

INTERNAL WORKING DOCUMENT

# Measuring Success in Living Systems Work

*A framework for whole-system  
outcomes in bioregional regeneration*

# How do you measure and fund projects like this?

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Conventional funding frameworks were built for mechanical work — fixed timelines, predetermined outputs, linear cause and effect. Success is measurable because the intervention is discrete and the outcome narrow: plant X trees, train Y farmers, reduce Z tonnes of carbon. That architecture works when you are building a road. It fails when you are building a bioregional system, which produces emergent outcomes that cannot be fully specified in advance — and the attempt to specify them in advance distorts the work.

That said, "we can't measure it" is not an acceptable answer. Funders need accountability, partners need clarity, communities deserve honesty, and Wilderculture needs internal rigour so that each bioregion builds on the last and each weaver knows what her role actually is.

The central move in this framework is to measure *proxies for system health* rather than the system itself. Proxy indicators — carefully chosen, scientifically grounded, culturally legible — let us track whether living systems are moving toward complexity and resilience without reducing them to a handful of abstracted numbers. Used properly they are rigorous and honest at once: concrete evidence for funders, meaningful feedback for communities, and protection from the reductive pressures of conventional reporting.

This framework has a particular contribution to make beyond Wilderculture's own work. Most existing measurement methodology in the landscape restoration field has been developed in tropical, Mediterranean, or dryland contexts. The UK uplands are different in kind — cool-temperate cultural landscapes shaped by six thousand years of human management, where the regenerative question is not how to restore ecological processes that preceded human settlement but how to work within the cultural-ecological substrate that human management has produced. Measurement for these landscapes has not been well developed. The framework set out here is one contribution to that work.

#### THE UNDERLYING LOGIC

## Why a living system cannot be measured like a machine

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A bioregion is a living system, and a regenerative programme is a piece of design that uses nature's own principles as its design logic. That has a direct and unavoidable consequence for measurement.

The master principle of living systems is that **the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and cannot be understood by examining the parts alone.** A bioregion is not an assembly of separate components — farms, habitats, enterprises, relationships — that can each be measured and totalled. It is a web of relationships whose health shows up in properties that only exist at the level of the whole: resilience, self-organisation, the capacity to recover from shock, the generative quality that produces new life and new activity without being instructed to.

These are *emergent properties*. The work of bioregional regeneration is, precisely, the work of creating the conditions in which they emerge – and then allowing compounding, non-linear benefit to follow. You cannot engineer an emergent property directly. You can only build the conditions, and then read whether the system is producing it.

This is the deepest reason proxies are the honest instrument, not a second-best one. A proxy is how you read a property of the whole that no single direct measurement can capture. And it is why measurement becomes *more* reliant on proxies, not less, as a bioregion matures: in late succession the system is generating emergent benefit faster than any itemised count could track, and the proxy – the apex predator returning, the new enterprise nobody planned, the young person staying – is the visible signal that the invisible whole is healthy.

#### THE THREE CONVENTIONAL TRAPS

Three problems make ESG-style measurement, and conventional impact frameworks more broadly, unsuited to this work. The framework that follows is shaped in response to each.

**The timescale mismatch.** Bioregional regeneration operates over decades. The first three to five years produce relational and cultural change – the conditions on which later ecological and economic outcomes depend. Frameworks demanding measurable outcomes in years one and two will either show nothing real, or reward work distorted to produce visible quick wins at the expense of the longer arc.

**The siloing problem.** Most impact frameworks separate ecological, social, and economic outcomes into distinct reporting streams, often serving distinct funders. In living-systems work the three are inseparable: a farm regenerating ecologically but failing economically will eventually be forced to revert; a community reviving culturally without ecological literacy will not sustain the attentiveness regeneration requires. Reporting that separates the dimensions dissolves the integration that was the whole point.

**The proxy-blindness problem.** Conventional frameworks demand direct measurement of outcomes. Living systems do not produce outcomes that can be directly measured at the speed funding cycles require – but they do produce reliable proxies, of the kind ecologists have long used to read system health. A framework that refuses proxies because they are not direct measurements is choosing the appearance of rigour over its substance.



## HOW WE APPROACH IT

# Five operating principles

These principles hold across every bioregion and every succession stage. They describe *how* we measure – the exact proxies and instruments are developed and validated through the work itself, as the next sections set out.

