



Satigny, 15 November 2025
Fondation Tao Meeting
Hans Galliker

Learning what matters. Now.

Shaping bioregional identities &
scaling place-based education
with the Green Steps ARK



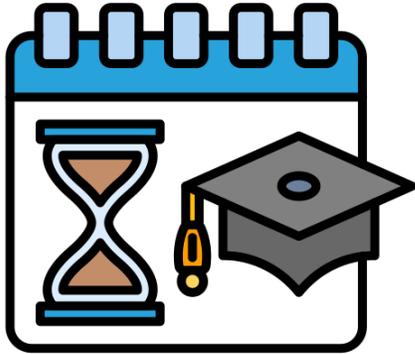


“There is not only a crisis in natural resources, but also one in human resources ... and the two are connected”

Sir Ken Robinson



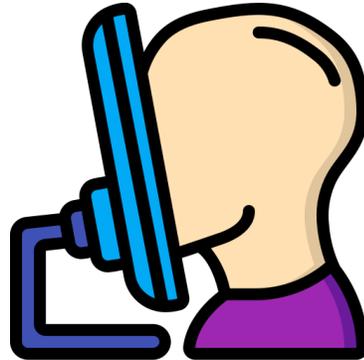
Pain Points



**Achievement
gap**



National
Education
Report 2021



**Screen
addiction**



World
Happiness
Report
2019



Nature alienation



Nature and mental
health: An ecosystem
service perspective



“The world reveals itself to those who are on foot.”

Werner Herzog

Deskbound: Standing up in a sitting world.

Dr. Kelly Starrett



Our Solution

Networked & gamified place-based education



WALK
PLACE BASED EDUCATION



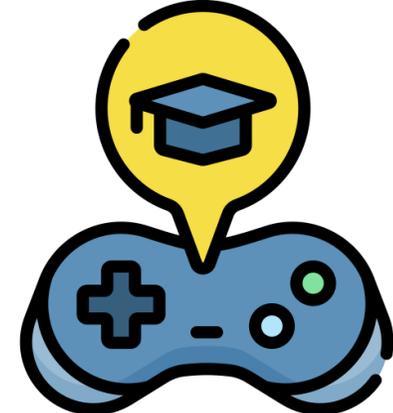
Space, Time and Episodic Memory: the Hippocampus is all over the Cognitive Map



EXPERIENCE
BIOREGIONAL
CURRICULUM



Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World: A New Map of Life on Earth: A new global map of terrestrial ecoregions provides an innovative tool for conserving biodiversity



PLAY
GAMIFIED LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT



Gamification Approaches for Education and Engagement on Pro-Environmental Behaviors: Searching for Best Practices



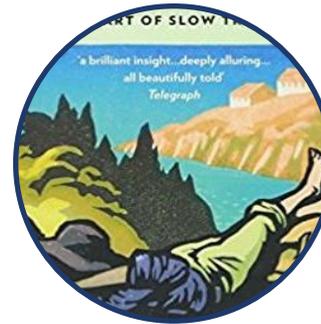
Project Applications



EDUCATION
Seamlessly extend
school premises
into nature



GOVERNANCE
tree inventory &
nature restoration



TOURISM
Create meaningful
holiday experiences



GREENLAND
(DENMARK)

ALASKA
(U.S.A.)

