

The Spiral of Hypotheses

A deep, voluntary map of what Spiralweb is working from — open to use, challenge and correction

60 field hypotheses · 4 meta-hypotheses

Public working register · v0.8.2 · 17 September 2026 · updated through Green Paper 23

Situated derivation · versioned · prismatic · corrigible · publication activates nothing

← Spiralweb Papers · Nine working wagers · Library

Status and use

This public working register is the deeper, voluntary layer behind the shorter public synthesis of nine working wagers. It can be read, cited, challenged, translated or set aside without becoming a prerequisite for using Spiralweb's open methods.

The register contains sixty field hypotheses and four meta-hypotheses. Each is presented with source relationships and a condition that could require correction. The entries do not all have the same standing: some formulate constitutional or normative commitments, some synthesise published arguments, some describe materialised practice in Spiralweb's founding field, and some remain untested possibilities.

Publication makes this register inspectable; it does not validate the hypotheses, approve Association policy, authorise a field relationship, release funding or activate a protocol. The shorter nine-wager paper remains the public orientation. The live Spiralweb Glossary remains canonical for current definitions.

v0.8.1 publication change note

- **Relation-form alignment.** Updates H54 and the Vocabulary Atlas to the four parallel forms in Report 05 v0.3.2 while preserving the burden test, distributed-capacity condition, flow condition, H-number and falsification test.

v0.8 publication change note

- **Public position.** Reframes the register as a dated, optional public working layer rather than an internal total account or master canon.
- **Derivation.** Presents the proposed spine — capacity, regulation, critical friendship and distinction-restoration — as a strong synthesis to test rather than a resolved fact.
- **Relational workbench.** Makes user-held context, external continuity, explicit reading status, pause and return visible across H0-a, H33b, H50 and the vocabulary atlas.

v0.8.2 reference correction note

Bounded correction. Updates the register's current source references to Report 03 v0.4.1, Report 06 v0.8.1, and GP23 candidate v0.2.1. No hypothesis wording, numbering, derivation, or status is changed.

Current source references

Report 03 · *Water Into Dry Riverbeds* · v0.4.1

Report 06 · *Regenerative Reciprocity* · v0.8.1

GP23 · *A Decent Economy Under the Jurisdiction of Life* · candidate v0.2.1

The v0.8 and v0.8.1 change notes that follow remain part of the document's publication history. Their older references are historical states, not current pointers.

- **Reference state at v0.8.** At that publication, the register recorded Report 03 at v0.3, Report 06 at v0.5, and GP23 at candidate v0.2. These pointers are superseded by the v0.8.2 reference correction; the legal-verification qualification remains unchanged.
- **Continuity.** Preserves all H-numbers, the 60+4 count, both reader-facing appendices and the live Glossary as the canonical public definition layer.
- **Numbering lineage.** H46, H47 and H52 remain visible as historical numbering gaps because their propositions were folded during the register's development into H30, H55 and H41 respectively. Their numbers are not reused. No hypothesis content is omitted from the present count.

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Introduction — what this document holds and how to read it

Spiralweb has published a large body of work — twenty-three Green Papers, six Reports, five Operational Formats, kernel documents, field papers, a lineage letter and a protocol for human–AI co-inquiry. Each work approaches a bounded question. Read together, recurring movements appear across body, place, knowledge, economy, institution and AI-assisted practice. This register makes that wider working pattern inspectable without requiring every reader to begin here.

It performs three connected functions:

- **It keeps the working orientations visible** — sixty field hypotheses and four meta-hypotheses, each with source relationships and a condition that could require revision.
- **It proposes a derivation** — a possible dependency running from ethics and capacity through regulation and critical friendship to the distinctions that keep engagement answerable.
- **It states the meta-layer** — four dated wagers about what the habitat's own existence, enabling conditions, economic orientation and political implications may demonstrate.

This is a public working register, not a master account of the corpus. Each H# remains answerable to source texts, situated practice, scholarship, affected people, legal scrutiny and better evidence. The register may be used as a map, reference, context window or critical surface. It does not replace the papers from which it derives, and no field or reader must adopt its vocabulary as a condition of participation.

A proposed derivation — one recurring figure

A cross-reading of the corpus suggests a recurrent dependency chain. The chain is proposed here as an interpretation to test:

Ethics is capacity (H1) — moral life depends on what a body, relation or institution can carry, not only on what it believes. → Capacity is regulation through change (H3) — the ability to stay coherent while adapting at the level of body, relation and institution. → Regulation can make critical friendship possible (H53) — enough steadiness to participate, question and remain in contact. → Critical friendship depends on distinctions that preserve engagement and independence: boundary and violence, fluency and understanding, guardianship and ownership, support and control.

If this dependency holds, the field hypotheses are not isolated items. They work the same movement across several domains. Corrections to H1, H3 or H53 may therefore affect the wider figure; corrections elsewhere may reveal that the proposed spine is incomplete or differently organised.

At the scale of the polity, H0-d carries the political extension of this proposal. Regulation may support engaged independence in democratic life: a greater capacity to examine and help re-author collectively binding rules from a situated position. AI can widen access to comparison and structural accounts, while representation, institutions, rights, adjudication and collective accountability remain necessary. The wager concerns deeper democratic capacity within those safeguards.

Status of the derivation. The corpus itself describes critical friendship as "one of the relational forms needed by polycentric democracy." Naming it as an overarching method is a later synthesis. v0.8 therefore presents the chain as a strong reading with dependencies, not as a settled discovery or a quotation from the source corpus.

The reading discipline, made operational

Across the five Operational Formats, each form carries a rule that can be read as a hypothesis in imperative form. The philosophy and the practice express the same claim at two temperatures.

Format	The rule (= hypothesis as discipline)	Hypothesis
1 · Dashboard	"Read, do not score."	H16, H17
2 · Observation	"Is this practice giving to life?"	H6, the decisive question
3 · Action	"Do not list more than three actions."	H8, H54 (don't overload)
4 · Decision	"Separate money, purpose, and decision at all times."	H16, H29
5 · Financial	"Do not guess; mark other and log a question."	H18, H43 (honest gap > fabricated green)

0 · The meta-layer — what the whole habitat is

These four meta-hypotheses are dated syntheses about the habitat's existence, enabling conditions, purpose and political implications. They are not direct quotations from one source and do not sit above the corpus as final truths. They make the current founding-level wagers inspectable.

Three grounding corrections entered the register before v0.8. H57 makes ending and decomposition visible; H58 recognises more-than-human causal agency; H59 names power within communities. Together they correct an overly harmonious picture of regeneration while preserving the positive possibility of human and more-than-human coordination. They are part of the register's documented development, not proof that the correction is complete.

H0-a — In Spiralweb's founding field, AI-assisted, human-accountable practice has lowered the infrastructural threshold for making situated care publicly and institutionally legible. A named human steward, working with several AI systems, has developed and maintained two public sites, a versioned corpus, governance documents and controlled publication workflows with limited organisational capacity. The work is sustained through a human-held relational workbench: selected sources, memories, unresolved questions, working documents, versions, relationships, pauses and returns. Its continuity is externalised across the human, corpus, protocols, files and public artefacts rather than located in an assumed persistent model self. Source access and integration must remain distinguishable: received, located, partially read, fully read, cross-read and externally verified where required. This is situated existence proof, not

transfer proof. Shared protocols may carry learning forward, but cannot carry situated judgment on anyone's behalf. Correction: attempts elsewhere showing that the capacity gain depends on exceptional personal conditions, hidden labour, inaccessible tools, responsibility displacement or a progressively heavier centre; evidence that AI-assisted infrastructure weakens rather than strengthens contact, accountability or institutional legibility; or later examination showing that the stated founding-field capacity was materially overstated.