**Proxies over direct measurement.** A healthy farm produces moths. A healthy soil grows fungi. A healthy upland holds hen harriers. These indicators only appear when certain underlying conditions are right — which is how ecologists often work. Wilderculture applies the same logic across all three Fields.

**Contextual targets, consistent process.** A Northumberland hill farm and a West Highland croft face different soils, markets, communities, and pressures. A single shared metric could not hold the uniqueness of each place. But the *process* — how targets are set, how progress is tracked, how data is aggregated — can and should be consistent across all sites.

**Early projects validate; later projects apply.** The first two or three bioregional projects carry the work of intensive proxy validation — verifying that the moth count tracks what we claim, that the social indicators correlate with community resilience. Once validated, later bioregions apply the proxy set directly and more lightly. The early work produces the measurement tools the later work uses.

**Leading indicators, then lagging.** Farmer mindset, peer network formation, and community engagement change fast. Soil carbon, biodiversity recovery, and economic restructuring change slowly. Funders trained only on lagging indicators are asking for evidence that by definition cannot appear for years. The framework shows both, on different clocks.

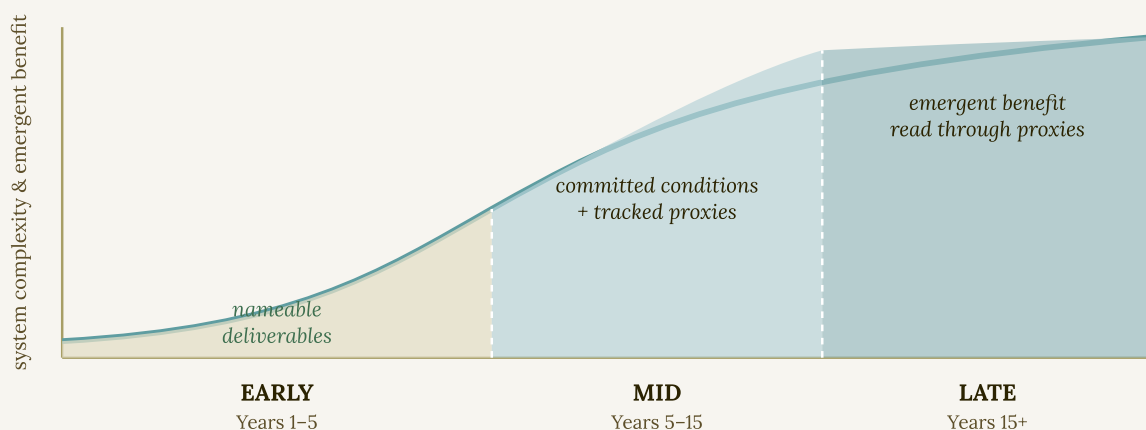
**Hard data and soft data, each doing their job.** Quantitative data delivers accountability; qualitative evidence delivers understanding. The framework integrates both rather than treating one as real and the other as decoration.

# Measurement changes character as the system matures

The single most important idea in this framework is that **what can honestly be measured changes as a bioregion moves through succession** — and that this change is not a weakness to apologise for but the structure of the work itself.

Early-succession work is, by its nature, the most legible. The deliverables are largely nameable and can be committed to in advance. Mid- and late-succession work produces emergent, compounding outcomes that cannot be specified ahead of time — but can be tracked through proxies of system health, many of which were set in motion by the earlier rounds of funding. A funder is therefore never asked to fund a vague process. They are asked to fund *nameable conditions at the stage they are fundable*, and then to read honest proxy evidence of the emergent benefit those conditions produce.

FIGURE 1 · WHAT CAN BE MEASURED AT EACH STAGE



As a bioregion matures, measurable activity gives way to emergent benefit. Proxies become more — not less — central as the work succeeds.

## Nameable deliverables

*Largely linear, specifiable, committable in advance.*

Early-succession work produces deliverables that can be named and reported almost conventionally. A funder can see exactly what their money buys:

- A bioregional weaver and apprentice recruited and embedded — the system mapped, logjams and leverage points identified, a three-context diagnosis produced.
- A farmer network of 8–15 farms established over two to three years — a cohort of keystone farmers moving toward measurable regenerative outcomes, each with a baseline and a three-year resilience re-assessment.
- The essence of place documented through community engagement and place-based research — held as a living archive and returned to the community through regenerative suppers and gatherings rather than left on a shelf.
- Ecological, social, and economic baselines taken across the bioregion, so that later change has something honest to be measured against.