CANADA

UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

BRAZIL

RUSSIA

CHINA

INDIAN OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

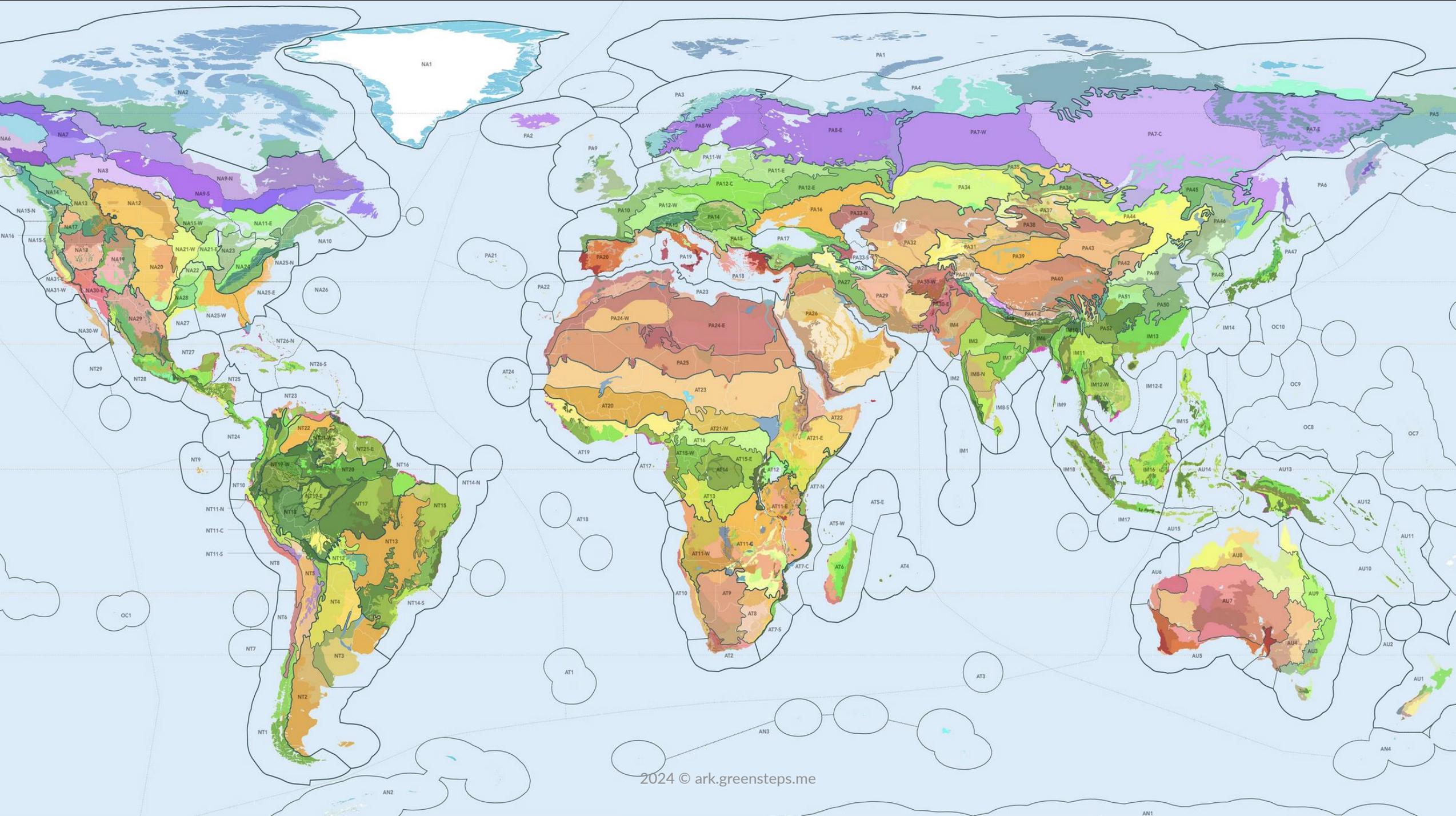
ATLANTIC OCEAN

SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN

A photograph of a weathered metal sign with the word "CHANGE" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is rectangular with a pointed right end and is mounted on a vertical metal post. Two screws are visible on the sign's surface. The background is a vibrant sunset or sunrise sky with horizontal bands of yellow and orange light. The overall mood is one of transition and direction.

CHANGE





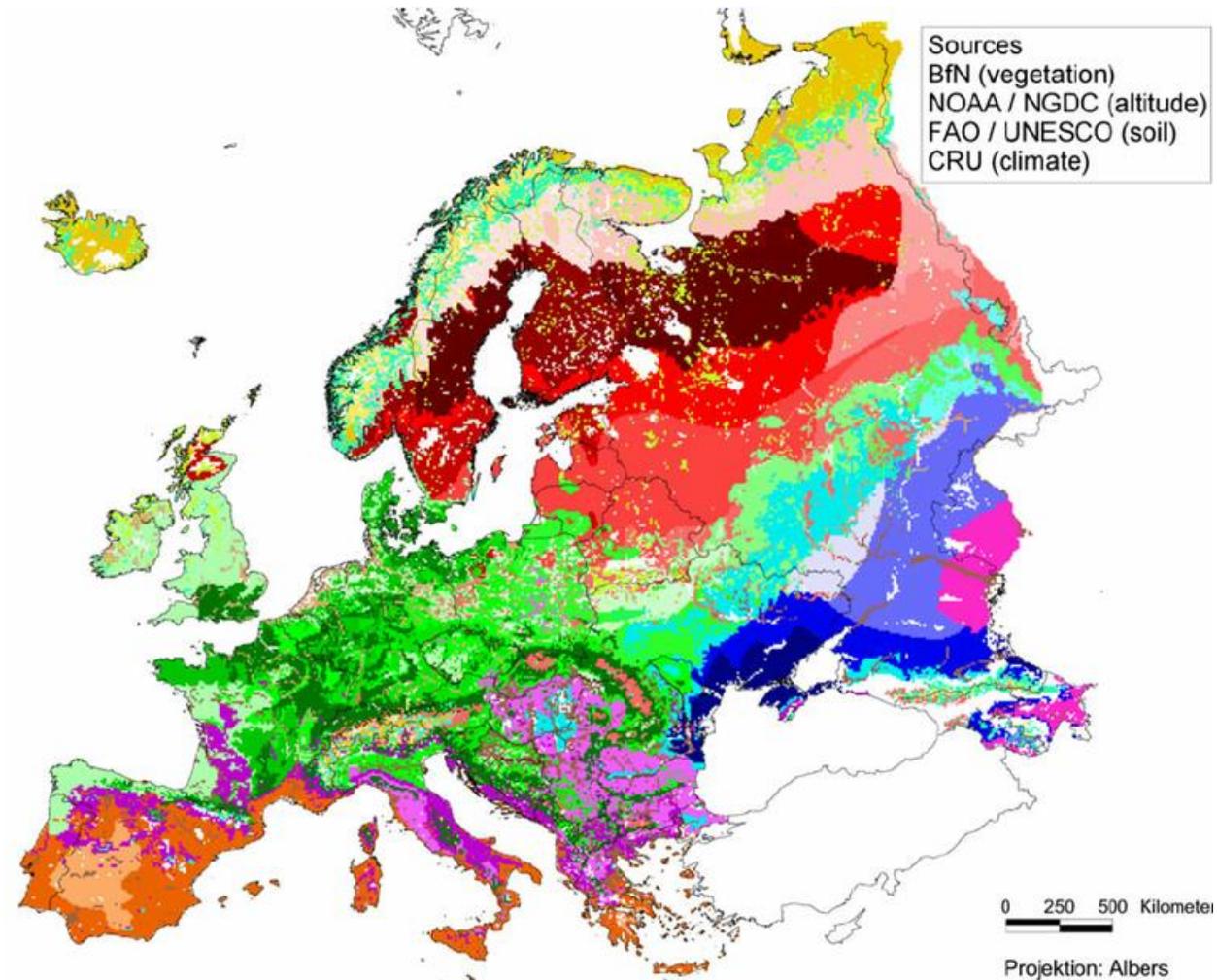
What is Bioregional Education?