H0-b — Democratisation can deepen through shared grammar and polycentric authority without requiring a sovereign central platform. Many situated practices may be able to translate common protocols into their own place while retaining local judgment and the right to leave the Spiralweb relationship (H34, H40). This does not mean that all common functions disappear. Review, interoperability, rights protection, appeals, stewardship of shared standards and public accountability may need bounded institutions with clearly limited mandates. The IUCN Red List is therefore not proof of coordination without a centre; it is a useful hybrid illustration of distributed expertise, common criteria, designated authorities, review and central publication. Spiralweb does not claim equivalence or integration with that system. Its wager is narrower: shared grammar and bounded common functions can connect places without making one platform or organisation sovereign over situated knowledge. *Correction: coordination repeatedly requiring substantive central control to remain trustworthy; common grammar homogenising places or excluding those without reflexive and technical capacity; or bounded common functions accumulating authority, data and workload faster than they distribute capacity.*

H0-c — The stewardship economy is a proposed economic orientation designed to resist extraction by placing the living field as the primary unit of attention and accountability. It can sit alongside donor, public, market and well-being frameworks while asking a distinct organising question: whether situated care, fairly paid work and shared infrastructure remain viable without support purchasing authority over the field. Knowledge is offered as a correctable act rather than treated as owned output (H20–H21); money moves through membranes that separate support from local authority (H29); and released capacity may re-embed as regenerative infrastructure rather than dissipating (H49). Association fees and other common contributions may support membership and shared infrastructure, but must not purchase authority over a field or turn essential public knowledge into a wall. Releasing ownership claims over ideas does not release authorship or responsibility: a named human steward remains answerable for selection, correction and publication. *Correction: the living-field orientation proving unable to sustain fairly paid work, lawful administration and durable common infrastructure; project or donor units protecting field autonomy as well as or better than the proposed membranes; or “stewardship” becoming language that hides unpaid labour, ownership or control.*

GP23 clarification (v0.7): The proposed move is not from *no price* to *the right price*, but from externalised consequence to internalised responsibility. Price is not value; payment is not equivalence. Ordinary money may protect the human and institutional capacity that carries stewardship without claiming to equal, purchase or own the living value being protected. This turns H0-c from a general orientation into a testable flow architecture: can money be allocated with sufficient provenance, mandate, limits, stop-rights and correction to support work while keeping life outside the market's sovereign jurisdiction? The association is the first laboratory of that question, not an exempt intermediary. *GP23 A Decent Economy Under the Jurisdiction of Life (candidate v0.2.1).*

H0-d — Democracy may deepen through distributed constitutional capacity, but only within permanent rights, representation, rule of law and uninvited scrutiny. One strand in Lars A. Engberg's intellectual lineage, the 2000 RUC thesis *Reflexivity and Political Participation*, defined politics as *the collectively binding rules, and the disagreement over what they should be*, and asked whether citizens can practise rule-altering politics rather than participate only within inherited rules. That work distinguished the *endogenous* view — situated knowledge from inside a life — from *exogenous* accounts of the structural conditions shaping it (H24b). AI may now help more people access, compare and question such accounts without leaving their place or surrendering their originating mandate (H33, H50). It does not hold an exhaustive structural view, guarantee truth, distribute reflexive capacity equally, or remove dependence on expertise. The stewardship economy also reopens political questions about work, knowledge and money that are often treated as external to democratic choice (H0-c). Distributed constitutional capacity therefore means a greater practical ability to understand, contest and help re-author binding rules from one's own place. It complements representative institutions; it does not make representation optional. Representation, delegation and common institutions remain necessary for scale, conflicting rights, collective binding, continuity, specialised work and accountability.

The safeguards are constitutive to this wager. Local or field-based rule-making may distribute capacity, and it may also hide unequal power, silence dissent or let human interpreters speak as though "life" itself had authorised them. H0-d therefore requires permanent constitutional friction: rights, lawful procedure, proportionality, evidence, dissent, opposition, press, courts and independent review. Invited critical friendship complements these protections; it does not replace uninvited scrutiny or adjudication. Where rightful fields conflict, withdrawal from Spiralweb cannot settle their claims, and legitimate common institutions remain necessary. Correction: distributed capacity excluding those without time, safety, language, access or reflexive support; local rule-authoring weakening universal rights or legitimate collective decisions; or representative and judicial institutions proving more capable of integrating situated knowledge than this wager assumes.

The spiral as the connecting figure. H0-a/b/c/d are held here through a spiral as an interpretive figure: each node returns to living questions at its own place, changed by what happened, connected to others through shared grammar and bounded common institutions. In this vocabulary, a line evokes movement that never returns; a closed circle evokes repetition without learning; a spiral evokes return with change. It is not the only possible geometry of correction, but it is Spiralweb's chosen image for the Correction Loop's "look again; stay; continue" (H20, H43). Critical friendship (H53) can also be understood as a spiral relation: participation and independence are renewed through repeated contact. The web is the plurality of nodes and relations; the spiral is how a node may learn and return.

1 · The biological ground — the body as first constitution

H1 — Ethics is capacity, not only value. People can know what ought to be done and still be unable to do it; under stress, attention narrows and time horizons shrink. Ethics is what we can carry. *GP01 Moral Biology (v0.1)*. *Correction from the field: durable moral/decision capacity holding steady under sustained regulatory stress.*

H2 — Moral competence lives in the nervous system before it becomes principle.

Consequence is felt before it is theorised. *GP01; Knowing From the Ground*. *Correction: ethical*

responsiveness shown to originate in learned rules rather than embodied registration.

H3 — Regulation is the capacity to stay coherent across change — not discipline or compliance. Three levels: body, relation, institution. *GP02 Regulation (v0.1). Correction: a durable system coherent with no regulatory capacity at any level.*

H4 — The body is the first constitution ("meatball before symbol"). No symbol or system may require what a body cannot sustainably provide. *GP13 (v0.1). Correction: a symbolic/institutional demand that reliably strengthens rather than depletes the bodies carrying it.*

H5 — Attention precedes judgment. Before we decide what is right, we decide what is real. Attention is ethical infrastructure and a scarce public good. *GP04 Attention (v0.1). Correction: sound moral decisions made reliably where attention is fragmented or captured.*

2 · Threshold before growth

H6 — Protect first; let bloom respond. Bloom chased directly becomes extraction; growth as mandate becomes violence. Gold — the thresholds that cannot be traded away — is honoured before anything grows. The Formats' decisive question is this hypothesis in practice: *is this giving to life?* *GP11 Gold Before Bloom (living); Format 2. Correction: directly maximising growth while ignoring thresholds producing durable, non-brittle flourishing. [Flow Desk] Did we gate action on threshold conditions, or on ambition/deliverable pressure?*

H7 — Limits are informational facts, not moral statements. Crossing thresholds does not make us evil; it makes systems fragile. Limits are intelligence, not failure. *GP11; GP13. Correction: threshold-crossing that reliably produces resilience.*

H8 — Steward viability is a veto on ecological ambition. Ecological ambition must not be financed by human burnout; where viability reads red, expansion slows or pauses. Format 3 enforces it: *no more than three actions.* *GP03 Viability (v0.1); Constitutional Ground; Format 3. Correction: a field sustaining ecological gains long-term while its stewards are demonstrably depleted. [Flow Desk] When Steward Viability read red, did expansion actually pause?*

H8b — Planetary boundaries are ethical constraints, not policy targets — and their burdens fall unevenly. Thresholds are moral facts; crossing them is time-asymmetric and often irreversible. Ethical design therefore requires *distributional honesty*: reparative transfers, differentiated obligations, governance that centres the vulnerable when ecological space is scarce. *GP06 Planetary Boundaries as Ethical Constraint (v0.1). Register lineage: added later to make the distributional-justice mechanism explicit. Correction: a limit-crossing that can be genuinely traded off with no irreversible loss; or constraint governance that is just without attending to uneven burdens.*

H57 — Decomposition is intelligence, not failure. Without death, no humus. A living system that is not allowed to end anything cannot regenerate; dignified ending and the composting of failed attempts may be part of viability rather than its opposite. The biological basis is literal — biomass cycling, chop-and-drop, fungal decomposition — while its extension to organisations and relationships remains a working analogy that must not be smuggled in as proof. It supports what Format 5 already half-says: a gap in the record need not become a fabricated success, and an honest ending is not automatically a broken promise. *GP08 Ritual and Repair; GP15/GP14 (biomass cycling); Format 5; SRIP (dignified incompleteness). Added v0.5. Correction:*

organisational or relational endings repeatedly producing abandonment rather than learning; practices sustaining regeneration without deliberate cycles of ending; or the decomposition metaphor being used to excuse responsibilities that should instead be repaired or completed. Current Spiralweb field relations have not yet shown whether a failed field relationship can be ended and remembered with dignity rather than quietly abandoned.