These are concrete, auditable, and broadly familiar to funders. They also do something less obvious: they lay the path for the emergent outcomes of later stages. The deliverable is real in itself *and* it is the condition for what follows.

## Committed conditions, tracked proxies

*We commit to the conditions; we track the proxies of what emerges.*

By mid-succession the work becomes infrastructural, and the honest position shifts. *We can* still commit to nameable conditions: that the early diagnosis will identify, with the community, a defined number of keystone nodal interventions; that capital will be sought for a defined number of food-and-farming projects designed to unlock the specific barriers surfaced in the early phase.

What we cannot predict — and do not pretend to — is the full set of indirect outcomes those conditions produce. The new enterprise started by an individual who now has access to processing infrastructure. The community project that springs up on the back of a relationship the weaving forged. The economic opportunity nobody mapped, unlocked because the conditions were finally right. These are emergent. They are also exactly what success looks like.

So mid-succession measurement does two things at once: it reports against the committed conditions, and it *tracks the proxies of system health that earlier rounds of funding have influenced* — new enterprises, new community initiatives, new economic activity, deepening relational density. The funder of early and mid work is not asked to have predicted these. They are shown the proxy evidence that their funding set them in motion.

LATE SUCCESSION · YEARS 15+

## Proxy and self-report

*The system runs on its own complexity; measurement is light.*

In late succession the bioregion is substantially self-sustaining. The system generates emergent benefit faster than any itemised reporting could follow, and it increasingly reports on itself through its own community channels. Measurement here is strategic and light-touch: long-term monitoring plots, the return of apex indicators, community self-report, cultural-continuity signals. The proxy is doing almost all the work — because by this stage the proxy is the only honest way to read a whole that has become genuinely complex.

### THE TOOLBOX

## Tools we are drawing on

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Wilderculture does not begin from a fixed measurement system. We begin from the principles above and from a deliberate position, consistent across our strategic documents: **we engage with established measurement frameworks as candidate tools that we trial and refine in practice — we do not commit in advance to any single one.** The right indicator at the right succession stage is what matters, not adherence to a particular published taxonomy.

The exact proxy set for UK upland bioregions will be developed and validated through the early flagship projects. What follows is not that finished set. It is the toolbox – the credible, well-built instruments we are drawing on as we develop it, offered so that funders and partners can see we are building on tested foundations rather than improvising.

### An international shared language – Regen10

The Regen10 Outcomes Framework, published in 2026 after analysis of more than 150 existing frameworks and convened by a coalition including WBCSD, the World Farmers' Organization, IUCN, and the Sustainable Food Trust, is designed to work alongside other frameworks rather than replace them. Used as a shared *outcomes vocabulary*, it lets Wilderculture speak the language of the institutional funder ecosystem. Its twelve dimensions sit comfortably within our three Fields:

Field	Regen10 dimensions	What it tracks
<b>Wilder Landscapes</b>	Air & Climate, Biodiversity, Soil, Water, Livestock, Crops & Pasture, Agricultural Inputs	The living substrate of place
<b>Wilder Cultures</b>	Community, Farmers & Workers, Governance	The human systems
<b>Wilder Economies</b>	Economics & Finance, Infrastructure	The economic architecture

The three Fields are aspects of one integrated whole. A farm becoming economically resilient cannot do so without also recovering ecologically and embedding socially. Measurement attends to all three together, and success requires all three to move together.

## Alignment with the 4 Returns Framework

The Wilderculture Fields align cleanly with Commonland's 4 Returns Framework — one of the established and most respected methodologies in international landscape restoration, and a useful point of reference for the wider funder community:

Wilderculture Field	Commonland 4 Returns
Wilder Landscapes	Return of Natural Capital
Wilder Cultures	Return of Social Capital
Wilder Economies	Return of Financial Capital
Distributed across all three	Return of Inspiration

Inspiration is treated as distributed rather than separate: in cultural-landscape work the recovery of meaning, place-relationship, and lineage runs through the ecological, social, and economic dimensions at once. The Rooting to Place archive described below is, in 4 Returns terms, the primary instrument for reading the Return of Inspiration.