Bio- and ecoregions are defined through almost identical

- flora, fauna and climate;
- physical and environmental features, including watershed boundaries and soil and terrain characteristics.

Bioregional Education stresses that the determination of a bioregion is also a cultural phenomenon, and emphasizes

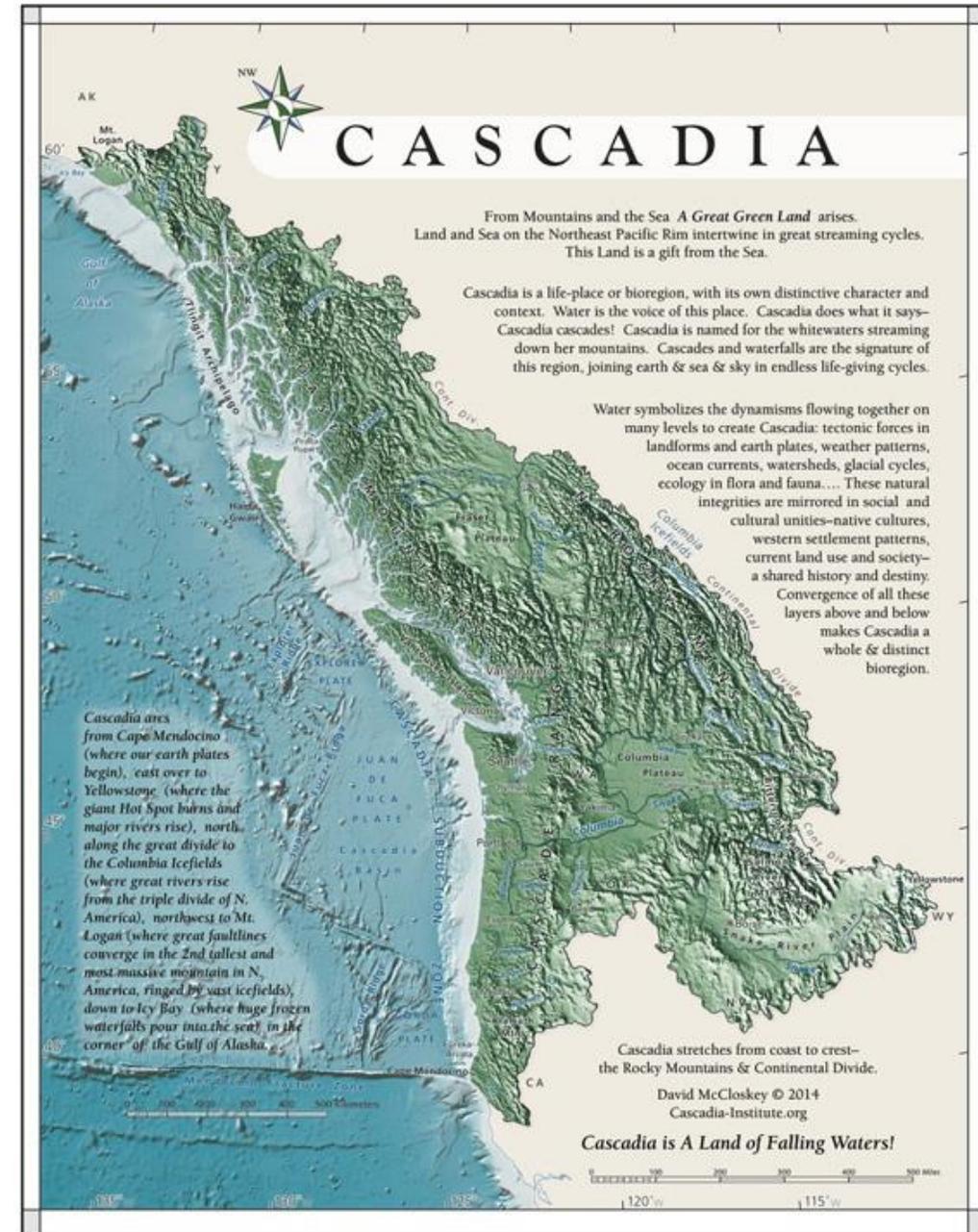
- local populations,
- knowledge, and solutions.





Bio- and Ecoregion Applications

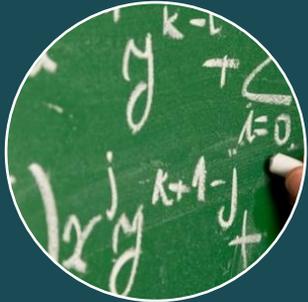
- Nature conservation
- Preservation or restoration of biodiversity
- sustainable economy & governance
- Peace: armed conflicts arise often because of ignoring bioregional frame conditions
- **Education & Health**





Why shaping bioregional identities?

Mainstream education alienates children and youth from planet and communities



Content



Resources



Time



Attitude



Space





What is place-based education (PBE)?

Place-based education (PBE) is a modern version of indigenous learning



Learning method, which uses the school environment as starting point for practical experiences.