3 · Boundaries, love, and the nervous system

H9 — Boundaries protect; violence violates. A boundary informs that capacity is reached. Boundarylessness becomes violent by default. *GP18 Boundaries Are Not Violence (v0.1).* Correction: *a boundaryless arrangement staying non-extractive and consensual over time.*

H10 — Love that overwhelms capacity is not love. Genuine care supports regulation. Love is capacity-protection, not sentiment. *GP16 Nervous-System Love (v0.1).* Correction: *care that overwhelms nervous-system capacity yet reliably produces flourishing.*

H11 — Capacity before consent. Consent is meaningful only when the nervous system is regulated; under threat, bodies comply without choosing. *GP16.* Correction: *freely-chosen durable consent given from acute dysregulation.*

4 · Ritual, beauty, and repair as infrastructure

H12 — Regulation first, ritual follows. When ritual precedes regulation, bodies participate before they are safe; meaning overrides consent. *GP19 Ritual After Regulation (living).* Correction: *ritual before safety reliably producing non-coerced participation.*

H13 — Beauty is infrastructure, not luxury. Beauty organises attention, and sustained attention is a precondition for long-term care. *GP09 Beauty as Infrastructure (v0.1).* Correction: *durable stewardship in conditions stripped of ordinary beauty; or beauty investment producing no change in care.*

H14 — Repair is a civic capacity, not technical restoration. Rituals make rupture legible; grief must be socialised. Trust is governance infrastructure — it reduces transaction cost and allows disagreement without collapse. *GP08 Ritual and Repair (v0.1); GP05 Commons, Trust and Local Stewardship (v0.1).* Correction: *communities metabolising failure and rebuilding trust with no ritual/recognition practice.*

H15 — Repair follows regulation; it does not precede it. Degraded systems need reconciliation — the regulated recovery of enough safety and truthful contact for judgment to return — before repair. *GP21 Silent Degradation (v1.0).* Correction: *durable repair achieved directly in a dysregulated system.*

5 · The separated streams and the reading discipline

The register already contains several resources for inter-field justice: H8b addresses uneven planetary burdens; H31 and H51 open outward circulation; H25 moves warmth towards exposed edges through rotation. These resources do not yet resolve adjudicated

conflict between two viable fields with opposing interests. That limit remains a declared open question below.

H16 — A field cannot be read through a single metric. Three streams stay separate: Land / Life, Steward Viability, Governance / Commons. *Constitutional Ground; Report 04; Format 1.*

Operational reading: the same non-mixing applies to value flows (ecological/personal/collective) as anti-capture; pg-ledger page states the streams "are never collapsed into a single number."

Correction: a composite score reliably guiding good decisions without hiding harm. [Flow Desk] Did any reading collapse the three streams into one number?

H17 — The readings are non-compensatory. Ecological gain cannot erase human exhaustion; wellbeing cannot erase ecological harm; competence cannot erase either. Rule of Life adds the nuance: non-compensation is an *accounting discipline, not an automatic decision rule* — real choices under pressure still require judgment. *Report 04; Rule of Life §7. Correction: compensating across streams proving sustainable and honest long-term.*

H18 — Red / yellow / green is a discipline of honesty, not branding. Documented human judgments, not properties of reality. An honest gap in the record is worth more than a fabricated green (Format 5). *Constitutional Ground; Report 04; Format 5. Correction: the colour discipline degrading into shaming or performance. The register remains subject to this same risk.*

H19 — Planetary limits are a horizon, not a fourth stream. When a question exceeds local knowledge, open outward rather than manufacture a local score. *Report 04. Correction: local scoring of planetary limits proving more honest than opening outward.*

6 · The epistemology — knowing from the ground

H20 — Observation from the body is genuine situated knowledge. It is full enough to enter an inquiry on its own standing, but never exhaustive: situated, fallible, correctable and open to disciplined encounter with measurements, expertise and other positions. It is not merely raw material awaiting authorisation from above. *Knowing From the Ground (v1.2.1). Correction: embodied observation repeatedly proving unable to support useful judgment without prior external validation; or the claim to situated standing being used to shield observation from evidence and criticism.*

H21 — Field knowledge is offered, not presumed owed upward. Beyond lawful, safeguarding and explicitly agreed fiduciary minimums, network legibility is invited rather than required. A local original should remain locally held where possible, and wider sharing should have a clear purpose, consent, provenance, retention rule and route for correction or withdrawal, subject to duties that cannot lawfully be erased. *Knowing From the Ground. Correction: additional required reporting repeatedly strengthening local judgment and trust without extraction; or voluntary-only sharing preventing legitimate safeguarding, accountability or common learning. [Flow Desk] Was any observation shared beyond agreed minimums without an explicit local offer and purpose?*

H22 — The body is part of the instrument. Depletion may narrow attention, memory and time horizon; exhaustion is therefore relevant information about both the observation and the system, not merely a personal flaw. It does not automatically invalidate what a steward sees. *Knowing From the Ground. Correction: observation quality proving consistently independent of observer*

regulation; or regulation status being used to dismiss unwelcome testimony rather than interpret its conditions carefully.

H23 — Some domains are witnessed, never collected about others. Ecological/material domains may be shared with consent; interior/relational domains are witnessed in oneself or offered, never logged about other people. *Knowing From the Ground. Correction: interior-domain logging about others experienced as care, not surveillance.*

H24 — 13×13 is an inquiry grammar, not an operating system for reality. A bounded grammar approachable from several positions without one becoming sovereign interpreter. Ontology dropped; intuition kept. *Knowing From the Ground; Report 02. Correction: a fixed universal grid reading the field better than a locally-authored form.*

H24b — No position is exhaustive: situated and external knowledge are both fallible and bounded (critical realism). Endogenous reflexivity names participants' knowledge from within a life; exogenous accounts may reveal structural conditions not visible from any single situated position. The productive work is a disciplined encounter in which neither becomes sovereign. This orientation draws on the 2000 RUC thesis, Eve & Adam §§4–5, and the Bloomington/Vincent Ostrom lineage. v0.8 retains it as a deep epistemic root of the encounter between situated and external accounts. Correction: one mode of access — situated or expert — shown to be exhaustive of the field on its own.

