REGEN10

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# Accelerating an Evidence, Outcomes, and Principles-Based Transition

Food is essential to life on earth. It nourishes us, connects us to our families, communities, cultures, spiritual beliefs, and the natural world. It supports the livelihoods of billions of people and is the economic backbone of many countries. Today, global food systems are under unprecedented strain. Decades of unsustainable practices focused on producing cheap, plentiful food have led to soil degradation, water pollution, and loss of nutrients, pollinators, and biodiversity – threatening productivity and farmer incomes. Food systems are driving and suffering from the impacts of climate change creating a feedback loop effect.

Regen10's mission is to build the evidence base and shared understanding of what it would take for 50% of the world's food to be produced in a way that delivers positive outcomes for people, nature, and climate, providing affordable, nutritious food for 10 billion people by 2030. Around the world, farmers, ranchers, pastoralists, and others are already implementing regenerative and agroecological farming approaches. These are not new – Indigenous Peoples and family farmers have used these practices over millennia. While the opportunity to address the challenges facing the food system through regeneration is clear, the pathway to scaling and accelerating the transformation is not.

Regen10 serves existing leaders and practitioners in regenerative food systems and brings others into the journey through a principles- and evidence-based approach. It focuses on achieving holistic outcomes that include but are not limited to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved soil health, water quality, biodiversity, livelihoods, socio-cultural issues, and equity. While there are countless examples of initiatives operating in different regions and at varying scales, there are gaps that need focused attention. Based on these, Regen10 will focus efforts to:

1. **Build the evidence-base and a shared understanding** of what it will take to accelerate and scale regenerative food systems;

2. **Develop a holistic and integrated outcomes framework** with a core set of metrics to collect, measure, and understand the changes that occur over time on farms and in the landscapes in which they operate;

3. **Connect a growing network of regenerative leaders and practitioners** working around the world in diverse landscapes to share learnings and co-create knowledge products and strategies;

4. **Elevate issues to shape the policy and finance enabling environment,** drawing on the knowledge, expertise, and needs of individuals, communities, organizations, and initiatives working in this space;

5. **Foster global momentum towards regenerative food systems transformation** through an inclusive platform, strategic communications, and engagement.

Regen10 aims to bring perspectives that have traditionally been left on the margins into decision making processes. We will engage farmers and Indigenous Peoples alongside companies and other actors committed to holistic outcomes and a journey of continuous improvement.

## DRAFT PRINCIPLES

Regen10 believes transitioning conventional agricultural approaches to regenerative food systems is key to addressing the climate crisis and restoring interconnectedness among humans and with the Earth. We also believe that we cannot address the climate crisis without recognizing and acting on social injustices that have left farmers and Indigenous Peoples at the margins of decision-making processes that impact their livelihoods and wellbeing.

The collaboration of all key stakeholders and rightsholders is essential to catalyze action. We recognize, value, and are inspired by the work of multiple initiatives working on these issues including but not limited to the 13 principles of Agroecology, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food's Guiding Principles, and the 4 Returns Framework. We will align and collaborate to avoid duplicating efforts.

By COP28, we will release a revised set of principles to guide Regen10's work. Annex A provides two source documents that we will build upon to keep all partners and funders accountable.

# OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Lack of consensus and evidence on the environmental, socio-cultural, and economic outcomes of regenerative practices and how to measure them prevents identifying site specific solutions and concerted action. Existing assessment frameworks on agricultural practices and corporate reporting are often narrow. They selectively focus on a single or subset of issues such as carbon sequestration or soil health, overlooking the social, cultural, and equity-related issues associated with food systems. Many of these frameworks are developed by corporate entities for their own reporting purposes, often without involvement from farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities and thus overlook their experiences and knowledge. As a result, existing frameworks are not fit for farmers' use and disconnected from the realities of farming, precluding farmers from assessing and reporting on outcomes.