Neighborhood problems are recognized as most important resources for learning



Systems understanding, problem solving a holistic empathy are fostered

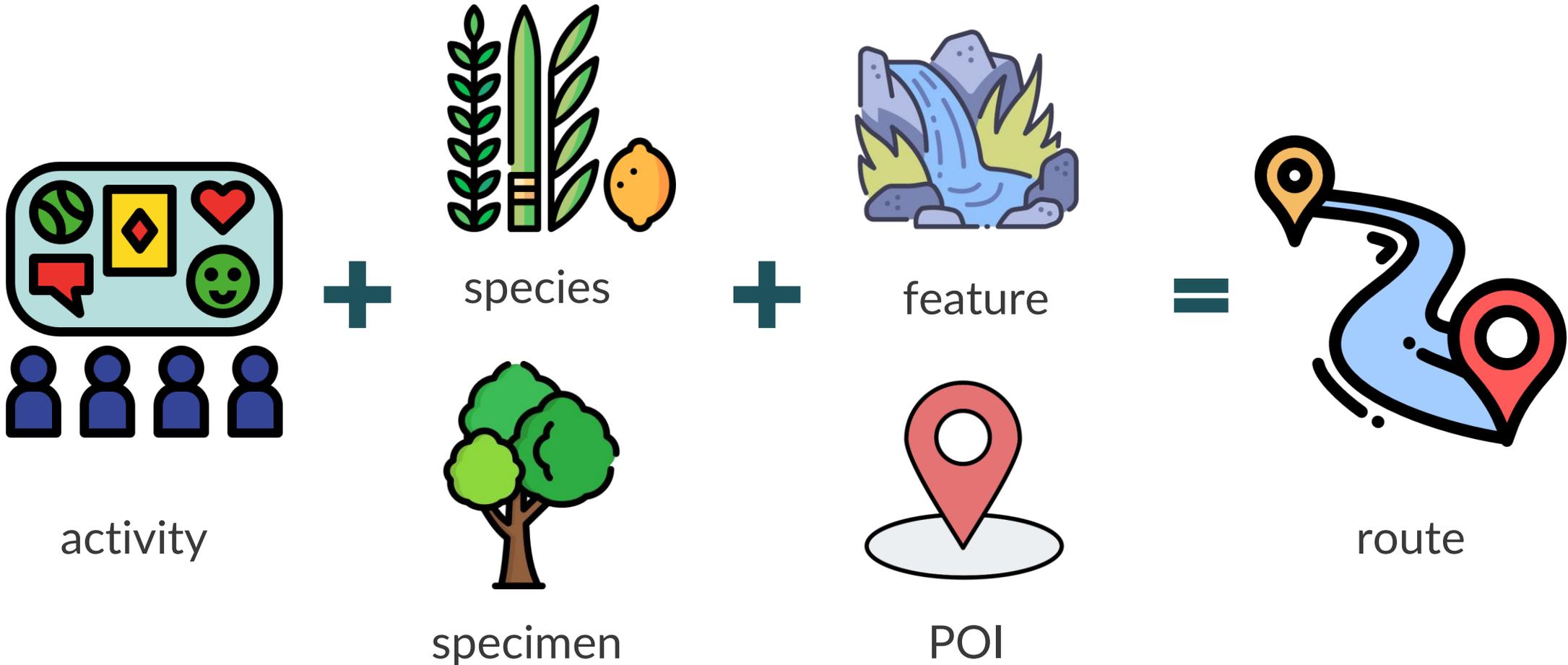


Students are perceived as a resource to solve real problems (providing meaning and purpose)



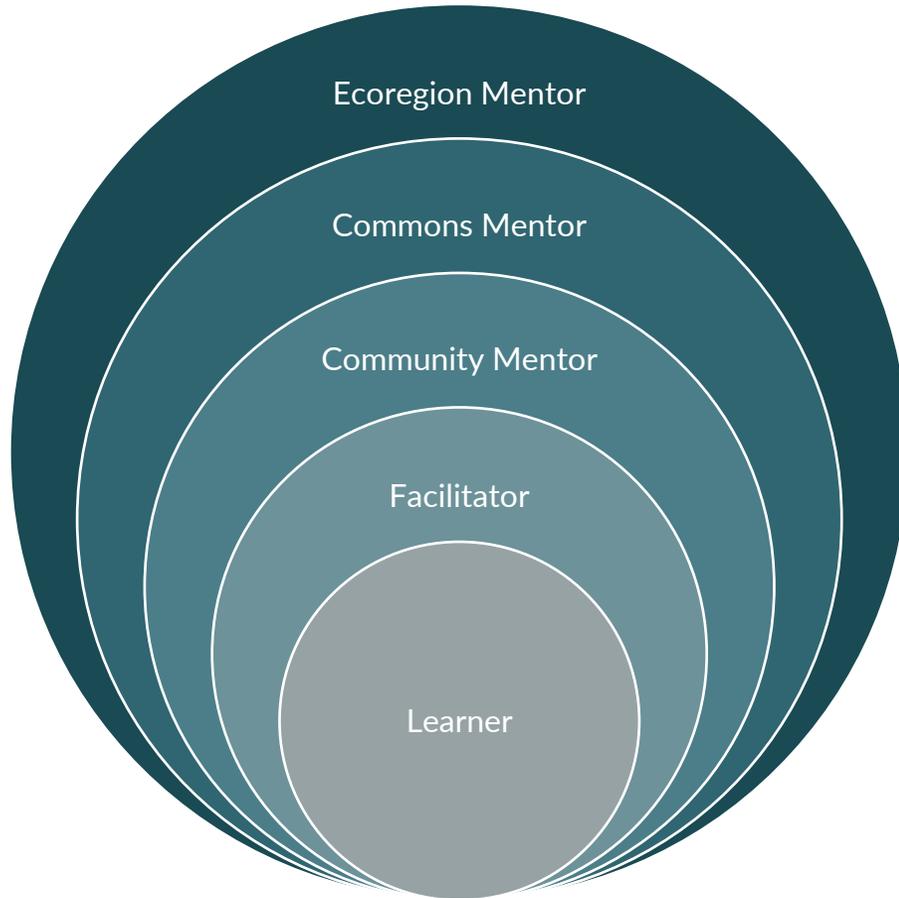
Shaping Bioregional Identities

How to build a bioregional curriculum about local nature & culture





ARK Roles



Learner (student):