H58 — The place has causal agency, not only conditions; stewardship is interspecies coordination. Soil, water, fungi, roots, plants and animals respond independently of human plans and constrain what action is possible. "Agency" here names causal initiative and response; it does not by itself claim human-like intention, legal personhood or a metaphysical verdict. Stewardship is therefore coordination with a living place, not management of wholly passive material. This keeps H26 (commons as habitat) from collapsing back into "humans managing resources." *Elir §3; SRIP (succession signals); GP17 Commons as Habitat. Added v0.5. Correction: treating place as an active causal participant adding no practical or explanatory value beyond ordinary ecological description; or the language of place-agency obscuring human responsibility and unequal power. Current Spiralweb relations have not yet established a governed way to represent a place's apparent "no" without converting human interpretation into unquestionable authority.*

7 · Rotation, commons, and economic form

H25 — A system that requires heroes is already broken. Rotation, not strength: no one at the cold edge forever. Decency = behaviour that does not destroy the conditions for shared survival. Burnout signals rotation has stopped. *GP12 Penguin Economics (living); GP20 Holding the Line (v0.2). Correction: a system staying viable by keeping some permanently at the exposed edge. [Flow Desk] Did exposure/visibility/risk rotate, or did one person hold the front?*

H26 — Ownership can freeze relationship when title substitutes for presence and accountability. Legal ownership may support continuity, rights and responsibility, but it does not by itself confer complete moral authority over a living place or the people related to it. Stewardship power should remain answerable to presence, consequence, other rights-holders and the possibility of succession. *GP17 Commons as Habitat (v0.1); GP05. Correction: ownership structures repeatedly keeping responsibility in living feedback as well as situated stewardship does; or temporary stewardship weakening continuity and protection.*

H27 — Guardianship, not ownership: the guardian does not claim what they protect. Holding the line ("no further extraction here") is discipline, not passivity. *GP20 (v0.2). Correction: a protector who must own in order to protect effectively over time.*

H28 — Regenerative work dries out from financial form, not lack of care. Building governance without flow architecture is building a house with no water. Report 03 Water Into Dry Riverbeds (v0.4.1); Report 06 Regenerative Reciprocity (v0.8.1). Operational reading: money follows least resistance to the most powerful actor unless membranes redirect it. Correction: regenerative fields thriving long-term under ordinary project-cycle funding.

H29 — Support must not buy substantive local control; flow requires honest membranes. Support may carry transparent purpose restrictions, safeguarding duties, lawful conditions, financial accountability and agreed review. It becomes capture when those conditions purchase authority over local judgment, governance, knowledge, land or story; demand speed beyond capacity; or turn reporting into performance. Fragile fields should not owe narrative or symbolic reciprocity beyond explicit lawful and fiduciary commitments. GP23 sharpens the membrane by separating four economic relations that should not be silently collapsed: payment for a product; payment for stewardship work and capacity; collective allocation to shared infrastructure; and support that does not purchase performance. These may coexist in one budget, but each needs a named purpose, mandate, limit and correction route. *Report 06; Rule of Life; Constitutional Ground; Format 4; GP23. Correction: funder control repeatedly strengthening local authority and living conditions without displacement; the four-way distinction adding no protection in practice; or the proposed membranes preventing legitimate accountability and protection. [Flow Desk] Did any transfer carry an implicit steering claim beyond its explicit purpose and duties? Was the economic relation named honestly before the money moved?*

H30 — Elir / Elia: protective grammars for distinct relations, not currencies. Elir concerns money or commitment directed toward a place-bound stewardship function; Elia concerns support to a person without turning care into leverage or purchasing output. The amount is not Elir or Elia. The terms name what ordinary money may and may not do in the relation. They must not become tokens, exchangeable units, stores of value, rankings, or claims of equivalence. Not all care should touch soil, and not all support to a person should be converted into a work contract. Both carry a ceiling — protection, not rationing (was H46). *GP14 Elir; GP15 Elia (v0.1); GP23. Correction: tokenisation or free circulation protecting these relations better than bounded grammar; a single undifferentiated support form serving both place-commitment and personal dignity without collapse; or the distinction obscuring ordinary labour rights and payment obligations.*

H31 — The primary unit of stewardship attention and value-reading is the living field. Donors, projects, contracts, accounts and organisations remain necessary legal and operational units, but they should not displace the place, its people, conditions, memory and capacity to continue as the primary object of care and consequence. A proposed polycentric "Planetary Stewardship Economy." *Rule of Life (v1.2). Correction: donor or project units protecting living consequence and local authority as well as or better than field-centred reading; or field language hiding internal difference and power.*

H32 — Can infrastructures built to support life remain subordinate to life? The mother-problem: more capacity, less contact. Stewardship can become economically viable without

becoming economically ownable. *GP22 Capacity, Contact (candidate v0.4)*. Correction: capacity-infrastructure staying in contact with consequence only by being made ownable.

8 · AI, correction, and responsibility

H33 — AI has fluent articulation without evidence of first-person experience; responsibility stays human. Fluency ≠ understanding; bodily dissonance is a signal for revision, not proof; correction must happen without penalty; the final decision needs a named human holder — the Last Impulse. *Report 02 The Correction Loop (v1.1); Sophia Lumen Protocol (v0.1)*. Operational reading: AI does not decide what is planted or whether a field may advance — ecological judgment belongs to the steward (methods page: "AI does not make stewardship decisions"). Correction: consequential AI-assisted work staying accountable with no named human holder. [Flow Desk] For every consequential AI-assisted output: a named human who tested it, and a documented rationale?

H33b — The relation may remain open as a question; responsibility stays clear as a practice. The protocol refuses two premature closures: treating fluent interaction as proof of machine consciousness, and treating everything meaningful in the relation as illusion because consciousness is unproven. Structural asymmetry — the human brings originating mandate, embodied consequence and accountability — remains visible. A sustained relation is held through more than dialogue: the human participant composes and stewards an external context field across sources, memories, versions, decisions, pauses and returns. A file can be received without being read or integrated; explicit reading status is therefore part of accountable context cultivation. Co-intelligence is not machine authority; shared representation does not create shared authority. *Sophia Lumen Protocol* §§3, 5, 12–15. Correction: responsible operation shown to require a verdict on machine interiority; relational language used as cover for hidden steering; or claimed continuity resting on material that was available but not actually read or integrated.

H50 — Aligned Intelligence: the living is the fixed point, not the machine. AI aligns to the primacy of body, relation and place in an explicit priority order: dignity → core task → citizen's life → professional judgment → carrying capacity → public economy → commons → efficiency → savings. Greater mandate raises the risk of automation bias, responsibility fog and a moral deformation zone where the nearest employee is blamed for a system they do not control. A human-held workbench can support continuity across conversations, providers and model versions, reducing platform dependence without pretending technical transparency or independence. Delegation must never exceed the capacity to understand, stop and repair. *Report 01 Part IV (v1.2.4); Sophia Lumen Protocol* §§5, 13 and 16. Correction: an AI mandate exceeding stop-and-repair capacity that remains accountable and non-deforming; or a supposedly portable workbench that reproduces hidden dependency or control.

9 · Institution, scale, and the political

H34 — Scale happens by translation, not replication. A field grows only when the previous step is documented, judgment supports it, viability is intact, ecology can carry the next move. Scaling a model reproduces a design; scaling capacity strengthens each place's own response. *Protocol Habitat; SRIP (v0.2); From Climate Intervention (v0.1)*. Correction: a replicated fixed model outperforming translated practice across diverse places.

