Consider pooling resources & effort, or applying for grant-funding or bioregional funding for a joint-project?

Potential benefits:

- *Cooperation extends coordination*
- Greater mutual understanding of systems context
- Deeper trust and relationships
- Some compatible goals that help align individual efforts to create a common-value chain/net

Facilitation Questions to Ask:

Similar to Level 2, *plus*:

- What could we do together if we pooled resources?
- Who is best positioned and willing to start making a plan?
- What key elements should be included in the plan?
- Do we agree on priorities? If not, how might we agree?
- Do we commit to supporting each other's efforts?
- Could we collectively support the plan-maker?
- What is our plan/ project timeline, and do we commit to meet again?

Level 4: Exploring a joint identity - collaborating in a process of shared value creation, sharing risks, resources, responsibilities and rewards

And Now What believe that: *"Each bioregion needs a functional ecosystem of aligned collapse-accepting partners that can operate across disciplines to (re)design communities for greater resilience within bioregional carrying capacities (that will change as our predicament bites)."*

Ideally (from a Western, head-based framing) this is where enough individuals with collapse-awareness / acceptance can self-organise (and co-constitute?) to more efficiently direct and drive the urgency, aligned priorities, aligned agency and mutual

commitments required to effectively redesign your bioregion for greater collapse resilience and regeneration.

If you already have a mature network of collapse-aware participants (who know, respect, and trust each other across their differences) with bioregional understandings and deep connection with place and culture, then this is likely your preferred level of aspiration (though probably with more heart-based framing!)

You probably already have access to beautiful places / venues where indigenous leaders / wisdom holders and facilitators can hold contemplative space for the depth and complexity of emergent embodied possibilities.

Your likely goal will be providing a space to enable eager participants to receive (new?) r3.0 Conference content and direction, consider it, align with and integrate what you consider relevant with other wisdom streams (two-eyed seeing) while visibly cross-pollinating with other bioregional efforts to mutually inspire next steps.

This requires considering and loosely holding everything you might need from levels 1, 2 and 3, plus space and extra time for deeper place-based and interpersonal reflection, connection, integration, ceremony/ritual, and facilitated conversations toward more aligned/ co-directed joint outcomes. This potentially melds heads, hearts and hand-based outcomes through embodied facilitation for emergence.

Core intent:

- continuing self-organising towards the North Star
- positioning your confluence as a next event/ step in a broader (meta) process of bioregional alignment & increasing coherence already in progress
- positioning the conference content and provocations as one more knowledge stream to be considered for integration in your growing knowledge commons
- welcoming, weaving and aligning multiple levels of complexity in an organic way that deepens your networks' relationships and possibilities
- increasing the rate of progress toward collapse-informed anticipatory design
- exploring new ways of self-organising (and financing your efforts) prompted by emergent insights

Requirements:

- ***Before the Confluence:***
    - Deeply consider your confluence environment, venue and design to allow participants to have an embodied experience, where deeper connection,

integration, ceremony, and facilitated conversations naturally flow toward more aligned/ co-directed joint, place-based outcomes.
    - Design-in ways and means of facilitating development, alignment and integration of:
        - (Head-based) plans, programs of activities, financing , implementation & evaluation processes around common bioregional goals;
        - (Heart-based) processes/ rituals for personal and collective collapse-awareness/ grieving/ healing/ development; and
        - (Hands-based) collapse-informed pragmatic action-learning.
    - Deeply consider who needs to be there and why - target them
    - Deeply consider who needs to be on the facilitation team
- ***During the Confluence*:**
    - Designed well, it'll flow!
    - To get inspired as to what this might look like, we suggest watching the first of r3.0's 2025 Open Dialogue Sessions—Histories of Bioregionalism.
- ***After the Confluence:***
    - Continue to build alignment, coherence and joint design and delivery in collapse-informed bioregional context.

Questions to Ask:

- What are we learning from others present? Content? Processes? Insights?
- What can we start implementing immediately? Later? Priorities?
- What skills/ gifts do we have that can assist others elsewhere (also between bioregions)?
- What skills/ gifts do we lack that can assist us? How do we define our requirements?
- Who else could we need to invite to join our efforts?
- Are we ready to co-define a bid for bioregional financing? To do what?

7. The Longer Arc: From Bioregional to Continental to Planetary Congressing

We conceive the r3.0 Conferencing-and-Confluencing process not in isolation, but rather as an integral part of a much longer arc of the Bioregioning Movement. Specifically, we seek to support the movement transform from a loose network of otherwise isolated bioregional groups, into a coherent web of bioregional initiatives and teams who share learnings on practices and patterns for bioregioning effectively.

Toward this end, we explicitly seek to revitalize the practice of Bioregional Congressing as a modality that combines gathering and governing. This

practice emerged on Turtle Island (North America) in the late 1970s, peaking in the decades from 1980 to 2010.

We see our Conferencing-and-Confluencing process consciously seeding this revitalization of the Congressing practice in the coming years, with 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.

We invite you to orient your own bioregion's developmental trajectory toward this longer arc of the Bioregioning Movement as a planetary web of mycelial interconnectivity of action. It matters less whether the Movement follows the path we project precisely (it most likely won't), and more that the Movement follows its own idiosyncratic emergent energy. What matters most is that we work together to transform the culture of artificial separation to reclaim a kinship culture and reinhabit the earth whose contours define our lives.

8. Further Reading

David Haenke, *A History of the Origins of the North American Bioregional Congress (NABC): NABCs I-V*

David Haenke, *A Personal History of the Ozark Area Community Congress (OACC) (From Conception through OACC XIII in 1993)*

Dr. Renée Lertzman, *Convenings, Cohorts + Communities: Notes on so-called "impact" gatherings—The role of curators and conveners has never had more responsibility.* Sep 25, 2024