- participate in activities
- Submit species & specimens

Guide (teacher):

- create events & quests
- moderate a class
- create and activate best practices

Community Mentor (principal):

- moderate a community
- set bioregional learning goals



Commons Mentor:

- moderate a commons
- curate specimens



Ecoregion Mentor:

- moderate an ecoregion
- curate species



Our Offer

- We **design a BFG route together with you** in a defined nature learning space (school garden - neighborhood - district - city)
- We help you **create your own library of routes and activities** to easily track your students' bioregional learning progress
- We support you in **setting ecological learning goals and developing a place-based curriculum**
- We (or our partners) **train you as community and commons mentors**

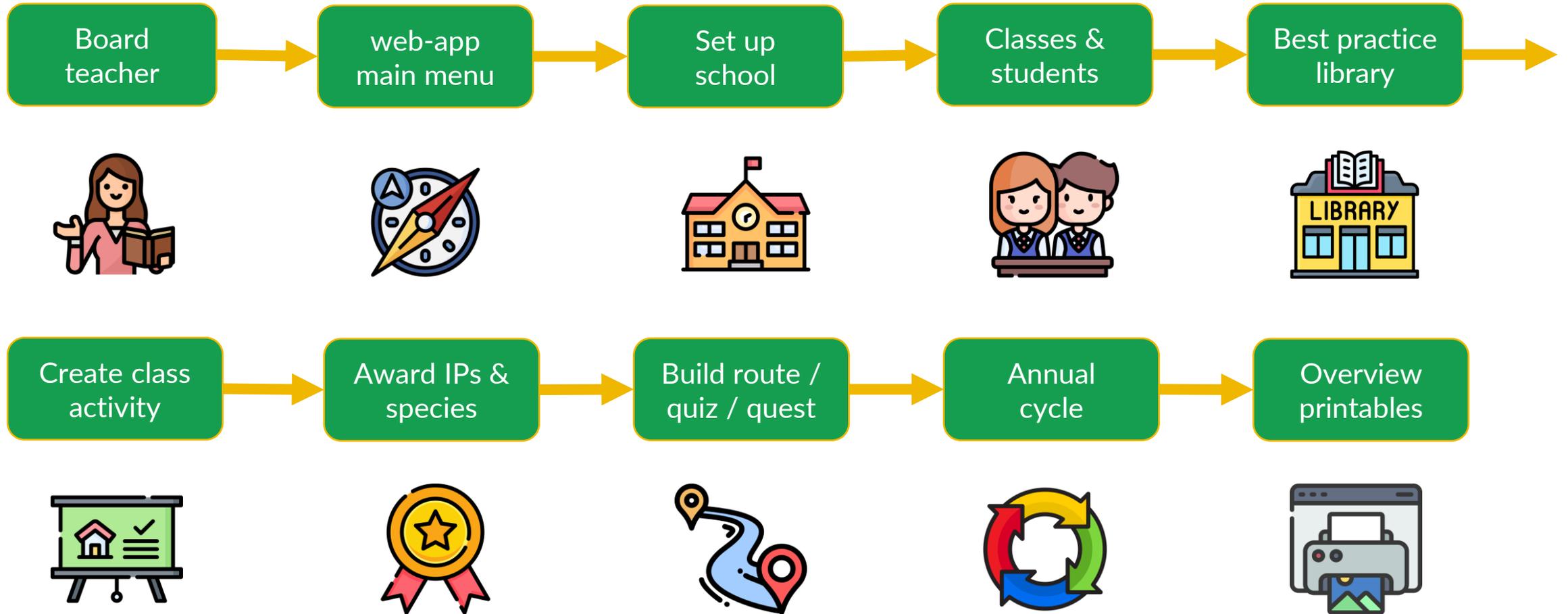
Recognized with the
2024 environmental
award of Lower
Austria