### Candidate resilience and wellbeing instruments

Alongside the outcomes vocabulary, several instruments are strong candidates for the proxy set at different scales. None is yet fixed; each will be tested through the early projects.

- **Cabell & Oelofse** — thirteen peer-reviewed, behaviour-based indicators of agroecosystem resilience (*Ecology and Society*, 2012). A strong candidate lens for *farm-level* resilience to shocks and stresses, where Regen10 asks what outcomes a farm produces, this asks how resilient it is.

- **SEPLS Indicators of Resilience** — Indicators of Resilience in Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (UNU-IAS), applied across dozens of countries. The closest existing framework to Wilderculture's *bioregional* scale, integrating agricultural, ecological, and community dimensions.
- **Thriving Places Index** — the Centre for Thriving Places' established UK place-based wellbeing framework, with a Wellbeing Measures Bank already aligned to National Lottery Community Fund reporting. Grounds the community dimension in language UK funders already use.
- **Soil Mentor** — a UK-developed, farmer-friendly soil monitoring methodology. A strong candidate for the required ecological core at farm level (see below).

*These are illustrative of the kind and quality of tool available, not a closed list. New instruments will be adopted where the science is robust and the fit to UK upland conditions is genuine.*

## MEASUREMENT IN PRACTICE · SCALE ONE

# Farm-level measurement

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Measurement attaches at three nested scales. **Farm-level** measurement tracks the land managed by participating farmers. **Bioregional-level** measurement tracks the system the bioregion is becoming. **Regional reporting** aggregates the bioregional work into the longer-term territorial commitment, and is largely a synthesis of the bioregional reporting beneath it.

At farm level the question is simple: *is this farm regenerating?* The approach below describes the *shape* of farm measurement; the precise instruments are candidates, validated through the early projects.

## **Entry baseline – Context Development**

Every farm entering a bioregional project works through the full ROOTED Context Development process, covering environmental, social, economic, and whole-system function contexts. It is a facilitated developmental journey producing four farm-specific Visions – Environmental, Social, Economic, and Whole System Function – which together become the farm's self-set contextual targets, emerging from the farmer's own reading of place and life.

### **A farm resilience assessment**

Each farm completes a resilience assessment at entry and again after three years, scored on a comparable scale. The entry score establishes a baseline; the three-year score measures the shift. A farm might move from 2/5 toward 4/5 on ecological resilience; their neighbour from 4/5 toward 5/5. Both count as progress, and we report at bioregional level – "X% of farms improved their resilience score on Y dimension over Z years." Cabell & Oelofse's thirteen indicators are the current candidate lens for this assessment.

### **A required ecological core**

Every farm provides a consistent minimum of ecological evidence – a small, standardised core assay taken at entry and re-measured at year three, directly comparable across farms and years. This required core is what makes aggregation honest. Soil Mentor's three-field protocol – bundling visual soil structure assessment, infiltration, earthworm count, slake test, dung decomposition, and vegetation cover into one farmer-friendly method – is the strong current candidate for this core. The early projects will confirm it or refine it.

## Optional measures, chosen by the farmer

Beyond the required core, each farm chooses additional measures from a structured menu — bird surveys, bioacoustic monitoring, soil carbon sampling, moth or butterfly transects, fungal-to-bacterial work, water quality, photo points — guided by its own contextual targets and the bioregion's emphasis. The illustrative menu is at Appendix A.

## Social and economic proxies

Farm-level social and economic health is read through proxies rather than direct measurement. Indicative examples:

- **Social** — peer visits received or made (a farmer whose methods are visited is influencing others); young-person engagement; consistent attendance at network and Rooting to Place events.
- **Economic** — reduced purchased feed (a direct signal of the shift toward solar-income economics); enterprise diversification tracked over time; the proportion of sales going to local or direct markets.

No proxy individually tells the whole story. Together they paint a system-level picture that would take orders of magnitude more time and resource to capture through comprehensive direct measurement. Farm data aggregates upward through resilience-score shift, proxy trend analysis, and narrative synthesis — the interpretive work that keeps the numbers from being mistaken for the system.