**Through a consultative approach involving an Experts Network and engagement with farmers, Indigenous Peoples, corporates, and landscape leaders, Regen10 is developing a holistic Outcomes Framework with a core set of metrics to collect, measure, and understand the changes that occur over time on farms and in the landscapes in which they operate.** This in turn builds the evidence base for how to shift to more regenerative food systems that deliver positive environmental, socio-cultural, and economic outcomes. This evidence base will inform practices, create incentives, unlock investment, and drive learning, innovation, and adaptation.

The Regen10 Outcomes Framework builds upon and is aligned with the 4 Returns Framework, which provides a common language to help farmers monitor and measure the social, financial, and natural returns in the transition towards more regenerative food systems. The Regen10 Outcomes Framework will provide indicators and metrics that allow for the direct measurement of the first three returns. In addition, there is a 4th return of inspiration – giving people hope and a sense of purpose. The Outcomes Framework will help inspire stakeholders and create a shared vision for a positive future that delivers equitable food systems and better livelihoods and opportunities for farmers.

**The Outcomes Framework focuses on the impact of food production on farms and landscapes**. Other initiatives such as Landscale, Commonland, Foodscapes, and 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People (1000 Landscapes) are already working on broader landscape system assessments. Regen10's Framework can complement these initiatives, frameworks, and tools by building a better understanding of how food production contributes to landscape sustainability and regeneration.

In advance of COP29, Regen10 will be testing a "Zero Draft Framework" (0.0 Draft) with key stakeholder groups, both conceptually and on-the-ground in farms and landscapes. The framework will include but is not limited to elements such as soil health, GHGs, water quality, biodiversity, livelihoods and socio-economic issues, and equity.

Regen10 will develop and stand behind this holistic and integrated Framework. We will set clear expectations about the core components of a holistic framework and invite farmers, companies, and other actors to join a journey of learning, adaptation, and continuous improvement. **Only approaches that include all the holistic elements of the framework (environmental, socio-cultural, and economic) will be considered shifting towards regenerative.**

## LANDSCAPES

Business as usual is depleting the Earth's resources at a rate exceeding their natural regeneration capacity. Despite the growing consensus for change and the contributions from engaged actors in agricultural value chains, there remains a lack of a shared understanding of what it will take to transition global food systems to a regenerative model at the necessary depth, scale and scope, for food to be produced food in a manner that benefits people, nature, and the climate.

Numerous landscape practitioners and leaders have initiated the process of regenerating farms, communities, and their surrounding landscapes. However, many of these efforts are challenged with knowledge, evidence, and tool gaps that hinder their progress and potential impact. Landscape actors and initiatives, particularly those not associated with major organizations, also tend to operate in relative isolation and could significantly benefit from deeper connections within, between, and beyond landscapes, to elevate their reach and effectiveness.

**In partnership with 1000 Landscapes, Regen10 is synthesizing lessons about how successful landscape transitions happen,** with preliminary insights presented in advance of COP28, followed by a detailed report in early 2024. These lessons will inform developing landscape initiatives and supporting parties on potential ways to shorten the gaps between their present state and their regenerative ambitions.

**Regen10 is also developing an economic analysis of the expected costs and benefits associated with transitioning key agricultural landscapes from their current condition to a more advanced regenerative state.** Understanding and establishing a high-level view of the cost of transition for key crops and geographies is a necessary first step to develop innovative mechanisms to share that cost and

risk along, across, and outside of value chains, enabling change to happen at a faster and more equitable pace. **We will also release a map that outlines the landscape initiatives within our expanding network.** This map will showcase the diverse array of initiatives taking place on a global scale and facilitate connections among these stakeholders and other interested individuals and institutions.

Building on these initial activities, Regen10 will support regenerative food system leaders in diverse landscapes, inspire others to act, and deepen partnerships between them. **Regen10, in collaboration with 1000 Landscapes and others, will help develop and support:**

- **A network connecting landscape actors** both horizontally (across landscapes). and vertically (among stakeholders within landscapes) to facilitate exchange, knowledge creation, peer to peer learning, and action;
- **Connections between landscape actors and providers of resources and services** to support activities like visioning, convening, capacity building, policy advocacy, and fundraising;
- **Connections between landscape actors and global processes**, both to inform global actions from the grassroots, and to empower landscape initiatives with global resources; and
- **Knowledge products and tools** that show what it will take to scale up regenerative food systems at the landscape level.