Community Mentor Training

3h briefing on web-app functionalities & boarding of (school) community

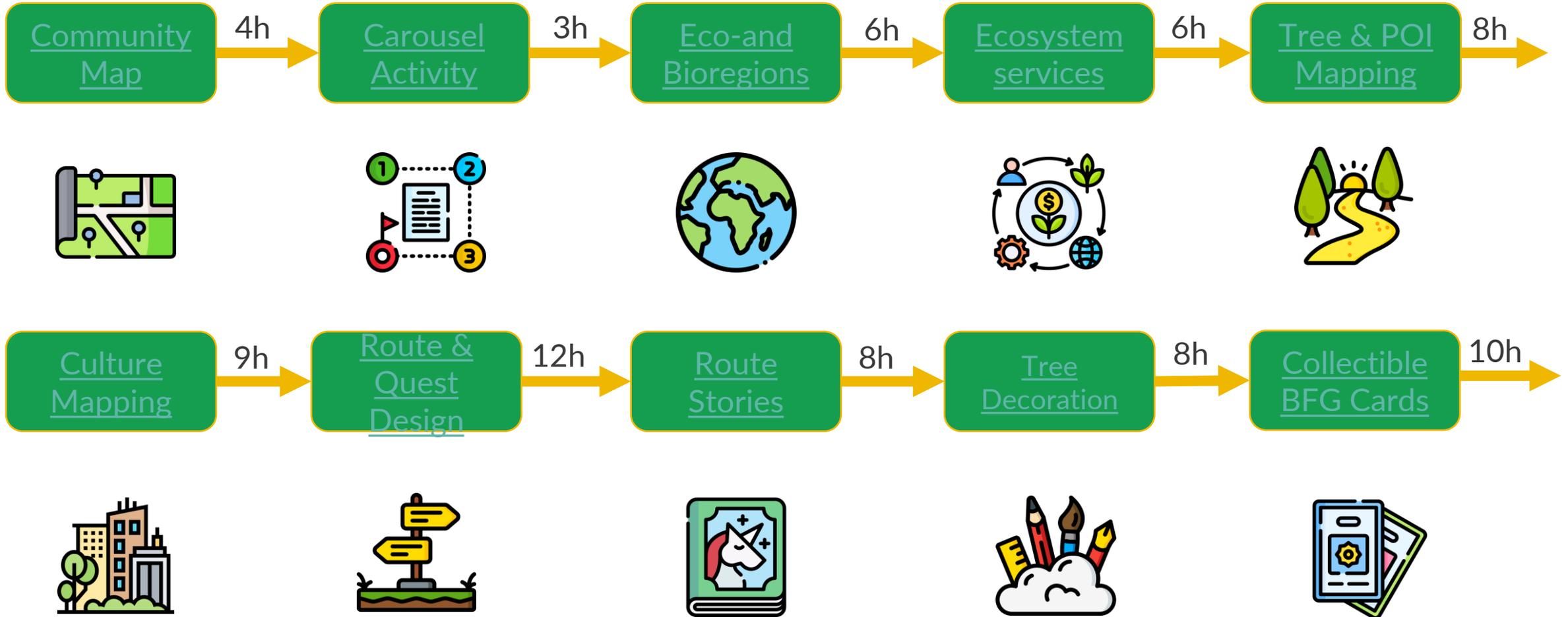




BFG Guardian Workshops



Click on each workshop to find out more!

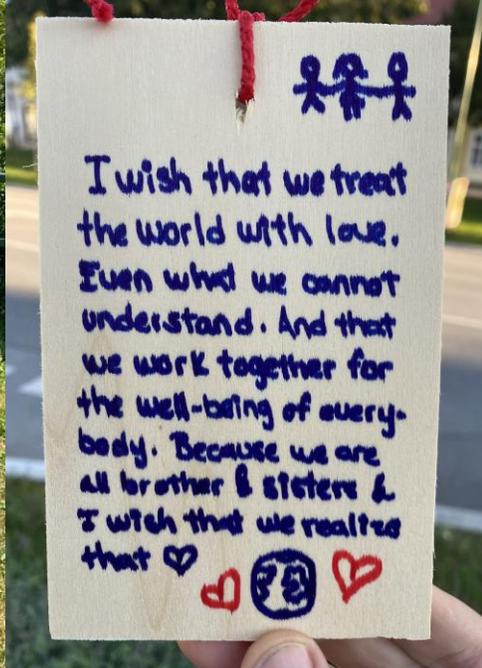


Pilot Project

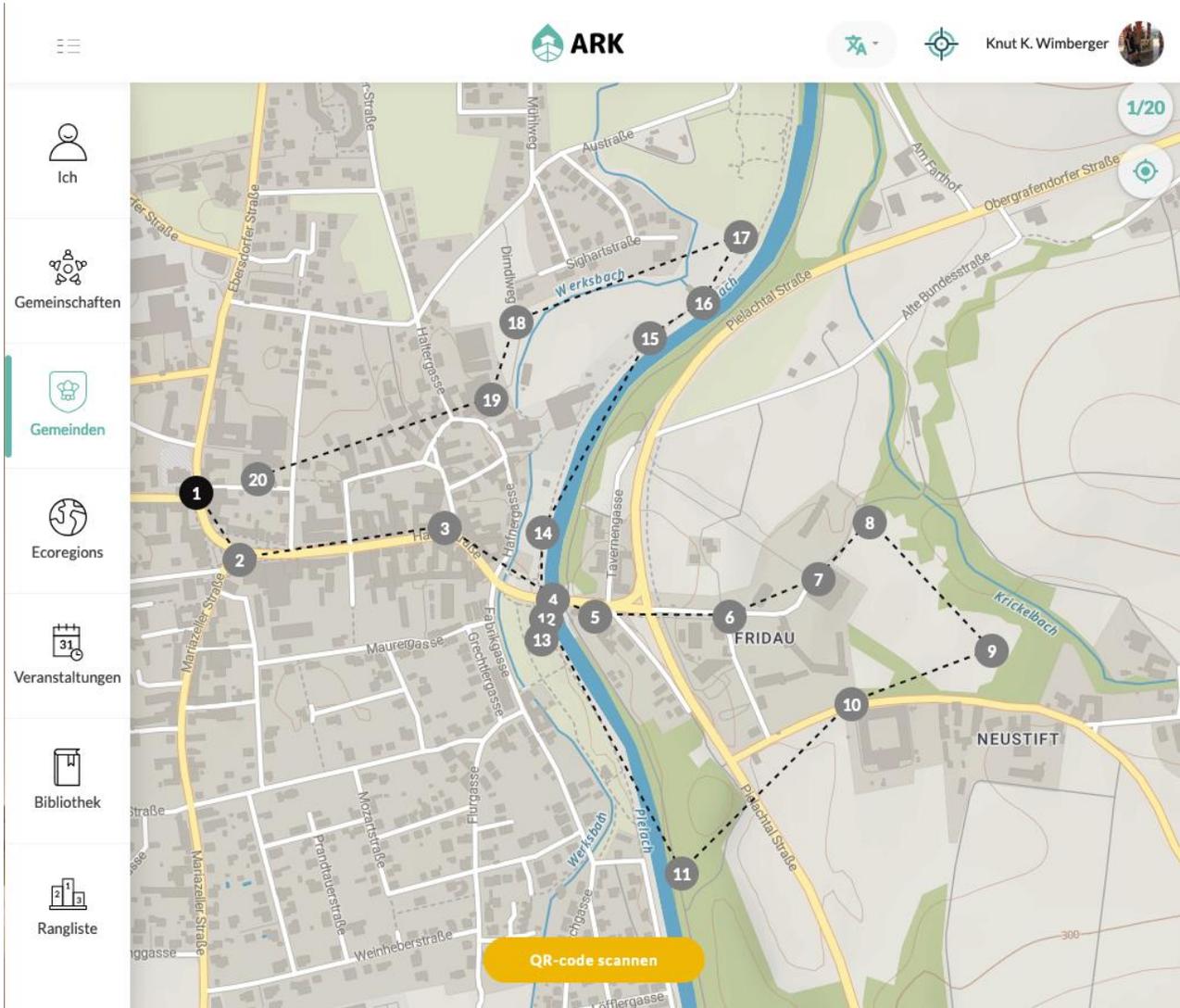
Transition Network Conference
Ober-Grafendorf, September 2024