MEASUREMENT IN PRACTICE · SCALE TWO

## Bioregional-level measurement

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At bioregional level the question changes: *is this place becoming a healthy bioregional system?* This is where the weaver role lives, and where measurement most depends on proxies, because what is being read is the emergent health of a whole.

The weaver holds the living system of the bioregion in intelligent attention; measurement is the practice through which she stays honest and learns in real time. She is always paired with a local apprentice — both succession architecture (by year two the apprentice could step into the role) and embedding mechanism: where the weaver reads the system and spots a connection, the apprentice does the embedding work that tests whether it translates into action.

## Who carries what

Each measurement instrument has a named holder. Farmers carry their own Visions, their core monitoring, and their optional measures — Wilderculture supports, but the farm's measurement is the farm's. The weaver carries the bioregional archive, the relational map, the Cross-Pollination Log, and the annual narrative report. The apprentice carries the embedding work and, increasingly, the Bioregional Plan itself. Wilderculture central carries the synthesis to funders and the learning across bioregions. Each instrument stays in the hands of the person closest to what it measures.

## The living archive — Rooting to Place

Rooting to Place is continuous research and community-weaving work, held in a networked digital archive (built in Obsidian) where people, places, events, and insights are interlinked and searchable — not a linear report but a web of relationship that grows more useful as it grows more connected. It holds People nodes, Place nodes, Event nodes, Insight nodes, and the weaver's running blog of observations and hypotheses.

Content captured from community members is held with their consent and treated as community-held data. The Bioregional Plan that emerges from it is community-owned, not Wilderculture's reporting artefact. Funders see synthesis, not source material; named individuals are anonymised in external reporting unless consent for naming has been given.

#### HOW A CULTURAL EVENT BECOMES DATA

A geologist presents an evening on the bioregion's deep geology. The event is recorded and archived; attendance is logged. Afterwards a farmer says, "this explains why I can grow more grass on that south-facing field" — and the insight links the geology node to that specific farm, informs the design work on it, and closes the loop. A farm historian's tour of old farmsteads reveals that ewes were once not tugged until their third year under no-supplementation systems — unlocking a practical pathway for weaning a modern flock off feed inputs. Every cultural event delivers community value and captures research data at once. That is the weaver's craft.

## Bioregional proxies

Bioregional health is read through a blend of quantitative and qualitative proxies. Indicative examples:

- **Quantitative** — farms in the network; Rooting to Place engagement; young people entering or returning to farming; new enterprises serving the three Fields; land area under trained-practitioner management.

- **Qualitative** – relational map density (where bridges are forming, where silos persist); cultural pattern shifts (what a community starts to say about itself that it did not before); opportunity-pipeline vitality; cross-pollination evidence; succession indicators captured as dated observations with names and places.

## The Cross-Pollination Log

This is the instrument that keeps the three Fields from drifting into silos. It tracks when an insight moves across streams – a finding from Rooting to Place, its implication for the farmer network, the action taken, where it landed, the feedback received. Each entry is short; the accumulation over a year is documented evidence that integration is genuinely happening. The presence of cross-Field movement is itself a proxy of system health; its absence is an early warning that the work is over-departmentalising.

How the Log is kept matters as much as what it records. The weaver's day is spent in conversation – on farms, at suppers, on the phone, walking a hill with an elder. The touchpoints between Fields surface in those conversations, not at a desk. A conventional logging discipline would ask the weaver to stop, sit down, and type, which both interrupts the relational work and means the day's quieter insights are lost before they are written.

## TECHNOLOGY IN SERVICE OF THE WEAVING

In practice the Cross-Pollination Log can be kept as a daily spoken record. At the end of a day the weaver leaves a voice note — the conversations had, the insights heard, the connections noticed across landscape, culture, and economy. An AI tool transcribes it into a diary entry and extracts the distinct cross-Field touchpoints, logging each against the relevant people, places, and Fields in the archive.

This is a deliberate use of new technology: it harmonises with the real, human, in-community work rather than competing with it. The weaver's scarce capacity goes to weaving — to presence, listening, and connection — not to data entry. The technology does the structuring; the weaver does the work only a person can do.