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## BUILDING GLOBAL MOMENTUM

Regen10 is a multi-stakeholder collaborative platform to build collective understanding of what it would take over this decade for 50% of the world's food to be produced in a way that benefits people, nature, and climate.

Through **convenings, communications, and campaigns**, Regen10 will elevate and learn from existing efforts and engage with diverse food systems actors, with a particular emphasis on farmers, women, and Indigenous Peoples, as well as businesses, investors, governments, academia and research organizations, civil society, grassroots movements, and key aligned initiatives. This engagement contributes to the development of the Regen10 Outcomes Framework as well as knowledge products and shared strategies to accelerate a transition to food systems that nourish people and planet.

Regen10 will **foster linkages and partnerships with relevant policy and finance efforts** to ensure individuals, communities, organizations, and initiatives with knowledge and insights have opportunities to shape these efforts. Countries moving forward with policy reform and repurposing of public support to agriculture can benefit from inclusive consultative approaches to create the enabling environment for scaling regenerative and agroecological approaches. Finance and technical assistance must be significantly scaled to support these efforts.

**Inclusion is a fundamental value of Regen10.** Marginalized groups – including farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and women – bring knowledge of regeneration that can reset agricultural systems that are out of balance with the needs of people and nature. Inclusion goes beyond engaging marginalized stakeholders and rightsholders through consultation. To bring these communities from the margins to the center, they need to be part of governance and decision-making processes. As an initial step, Regen10 is inviting farmers and Indigenous Peoples to join its High-Level Advisory Group to

help shape Regen10's strategic direction and future in a way that meaningfully benefits them.

In the coming year, **we will focus on regional engagement** to ensure the Regen10 Outcomes Framework, knowledge products, and communications draw on the diverse perspectives and experience of farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women, and landscape leaders and practitioners. We will also explore opportunities to decentralize Regen10's governance and workstreams and convene regional communities of practice.

Regen10 is a growing collaborative network of partners, funders, expert advisers, and communities of practice, who collectively and individually contribute to Regen10's mission. Some of the networks our partners bring to the Regen10 platform include:

- Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members (The International Union for the Conservation of Nature | IUCN)

- Farmer and cooperative networks from all over the world (The World Farmers Organization | WFO)

- Forward-thinking global companies (World Business Council for Sustainable Development | WBCSD)

- Food System Funders (Global Alliance for the Future of Food)

- Regenerative landscape leaders (1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People)

## CALL TO ACTION

Regen10 aims to build collective understanding of what it would take over this decade for 50% of the world's food to be produced in a way that benefits people, nature, and climate, providing affordable, nutritious food for 10 billion people by 2030. To accelerate the efforts of landscape leaders and practitioners working toward this ambitious goal, we commit to:

1. **Testing and refining the Regen10 Outcomes Framework** and ensuring its relevance to farmers, Indigenous Peoples, landscape leaders, companies, and others;

2. **Developing networks** that help landscape leaders connect and learn from one another;

3. **Collecting and sharing data** to support the evolution of the Regen10 Outcomes Framework and to inform the development of transition pathways towards regenerative approaches;

4. **Establishing strategic partnerships** with initiatives and institutions focused on key enabling conditions including policy and finance; and

5. **Supporting communications and convenings** to build global momentum.

Regen10 invites landscape leaders, practitioners, and diverse experts to support Regen10's mission. Join us by:

- **Engaging in the testing and refinement** of the Regen10 Outcomes Framework;

- Joining **a Landscape Leaders Network** and sharing information related to regenerative and agroecological landscape-level initiatives to create a digital map *(survey link here)*; and

- **Signing up for the Regen10 newsletter** to learn about upcoming events, including regional convenings *(register here)*.