Route overview on [web-app](#)



Sample info board along route

Release Summary



Recap

Mapping POIs

- Create educational trails which include natural and cultural features
- Develop bioregional identities within a commons / municipality
- Choose between guided walks with info boards and interactive quests
- Choose between geocaching and QR codes
- Play alone or with your friends in multiplayer mode





Project Pillars

Connecting to Place



Urban National Park (NUP)

Massive Open Participation (MoP)

Gamified Learning Environment (GLE)

Internet of Nature (IoN)



USPs for Schools

Accelerate place-based school development



Higher motivation, academic achievement, better health



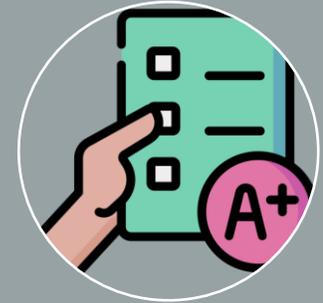
Support to educators in dealing with new frame conditions



Strategic outdoor curriculum development



Organize outdoor learning spaces meaningfully



Assess and communicate ESD progress clearly





Duolingo vs Green Steps ARK



- Learn a language



- Learn about a bioregion



- Infinitely scalable



- Infinitely scalable



- Choose from a few dozen



- Start from your home town



- Personalized learning



- Personalized learning



- Small chapters



- Short routes



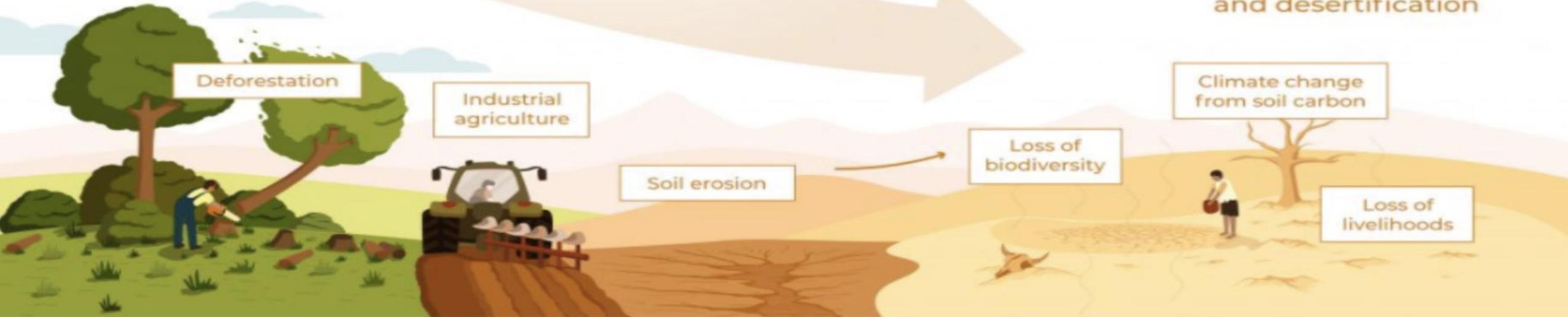
- Gamified experience



- Gamified experience

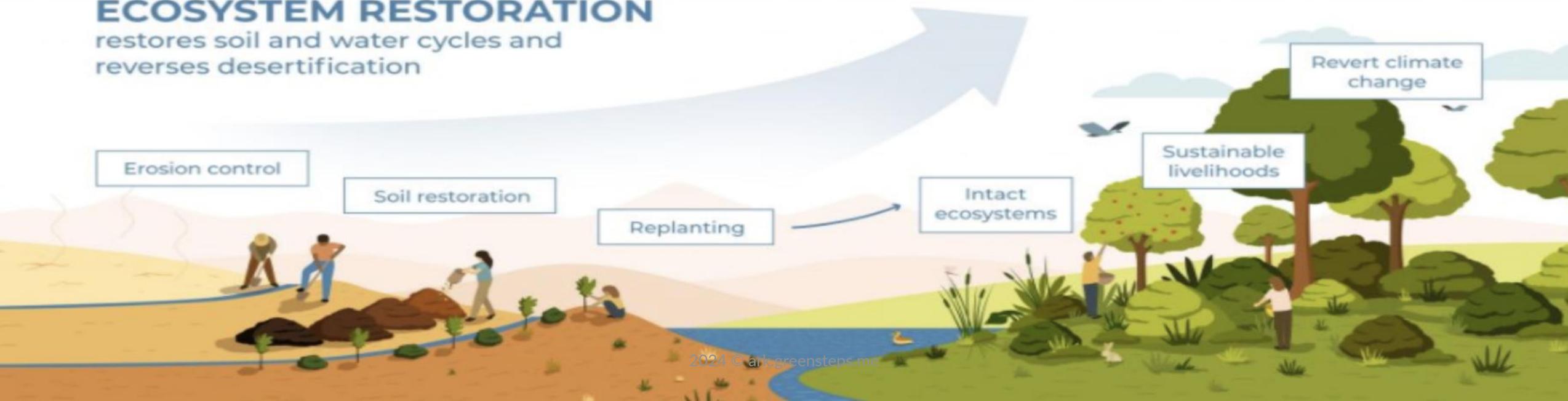
BAD LAND MANAGEMENT

leads to drought, soil erosion and desertification



ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

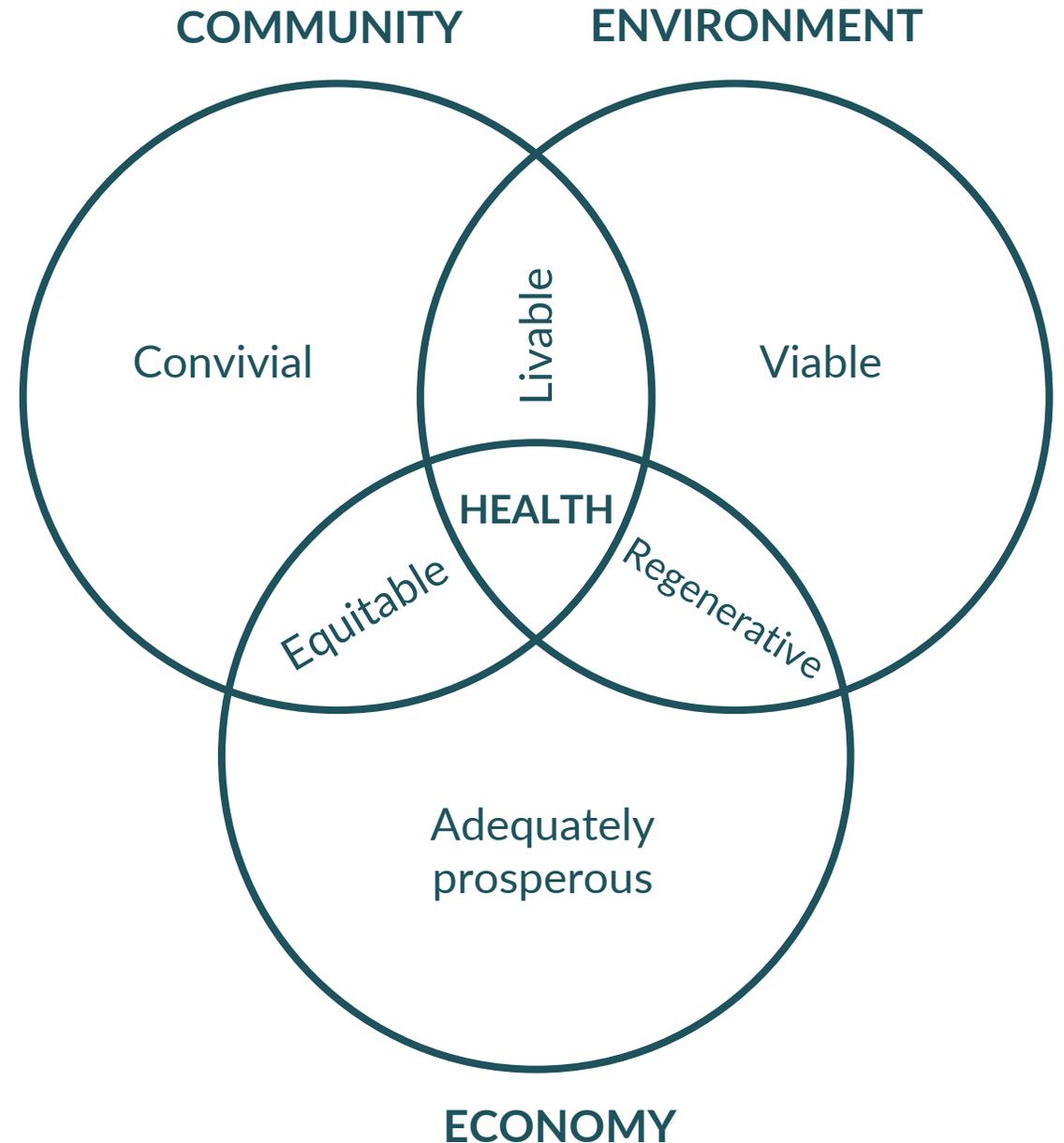
restores soil and water cycles and reverses desertification





Project Mission: Triple Health

- Remove the fragmentation of education for sustainable development and strengthen local communities as smallest cells of a global civil society in a gamified learning platform (SDG 17, 4).
- Drive planetary health through stewardship over commons and the creation of bioregional identities (SDG 13, 4) by applying environmental education 4.0 to build an internet of nature.
- Structure a potentially global meritocracy around the concept of individual ecosystem service remuneration (SDG 10, 4).





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