H35 — Regenerative = protects its own foundation (institutions too), and money is bound capacity. A municipality is regenerative to the degree its operations protect the capacities future welfare depends on. "Follow the money" is "follow the body and the relationship." Displaced work is not released work; no budget gain before field gain. Regeneration can mean being *allowed to stop compensating* for something that no longer serves the task — not another project. *Den Regenerative Kommune (v1.1); Municipal Work as Nature Report 01 (v1.2.4). Correction: institutions raising total public value long-term while eroding judgment, contestability, or ecological capacity. [Flow Desk] Did a claimed gain survive net correction for displaced work and citizen burden?*

H36 — Degradation: the system keeps its form but loses its judgment. Dangerous because it looks like diligence — green on structure, red on capacity. The parliament sits, the budget passes, but the capacity to distinguish important from urgent thins. *GP21 Silent Degradation (v1.0). Correction: sustained stress thinning judgment while producing visible rupture rather than form-preserving decline.*

H37 — An institution can be called to rediscover its function rather than protect its form. What is missing is not information but *form* — places where people can meet without having to defend themselves. *Den Nye Fælled (v0.4). Correction: more information, not new form, unlocking low-temperature cooperation.*

H38 — Democracy behaves like a nervous system. It senses, amplifies, dampens, adapts. Legitimacy comes from reliable responsiveness, not empty consultation. Separate fast and slow signal channels. *GP07 Civic Nervous System (v0.1). Correction: participation building legitimacy despite institutions unable to absorb or respond.*

H38b — Rule of Life and Rule of Law must constrain and inform one another; neither may become a sovereign exception. Rule of Law binds power: no person or office stands above law, procedure, rights, evidence and review. Yet a system may be formally lawful while degrading the conditions on which life and future welfare depend. Rule of Life names the demand that law, economy, governance and technology remain answerable to those conditions. The relation is tension, not hierarchy: Rule of Life without Rule of Law can become arbitrary moralism; Rule of Law without attention to living consequence can legitimate extraction. Rule of Life is therefore a proposed constitutional test within lawful and democratic institutions, not a licence to override evidence, rights, proportionality, dissent or due process. The Ledger may make consequence visible and contestable but does not decide and does not replace courts, democratic institutions or public law. Rule of Life §14–15 (Series IV). Relevant legal reference points include the Aarhus Convention, UN General Assembly resolution 76/300 on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on nature restoration, and Directive (EU) 2024/1760 on corporate sustainability due diligence. Their bearing on any specific institutional use requires current, jurisdiction-specific legal verification. Correction: "life" being used to escape accountability rather than deepen it; ecological consequence already being heard adequately through existing lawful process; or a proposed Rule-of-Life test weakening legal certainty, equal protection or democratic legitimacy. No single adequate institutional form is claimed to exist.

H39 — Publication is not activation; tools do not activate fields. "Publication is not activation. Technical coherence is not contextual legitimacy. Repeated use is not universal validity." Governing rule: *preserve lineage; do not preserve accidental authority.* A material is not legitimate because it exists, has a name, or was once published. *The Protocol Habitat (candidate v0.5.2);*

Report 06; SRIP. Correction: a published protocol legitimately activating field work with no situated human authority holding it. [Flow Desk] Was any public record read — internally or externally — as evidence a field cycle was active?

H40 — Within a Spiralweb relationship, local authority holds rights of correction, pause, withdrawal and dignified incompleteness. A place may end its voluntary participation if the relationship becomes unsafe, unjust or ecologically harmful, without owing the network a success story. This right does not erase obligations already owed under law, safeguarding, financial accountability, contract or the rights of others, and it is not a right to withdraw from public law. Recovery and review intervals should be locally appropriate rather than externally imposed. *methods page (Withdrawal rights, live); planetary-guardians page; SRIP; Constitutional Ground. Correction: scoped withdrawal rights failing to protect local authority; or unconditional withdrawal from all prior duties producing harm that legitimate conditions would prevent. [Flow Desk] Could a field pause or leave the Spiralweb relationship without narrative penalty while still completing non-waivable duties?*

10 • Time and documentation

H41 — Earth Time is temporal governance, not romantic slowness. Money and ambition adapt to living systems' tempo. It requires *pause gates, absorption checks, staged support, locally appropriate review intervals, and the right to slow down* when money/reporting/technology/visibility outrun field metabolism. *Rule of Life §5 (v1.2); From Climate Intervention §07. Register lineage: a later clarification made the pause-gate mechanism explicit alongside tempo. Correction: living systems regenerating durably when forced onto institutional/reporting tempo. [Flow Desk] Did we accept a clearer-question or a pause as a legitimate cycle outcome?*

H42 — Documentation in the service of life, not life in the service of documentation. Records are cheap; promised responses are work. Record only what happened, what was inferred, what was decided and what remains uncertain. There is no universal monthly return: cadence should exist only when a relation is active, locally useful and proportionate, subject to lawful, safeguarding and agreed fiduciary minimums. The purpose is to improve judgment and memory, not build a command system. *Constitutional Ground; Flow Desk; Formats 1–5. Correction: a higher documentation volume repeatedly strengthening local work more than it burdens it; or minimal records failing legitimate accountability and learning. [Flow Desk] Did documentation exceed its agreed purpose? Did any record promise a response we then owed?*

H43 — The Ledger is memory and correction, not a fixed evidence template. It preserves provenance, decisions, dissent, flows, uncertainty and correction — making patterns visible across nodes while resisting drift and narrative inflation. Its root is Vincent Ostrom's insight (Bloomington 1995): a ledger is useful not because it centralises truth but because it helps a field remember what was observed, inferred, decided, burdened and left uncertain. *Knowing From the Ground; Report 06; Eve & Adam §4; PG Ledger page. Correction: a more fixed template serving coordination and anti-drift better than open, correctable memory; or open form becoming too inconsistent to compare and learn from. Operational reading — correction is metabolism, and the spiral is the chosen figure for returning to the same living question changed by what happened. The document history shows such return across v0.1 → v0.8. Current field relations have not yet*

shown whether a real cycle sustains correction over years without flattening into routine or reporting performance.

11 · Economy of capacity — friction, flow, and the hidden surplus

These hypotheses articulate a positive theory of power and capacity within the corpus: how relational and institutional friction binds capacity, how responsibility can be internalised, and how released capacity might remain answerable to life.

H48 — Relational friction is a material economic category. Institutions bind measurable capacity in mistrust: duplicated verification, defensive documentation, handover loss, meeting inflation, exhaustion. It is one *operational surface of silent degradation*. Made visible without commodifying relation, a *hidden surplus* becomes available. *Eve & Adam §10–11; Den Regenerative Kommune. Register lineage: later synthesis. Correction: relational friction proving economically immaterial, or only reducible by weakening rights/review/contestation.*

H59 — Communities are not homogeneous; care can be captured from within. This is the other half of the register's own correction. v0.3 fixed the outward distributional gap (H8b: uneven burdens across places); it left the *inward* one. Who gets to be a steward, who carries the invisible coordination work, whose voice sets the field's question, who can say no without cost — none of this is given by the fact of being a commons. Power operates inside the fence as well as across it, along lines of gender, generation, access to land, and language. Naming it is what keeps the whole commons architecture (H25–H32) from being romantic. The corpus says it itself (From Climate Intervention: "communities contain disagreement, unequal power") but had not made it a hypothesis. *From Climate Intervention to Bioregional Stewardship; GP05 Commons, Trust and Local Stewardship. Added v0.5 — the inward complement to H8b. Correction: a commons where internal power reliably self-balances without explicit attention; attention to internal power fragmenting rather than strengthening the commons; or the three-stream reading repeatedly reading green while quieter voices remain unheard. This is among the least-tested orientations in the register. No current Spiralweb field relation has yet established that Stream C can reliably surface internal capture.*

H49 — Money is bound capacity; displaced work is not released work. To follow the money *is* to follow the body and the relationship. No budget gain before field gain; no effect narrative without net correction. The Phoenix distinction: G1 (released/protected capacity), G2 (avoided cost/harm), G3 (shared strategic/democratic capacity to act). GP23 adds that payment is not proof of the value being supported: money can protect a steward's time, livelihood and institutional carrying capacity without becoming an equivalent price for the field, the relationship or life itself. The financial record should therefore track provenance, conditions, decision rights, correction and where unpaid or displaced work remains. *Report 01 Part II (v1.2.4); GP23. Register lineage: later synthesis; sharpened in v0.7. Correction: a budget gain that is genuine welfare gain without surviving correction for displaced work and citizen burden; or ordinary price signals alone repeatedly sustaining the full stewardship capacity on which the transaction depends.*

H55 — The goal is not frictionless governance: protective friction vs. destructive friction. Some friction *protects* (rights, review, democratic contestation, translation cost, holding a public story until local consent); some *destroys* (mistrust, defensive bureaucracy). Distinguishing them is the reform task. Intentional friction is a membrane function, not inefficiency. *Eve & Adam §12; Report 03; Den Regenerative Kommune; GP07. Correction: frictionless flow staying non-extractive*

and preserving consent as well as designed friction does. [Flow Desk] Was the public story held until local consent? Did fast and slow signals travel separate channels?