## LEARN MORE

To learn about Regen10 and how to join in this journey of transformation, visit www.Regen10.org.

## ANNEX A – GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In collaboration and consultation with experts, practitioners, and communities working at the frontlines of food systems transformation, Regen10 partner organizations developed an initial list of principles (version 1.0) to guide our vision for regenerative and inclusive practices that benefit people, nature, and the planet. We have received important input from food system leaders representing diverse landscapes and transformation approaches that we need to adapt the way we work. The principles on page 8 provide critical input that we will be discussing and incorporating in the coming months. Regen10 will continue consulting with key stakeholders across different backgrounds, lived experiences, and global regions on ways to refine our initial guiding principles to better reflect the priorities and needs of farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and decision-makers across the food value chain. **Please share your perspectives with us at [www.regen10.org](www.regen10.org)**

### Regen10 Principles for Regenerative Food Systems – Version 1.0

1. **Resilient principle**: Identify and support regenerative, durable and economically adaptive systems in the face of a changing planet.

2. **Landscape-aligned principle**: Apply a place-based, ecologically adaptive, and context-specific approach to regenerative initiatives.

3. **Collaboration and alignment principle**: Generate a compelling common vision, shared knowledge and collective action among regenerative food systems advocates and practitioners worldwide.

4. **Diversity principle**: Protect, support and value diverse agricultural, ecological and cultural heritage.

5. **Farmer-centric principle**: Keep farmers' experiences, knowledge, and realities at center of regenerative initiatives.

6. **Healthy climate principle**: Generate positive outcomes that lead to a healthy climate.

7. **Equity and fairness principle**: Make commitments to equity, social justice, sustainable and safe livelihoods, and access to affordable and nutritious food central to regenerative food systems* and practices.

8. **Inclusive and transparent principle**: Ensure meaningful and authentic engagement of diverse people and organizations in transparent deliberations and outcomes, shared power, democratic decisions, and collective actions affecting regenerative food systems initiatives.

9. **Innovation and adaptation principle**: Support technical and social innovation that is consistent with regenerative principles and enhances people and planet together.

10. **Ongoing learning principle**: Build credible and useful knowledge that informs transitions to regenerative food systems for diverse stakeholders across diverse interests.

## Feedback to Regen10: Input to Refine Principles for Regenerative Food Systems

1. **Resilience:** Identify and support social, ecological, and economically adaptive systems in the face of a changing planet.

2. **Farmer-centricity:** Valorize the experiences, knowledge, and realities of farmers, fishers, foragers, herders, and pastoralists, and elevate their voice in relevant policy processes. Ensure they are compensated and recognized for the work they do.

3. **Equity, fairness and safeguarding rights:** Promote equity, social justice, sustainable and safe livelihoods, community and social institutions/cooperatives, and access to affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food, and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

4. **Landscape-centricity:** Apply place-based and context-specific approaches, recognize inter-dependencies, and promote circularity. Consider how actions impact others within and beyond a landscape.

5. **Earth Stewardship:** Individually and collectively, act in ways which contribute to protecting and restoring the natural and social systems which sustain life, operating within planetary boundaries and recognizing broader responsibilities to humanity.

6. **Climate Action:** Take urgent action to ensure food systems fully contribute to climate mitigation to stay within the 1.5 goal of the Paris Agreement.

7. **Collaboration and Partnership:** Advance a compelling shared vision, knowledge and strategies and catalyze collective action. Foster trust and ensure meaningful and authentic engagement of stakeholders and rightsholders in transparent deliberations and outcomes, shared power, democratic decisions, governance, and collective actions.

8. **Diversity**: Protect, support and value diverse agricultural, ecological, and cultural heritage while recognizing our essential oneness.

9. **Innovation and adaptation**: Co-create technical, policy, and social innovation to enhance people and planet together.

10. **Ongoing Learning**: Foster peer-to-peer learning, acknowledge, and use diverse forms of knowledge.