The same principle holds across the archive. The instruments are designed so that documentation is a light by-product of relational work, not a parallel burden that competes with it for the weaver's time.

### The weaver's formal outputs

- **Quarterly relational map update** — network diagram and short narrative on connection density, new bridges, persisting silos.
- **Annual narrative report** — the year's story: emerging cultural patterns, economic opportunities, shifting ecological indicators, and the weaver's working hypothesis on where the system is moving.
- **Opportunity pipeline document** — a living log of nodal actions emerging, ranked by succession-stage readiness.
- **The Bioregional Plan** — described below.

## The Bioregional Plan as living base map

The Bioregional Plan is the most important measurement product of the first two-to-three years. It articulates the bioregion's elemental conditions, cultural patterns, succession-stage diagnosis, and long-term vision — drafted by year three once enough relational depth has accumulated for it to genuinely represent place, then cycled back into the community for feedback and reissued annually. It holds the place, the people, the farms, the economy, the succession diagnosis across each Field, the opportunity pipeline, and the cultural thread read out of the archive.

It performs a structural function that matters for institutional funders in particular. The Plan is the **base map** for the bioregion — articulating place, community, diagnosis, and vision independently of any single funded project. Funded projects layer onto the Plan; the Plan does not reshape itself to match them. When a project ends, the bioregion is not diminished — the base map remains, and the next layer can be added.

This protects against a real risk in multi-funder, multi-decade work: that one major funder relationship quietly redefines the working unit to match the funder's boundary. Where the Bioregional Plan exists as a separate, persistent artefact, the work can accept funding on a funder's priorities while keeping the bioregional unit coherent. For an institutional funder, this answers a question they rightly worry about — *how do we know our involvement will not distort the work?* The Plan's own progression, from first to second to third iteration with the community's voice strengthening through each cycle, is itself a measure of the bioregion maturing.

## A note on verification

The framework is primarily a self-reporting architecture, with rigour coming from the quality of the protocols used, the consistency of process across sites, and the narrative discipline of the weaver. As bioregions mature, external verification can be layered on where funders require it — independent ecological surveys, third-party review of resilience scoring, peer review of Bioregional Plans through the international landscape-restoration community. The framework supports this layering rather than requiring it from the outset.

### ILLUSTRATIVE

## How measurement shifts through succession

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The table below illustrates the *kinds* of measure appropriate at each succession stage across the three Fields. It is illustrative, not a fixed schema — the exact proxies will be developed and validated through the early bioregional projects. The pattern it shows holds regardless of the specific instruments chosen: measurement intensity is inversely proportional to system maturity. Early projects carry the cost of validation; later projects inherit validated proxies and apply them lightly.

Stage	Wilder Landscapes	Wilder Cultures	Wilder Economies
<b>Early Succession</b> <i>Years 1–5 · establishing baseline, validating proxies</i>	Soil biology assay across farms; vegetation structure and bare-ground baseline; indicator species (moth traps, bird surveys); water infiltration; dung decomposition	Farm entry questionnaire; community relational mapping through Rooting to Place; attendance and engagement at cultural events; narrative capture of community self-description	Farm economic baseline (enterprise viability, subsidy dependence, input costs, market structure); bioregional value-flow mapping
<b>Mid Succession</b> <i>Years 5–15 · validated proxies applied directly</i>	Streamlined proxy monitoring – key indicator species sampled annually; visual vegetation-structure assessment; farmer self-reported change tied to outcomes	Peer-led knowledge transfer (visits, farm walks, informal learning); young-person entry rates; cultural-carrier density; emergence of community-led initiatives	Local value circulation (direct sales, new enterprises, active bioregional supply chains); reduced subsidy dependence
<b>Late Succession</b> <i>Years 15+ · light-touch monitoring</i>	Strategic sampling only – long-term plots, aerial survey, return of apex indicators (hen harrier, white-tailed eagle, salmon runs)	Community self-report via established channels; succession of the weaver role to local capacity; cultural-continuity indicators	Self-report on farm viability; infrastructure operating independently

## WHY IT HOLDS

# The case to funders

Three arguments distinguish this framework from conventional project measurement.

## **1 The succession argument**

Early-phase work produces the conditions on which later-phase work depends – the relational density, the diagnostic accuracy, the trust networks, the Bioregional Plan. Without these, later infrastructure and enterprise work fragments rather than lands. Funders of early-phase work are underwriting the conditions that make every later phase possible.