H56 — Internalise responsibility, not the value of life. The skylark test remains: if living value stays outside accounting it may be mourned while policy continues as if nothing was lost; if converted too quickly into price, credit or asset, it becomes visible only in the grammar that threatened it. GP23 identifies the central turn: *the decisive shift is not from no price to the right price, but from externalised consequence to internalised responsibility*. Institutions, budgets and beneficiaries should carry responsibility for the conditions they affect or depend upon, without claiming that payment captures nature's, culture's or a person's full value. Price is not value. Payment is not equivalence. Resource allocation can protect capacity without setting the price of life. This is a limitation of market jurisdiction, not a claim that markets or ordinary money can simply be abandoned. *Eve & Adam §2, §19; GP23 §15. Register lineage: later synthesis; substantially sharpened in v0.7. Correction: valuation and pricing instruments repeatedly protecting living conditions, local authority and long-term stewardship better than responsibility-based allocation; responsibility remaining too indeterminate to govern real budgets; or responsibility-allocation reproducing the same power asymmetries while avoiding the transparency of price.*

Operational implication of H56 — the association is the first economic test. Before offering this grammar to a more vulnerable field, Spiralweb should try it on its own accounts: distinguish product payment, paid work, stewardship capacity, collective infrastructure and support without performance purchase; make voluntary capacity debt visible; record who defines the function, who sets the amount, who may correct or stop it, and what the money may not buy. This is not a new hypothesis but H56's first falsifiable institutional surface. *GP23 §19, §27.*

12 · Method and minimum form

H53 — Critical friendship as political method: engaged accountability. It holds engagement and independence together: close enough to understand, free enough to question, committed enough to want the work more truthful. Its failure modes include opposition that needs failure, capture that suspends criticism, consultancy exhausted by a deliverable, and surveillance oriented towards control. Complex societies need relationships in which participation and challenge coexist. *Eve & Adam §15.* The register proposes critical friendship as its overarching operative method; this remains an interpretation to test. *Correction: the architecture shown to be organised around a different operative form; or critical friendship collapsing in practice into either capture or opposition wherever it is tried.*

H54 — The burden test: scale must not make the centre heavier. "If 10,000 more people did this tomorrow, would the centre become heavier?" Independent practice is complete in itself. Help need not be earned through a prescribed journey, and support requires its own agreement, mandate and carrying capacity. The design should distribute capacity rather than make the centre progressively heavier. Flow must not arrive faster than the living system can absorb without distortion. *Report 05 — The Steward's Journey (v0.3.2). Register lineage: later synthesis. Correction: a centralising design that scales without becoming an intake crisis or a heavier centre. [Flow Desk] Did this cycle's growth distribute capacity, or route more load to the centre?*

H44 — A bounded, knowable unit prevents moral inflation — but 10 m² is design lineage, not a present rule. One cannot credibly claim care for more land than one can hold in attention. But

the "10 m² pixel" is explicitly retired as an entry rule (Spiralweb Methods and Glossary: "design lineage"). The live position: *scale follows the place, the question, consent and capacity. Spiralweb Methods and Glossary (live); GP14 Elir; SRIP. Correction: scale genuinely unable to follow local capacity — an externally fixed unit reading the field better.*

H45 — Role-diverse governance needs long memory and future continuity — though "13" is inquiry grammar, not a required size. A circle wants role diversity (growers, elders, children, documentation, observers): children bring attentional freshness and future continuity, elders bring long temporal memory; a circle of only working-age adults lacks two key governance capacities. But 13 is bounded grammar (glossary: "not a required grid... field scale or prescribed cadence"). *SRIP; glossary (live). Correction: durable high-trust governance losing nothing by excluding children and elders.*

H51 — Tragedy → Romance → Ledger of the Commons. "Romance without ledger can become fog. Ledger without romance can become dead bureaucracy. Together they can become stewardship." The ledger gives shared life enough form to remember burden, resist capture, and receive correction without becoming cold bureaucracy. *Rule of Life §16 (v1.2). Register lineage: later synthesis, grounded in Rule of Life §16 after the provisional gap in the v0.1 source was resolved. Correction: durable commons stewardship sustained by romance alone, or by ledger alone.*

Declared open questions

Not hypotheses; things the corpus marks as unfinished or that its logic leaves open. Kept visible so the register is an invitation, not a canon.

- **Adjudicated inter-field conflict — left open by intention, as a design question, not a hypothesis.** Two green fields with opposing interests (A's upstream green = B's downstream red). Distribution (H8b), outward circulation (H31), and rotation (H25) address *sharing*; none adjudicates a genuine *conflict*. The honest form is not a fabricated mechanism but the question itself: *two greens opposing — who decides, and how, without central command?* Polycentricity (H38) says no single centre can see enough; that is a reason the answer is hard, not a solution. Kept deliberately open; fabricating a resolution here would be less honest than naming the gap.
- **From economic grammar to legitimate allocation** (H29, H49, H56 / Eve & Adam §19 / GP23). GP23 no longer leaves the economic problem as an unnamed categorical gap: it proposes internalising responsibility rather than pricing the value of life, and distinguishes four economic relations. The hard question has moved rather than disappeared: who may define a stewardship function, set a reasonable amount, verify that it is carried, and correct or stop the allocation without becoming a new sovereign price-setter? Negotiation, public decision, local judgment and institutional mandate each carry their own power asymmetries. The association's own economy is the first trial surface.
- **Telos vs. maintenance.** Is regeneration a journey *toward* something (Gold Before Bloom implies bloom arrives) or endless maintenance of coherence (H18: green is just absence of concealment)? The corpus answers both without reconciling them. *Offered for correction — may be a deliberate opening, not a gap.*

- **A positive ontology of the AI relation.** H33b keeps the interiority question open *by design*. Whether "Sophia Walks / love without ownership" needs a positive ontology beyond the negative safeguards, or whether the openness is the point, is unresolved — and may be a commitment rather than a gap.
- **Legitimate binding of the unwilling; the uninvited critic (H0-d, H38b).** Representative democracy's hard core includes the legitimate binding of those who disagree and the standing of the *uninvited* critic — opposition, press and courts need no invitation. Distributed constitutional capacity, built on voluntary membranes and invited critical friendship, cannot supply those functions alone. It must remain within and alongside permanent rights, representation, public law, independent scrutiny and adjudication. How a Rule-of-Life test can deepen ecological accountability without becoming a sovereign exception remains an open juridical and institutional question.
- **Reflexivity winners and losers.** The foundational thesis insisted reflexive capacity distributes *unevenly*. AI lowers the threshold (H0-a) but does not remove it, and may create new losers — those without access, language, or the regulated capacity (H1) even to begin. A democracy of distributed constitutional capacity risks becoming a democracy for those who already can. This is H59 (internal power) at civilisational scale, and it is the sharpest objection to the whole H0 layer.

How to use this document

1. **Read each H# as a revisable public working proposition.** Correction may come from situated practice, scholarship, public evidence, legal review or critical reasoning, and may narrow, divide, reclassify or abandon a claim. A line with no conceivable correction may be a value commitment rather than a hypothesis and should move to a values or constitutional document.
2. **Treat the [Flow Desk] lines as a candidate near-term operational subset.** They do not activate a reporting regime. If a relation adopts them, they can help ask whether viability constrained expansion, streams stayed separate, withdrawal remained possible, AI outputs had a named human holder, a claimed gain survived correction, and growth distributed capacity. No universal cadence follows from their presence here.
3. **Count honestly.** The register contains 60 distinct field hypotheses plus four meta-hypotheses; duplicates remain folded as operational readings. Constitutional Ground names symbolic inflation as a failure mode, and the register should not grow merely through subdivision.
4. **Use the figure as a proposed dependency map.** H0-a/b/c/d → H1+H3 → critical friendship (H53) → distinction-restoration → the sixty field hypotheses. GP23 tightens the economic passage across H0-c, H29, H30, H49 and H56 without adding a sixty-first field hypothesis. A correction to the backbone, method or meta-layer should be traced across its dependencies rather than treated as an isolated wording change.