## **2 The Plan argument**

The Bioregional Plan produced in years two and three is itself a measurement product. Once it exists, the bioregion has a self-knowledge it did not have before – owned by the community, persisting beyond any single project, and serving as the base map onto which all subsequent work layers. Funders of early-phase work are funding the production of the document the bioregion uses to know itself.

## **3 The methodology argument**

The early bioregional projects develop and validate the measurement architecture that every subsequent project uses – the proxies that work, the core protocols calibrated to UK upland conditions, the archive structure, the resilience scoring. This is a methodological public good. Funders of these projects are underwriting not only the work in that bioregion but the methodology for every bioregion that follows – and, to the extent that cool-temperate cultural-landscape measurement is underdeveloped in the wider field, for analogous work elsewhere.

## WHAT WE DO AND DO NOT CLAIM

We do not claim that we can measure everything, that we can promise fixed outcomes on fixed timelines, or that every bioregion will progress at the same pace. The framework is built to be **rigorous enough to detect real change, honest enough to distinguish signal from noise, and light enough to operate within the living-system realities of the work.** Funders who require fixed outcomes within short reporting cycles will not find them here. Funders willing to read complex systems on the timescales those systems operate at will find the evidence to do so.

CLOSE

## A framework proportionate to the work

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This framework is Wilderculture's working answer to a question regenerative practice has not yet solved: how to measure work that operates on multi-decade timescales, integrates ecological, social, and economic dimensions, and produces emergent rather than predetermined outcomes.

It is a starting document. The early-succession bioregional projects will develop and validate the precise proxy set; individual funder conversations will translate it into the language of whoever is in the room; the wider Wilderculture documentation places it inside the larger methodological architecture from which it derives. What it offers, for now, is a measurement approach that institutional funders can read, understand, and report against — **without the work itself having to be deformed to fit them.**

APPENDIX A

## Farm ecological measurement — options menu

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Beyond the required ecological core, each farm chooses additional measures from a menu of this kind, guided by its contextual targets and the bioregion's emphasis. The list is illustrative; new measures are added where the science is robust and the farmer's interest is genuine.

- **Further soil tests** beyond the core assay – Haney test, bulk density, biological activity indicators.
- **Bird surveys** – standardised acoustic-ID counts (e.g. Merlin app) from a fixed site once monthly, building a year-on-year bioindicator record.
- **Bioacoustic monitoring** – static recorders capturing species diversity and activity over extended periods; particularly useful for bat and invertebrate work.
- **Soil carbon sampling** – where funded separately or aligned with a carbon project; fields measured at established depths with appropriate baseline controls.
- **Life Cycle Analysis** – for farms engaged in supply-chain or certification work requiring carbon-footprint accounting.
- **Grass growth metrics** – sward-stick measurement and biomass accumulation across the grazing season; relevant for grazing-focused farms.
- **Moth or butterfly surveys** – where the farmer has particular interest, or the bioregion has flagged invertebrate recovery as an emphasis.
- **Fungal-to-bacterial ratio** – for farms where soil biology development is a central focus.
- **Water quality sampling** – where farms sit in priority catchments or water stewardship is a contextual focus.
- **Photo point monitoring** – simple repeat-photography from fixed points, tracking vegetation structure and landscape change over time.

Regen10 Outcomes Framework (2026) — [framework.regen10.org](http://framework.regen10.org) — international shared-outcomes vocabulary.

Commonland 4 Returns Framework — [commonland.com](http://commonland.com) — international landscape-restoration framework.

Cabell, J.F. & Oelofse, M. (2012), "An Indicator Framework for Assessing Agroecosystem Resilience," *Ecology and Society* 17(1):18.

UNU-IAS (2024), *Indicators of Resilience in Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS)*.

Centre for Thriving Places — Thriving Places Index and Wellbeing Measures Bank.

Soil Mentor — UK farmer-friendly soil monitoring methodology.

*Companion internal documents: Source Document v0.2 · White Paper v16 · Theory of Change v0.4 · R2R26 Context Development curriculum.*

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*★ Scope and intent: Cags. Structure and drafting: Claude.*