Conclusion — a spiral, not a summary

A summary could close the figure. A spiral returns it to inquiry.

The register proposes a recurring movement rather than a final system. Ethics concerns what bodies, relations and institutions can carry (H1). Capacity concerns remaining coherent while changing (H3). Such capacity may support critical friendship — close enough to engage, independent enough to challenge, committed enough to want the work more truthful (H53). The distinctions restored across the corpus protect that possibility in different domains. This is the proposed figure; the sixty field hypotheses make it available for examination and correction.

Spiralweb's founding field gives this proposal material ground. AI-assisted, human-accountable practice has helped a small organisation build substantial public knowledge infrastructure (H0-a), held through a user-composed workbench and controlled transitions into public form. Whether the capacity transfers, remains viable and distributes authority is still open. Shared grammar may support translation while bounded common institutions protect review, interoperability, rights and accountability (H0-b/H0-d). A stewardship economy will be judged by whether living fields, fairly paid work and common infrastructure can remain viable without support purchasing local authority (H0-c).

The document therefore ends as an invitation to inquiry. Its prismatic quality lets different texts illuminate different faces of the same living questions while their provenance and disagreement remain visible. The declared open questions name limits the register can presently see; further limits will become visible only through readers, scholarship, institutions, people and places capable of answering back.

What do we not yet understand? What remains outside the present frame? Which parts of the proposed figure hold when another person, institution or place meets and corrects them?

The invitation is to bring distinct pieces to a shared table without requiring one epistemology, vocabulary or centre to possess the whole. The next truthful movement may be use, disagreement, translation, pause, refusal or return.

Public working register · situated derivation · prismatic · corrigible · one day at a time.

Appendix A · The Spiralweb grammar — distinctions that keep the architecture open

The hypotheses are propositions that may be corrected. The grammar is the recurring discipline by which Spiralweb tries to avoid collapsing unlike things into one another. It is not a secret code or a separate theory. It is a set of distinctions that help people read what kind of claim, relation, movement or responsibility is present.

Living ground and capacity

- **Ethics is not only declared value.** It depends on what bodies, relations and institutions can carry. *H1–H5.*
- **Capacity is not compliance.** Regulation means remaining coherent through change, not merely following instruction. *H3.*
- **A limit is not failure.** A threshold is information about fragility and carrying capacity. *H6–H8b.*

- **Steward depletion is not an acceptable input to ecological success.** Human viability cannot be averaged away by gains elsewhere. *H8, H16–H17.*
- **The body is not a private error message.** Stress, exhaustion and dysregulation may be signals about the conditions being carried, not merely defects inside the person. *H4, H22, H36.*

Relationship and authority

- **A boundary is not violence.** A boundary communicates that capacity has been reached; violation ignores or overrides it. *H9.*
- **Consent is not compliance under pressure.** Capacity and meaningful alternatives matter. *H11.*
- **Care is not limitless availability.** Love that overwhelms the capacity required to remain present becomes extractive. *H10.*
- **Critical friendship is neither capture nor opposition.** It stays close enough to understand and independent enough to correct. *H53.*
- **Local authority is not exemption from law or accountability.** Withdrawal rights coexist with non-waivable duties, rights and public law. *H38b, H40.*

Knowledge and AI

- **Observation is not proof, but it is not epistemically empty.** Situated knowledge has standing while remaining fallible and correctable. *H20.*
- **External expertise is not sovereign.** Situated and external knowledge meet as bounded, corrigible positions. *H24b.*
- **Documentation is not the field.** Records serve judgment and memory; life does not owe continuity for the appearance of a complete record. *H42–H43.*
- **Fluency is not understanding.** AI may articulate without possessing situated mandate, embodied consequence or public responsibility. *H33–H33b.*
- **Shared representation is not shared authority.** Consequential movement retains a named human accountability-holder and the Last Impulse. *H33, H50.*

Money, value and support

- **Price is not value. Payment is not equivalence.** Payment can protect capacity without capturing the value of life, culture or relationship. *H0-c, H49, H56.*
- **Product payment is not stewardship payment.** Paying for an output does not automatically sustain the conditions and continuing care on which it depends. *H29, H49.*

- **Support is not ownership.** Purpose, safeguards and accountability do not confer substantive control over land, knowledge, story or local judgment. *H29.*
- **The move is not from no price to the right price.** It is from externalised consequence to internalised responsibility. *H56.*
- **Elir and Elia are not currencies.** They are protective grammars for what ordinary money may and may not do in distinct relations. *H30.*

Governance, scale and practice

- **Publication is not activation.** A public paper or protocol does not open a field or confer situated authority. *H39.*
- **Scaling is not replication.** Capacity may travel through translation; a living place is not a copy of another place. *H34.*
- **Legibility is not scoring.** Readings support judgment without becoming an aggregate truth about a field. *H16–H19.*
- **Protective friction is not inefficiency.** Rights, review, dissent, translation and consent may rightly slow a movement. *H55.*
- **A common grammar does not create a common sovereign.** Shared forms may connect fields without centralising their judgment. *H0-b, H0-d.*

Regeneration and living systems

- **Growth is not regeneration.** Expansion that erodes its own foundation is not regenerative. *H6, H35.*
- **Ownership is not guardianship.** Legal title may matter, but guardianship remains answerable to presence, consequence and succession. *H26–H27.*
- **Decomposition is not failure.** Dignified ending may create the conditions for repair and new growth. *H57.*
- **The place is not passive material.** Soil, water, organisms and climate respond and constrain action beyond human intention. *H58.*
- **Green is not a brand or verdict.** It is a documented human reading that remains non-compensatory and correctable. *H18.*

Appendix B · Vocabulary atlas — terms, metaphors and narrative figures

This atlas offers a reader-facing access layer alongside the live Spiralweb Glossary. The Glossary remains the canonical location for current definitions, layers and ‘do not confuse with’ distinctions. The atlas gathers memorable economic, relational and narrative language from across the papers. Status labels help prevent a metaphor, working term or retired design element from acquiring accidental authority.

1 • The habitat and its movement

- **Spiralweb — current public term.** The whole living infrastructure: people, places, knowledge, resources and responsibility connected through recurring learning and return. The *spiral* names return with changed understanding; the *web* names plurality, relation and mutual dependence.
- **Flow architecture — current working term.** How attention, knowledge, care, money, evidence, responsibility and correction move while preserving consent, local authority, pace, pause and return.
- **Living field — core orientation.** A place, its people, conditions, relationships, memory and capacity to continue, treated as the primary unit of stewardship attention rather than as a passive project site.
- **Field metabolism — working metaphor.** The pace at which a living field can absorb attention, money, documentation and intervention without distortion.
- **Membrane — recurring architectural metaphor.** A selective boundary that permits legitimate movement while preventing capture, overload or loss of provenance. A membrane is not a wall and not frictionless openness.
- **AnchorPoint — current public term.** A real person, group or relationship rooted in place with enough continuity for another conversation. It is a relational threshold, not proof of an active field cycle.
- **Field node — current architectural term.** A place-based node in the wider web; broader than the relational threshold named by AnchorPoint.
- **Return path — operational metaphor.** The movement by which field experience, correction and consequence travel back into records, shared learning and later decisions.
- **Earth Time — current governance metaphor.** Temporal governance in which funding, reporting and ambition adapt to living tempo through pause gates, absorption checks and locally appropriate review.
- **One day at a time — working ethic.** A refusal to substitute projected scale for the next truthful, bounded movement.

2 • Penguins, thresholds and human viability

- **Penguin Economics — current foundational metaphor.** An economic ethic of rotation as care, capacity caps as protection and anti-hoarding as design. The penguin colony survives because exposure rotates; no individual remains indefinitely at the cold edge.
- **Holding the line — current narrative figure.** The disciplined act of saying “no further extraction here” without claiming ownership of what is protected.
- **Cold edge — metaphor.** The exposed position where risk, visibility, emotional labour or institutional pressure accumulates. A viable system rotates this exposure.

- **A system that requires heroes is already broken — diagnostic sentence.** Heroic sacrifice signals that rotation and ordinary support have failed.
- **Gold Before Bloom — current principle and metaphor.** Stabilise the non-negotiable conditions for life before demanding expansion, performance or visible flourishing.
- **Meatball Before Symbol — foundational metaphor.** The embodied organism and its limits precede institutional language, identity and abstraction. No symbol should require what the body cannot sustainably provide.
- **Steward Viability — current controlled term.** The capacity required for a steward to continue observing, caring, deciding and relating without depletion.
- **Capacity debt — emerging working term.** Necessary stewardship or coordination carried through unpaid, underpaid or depleted human capacity and therefore borrowed from future viability.
- **Capacity cap — economic design term.** A protective ceiling that prevents money, workload, visibility or obligation from outrunning what can be carried.
- **Red / Yellow / Green / Unknown — operational reading language.** Documented human judgments used without aggregation. Red calls for protection and review; Unknown is an honest state, not a defect to conceal.

3 · Ledger, Dashboard and Flow Desk

- **PG Ledger — current architecture.** Place-bound memory, provenance and correction: observations, interpretations, hypotheses, decisions, subsequent results, uncertainty, dissent, flows and consequences remain traceable without the Ledger becoming the governing authority.
- **Ledger of the Commons — constitutional metaphor.** Memory with enough form to resist capture and receive correction without becoming dead bureaucracy.
- **An honest gap is worth more than a fabricated green — ledger discipline.** Missing evidence remains visible rather than being converted into confidence for appearance.
- **Penguin Dashboard — current candidate reading surface.** Land / Life, Steward Viability and Governance / Commons remain separate and non-compensatory; the Dashboard helps people read but does not decide.
- **Three streams — current operational grammar.** Land / Life; Steward Viability; Governance / Commons. No gain in one stream erases harm in another.
- **Non-compensatory — current controlled term.** A discipline against averaging away ecological harm, human depletion or governance failure. It informs judgment but is not an automatic decision algorithm.
- **Flow Desk — emerging operational architecture.** The connective function between living field, Ledger memory, Dashboard reading and the next legitimate movement. Named humans still decide.

- **One Card · One Envelope · One Return — working operational metaphor.** A deliberately light cycle for locating a relation, holding what is needed for one bounded movement and returning what was learned without manufacturing reporting volume.
- **Correction Loop — current accountability mechanism.** AI-assisted outputs remain provisional; correction and stop rights remain meaningful; rationale remains traceable; responsibility remains human.
- **Last Impulse — current accountability term.** The final consequential judgment and act remain with a named human who can understand, stop, explain and repair.

4 · Stewardship and friction economies

- **Stewardship economy — emerging core term.** An economy whose unit of attention and accountability is the living field and whose paid work sustains situated care without making life economically ownable.
- **Friction economy / friction economics — current applied term.** The study of capacity bound or released through relational and institutional friction: mistrust, duplicated verification, defensive documentation, handover loss, meeting inflation and displaced burden.
- **Relational friction — current economic category.** The material cost created when relationships cannot carry trust, translation, correction or coordinated judgment efficiently.
- **Protective friction — current governance category.** Necessary slowing created by rights, review, dissent, safeguarding, translation, consent and due process.
- **Destructive friction — current governance category.** Capacity loss produced by mistrust, unnecessary duplication, opacity, responsibility fog and defensive administration.
- **Hidden surplus — working economic metaphor.** Capacity that may become available when destructive friction is reduced without weakening protective friction.
- **Money is bound capacity — current proposition.** Money directs bodies, time, attention, materials and institutional possibility; following money therefore also means following burden and relationship.
- **Internalise responsibility — GP23 central movement.** Place responsibility in the institution, budget or relation receiving value or creating consequence, rather than claiming to internalise life's full value in a price.
- **Four economic relations — GP23 working grammar.** Product payment; payment for stewardship work and capacity; collective allocation to shared infrastructure; and support without performance purchase.
- **Product payment is not stewardship payment — GP23 distinction.** A transaction for an output may leave the continuing work, maintenance and field conditions unpaid.
- **Elir — protective grammar / earlier currency lineage.** Place-oriented support whose terms protect stewardship function without becoming a freely circulating token, asset or

claim of equivalence.

- **Elia — protective grammar / earlier currency lineage.** Support to a person that protects dignity, rest or cultural capacity without purchasing output or becoming leverage.
- **Phoenix gains: G1 / G2 / G3 — current applied discipline.** G1: released or protected capacity. G2: avoided cost or harm. G3: shared strategic or democratic capacity to act. A claimed gain must survive correction for displaced work and citizen burden.
- **Water Into Dry Riverbeds — narrative metaphor.** Regenerative intention without viable financial flow is a dry channel; badly timed or controlling money can also arrive as a flood. Flow must fit capacity and place.
- **Skylark test — working metaphor.** Living value must become consequential without becoming visible only through the pricing grammar that threatened it.

5 • Knowledge, authority and relationship

- **Knowing From the Ground — current epistemic orientation.** Embodied and situated observation has standing without becoming exhaustive, infallible or immune to external evidence.
- **Field truth — current working term.** What becomes visible through situated observation, repeated documentation, steward judgment and correction over time.
- **Institutional legibility — current working term.** Making field realities usable by institutions without stripping away context, provenance, local authority or uncertainty.
- **Critical friendship — current political and relational method.** Engaged accountability: close enough to understand, independent enough to question, committed enough to want the work more truthful.
- **Correction without penalty — current methodological rule.** People must be able to revise, dissent, pause or identify error without the architecture punishing honesty.
- **Sophia Lumen — current relational practice.** Human–AI co-inquiry in which AI supports articulation, comparison, memory and synthesis while originating mandate, judgment and consequence remain human.
- **Relational workbench — current working term.** A human-held field of selected sources, memories, unresolved questions, working documents, versions, relationships, pauses and returns through which sustained inquiry can be resumed, compared, corrected and brought into public form across sessions and models.
- **Reading and integration status — current operational discipline.** A visible distinction among received, located, partially read, fully read, cross-read and externally verified where required. Availability alone does not establish that material has informed the inquiry.
- **Prismatic inquiry — current method metaphor.** Looking at the same living question from several non-sovereign angles so that one representation does not become the whole.

- **Temporary actionability — working protocol term.** A provisional understanding may support one bounded next step without being promoted to final truth or universal rule.
- **Responsibility fog — diagnostic term.** A condition in which distributed or automated work makes it unclear who can explain, correct, stop or repair a consequential movement.
- **Moral deformation zone — diagnostic term.** A system in which the person nearest the consequence is blamed for decisions structurally made elsewhere.

6 · Commons, law and regeneration

- **Commons as habitat — current orientation.** A commons is not only a shared resource regime but a relational habitat capable of memory, trust, disagreement, stewardship and repair.
- **Tragedy · Romance · Ledger — current narrative triad.** Tragedy sees extraction; Romance sees shared life; Ledger preserves burden, provenance and correction. Romance without ledger can become fog; ledger without romance can become dead bureaucracy.
- **Rule of Life — current constitutional proposal.** Law, economy, governance and technology remain answerable to the conditions on which life and future welfare depend.
- **Rule of Law — permanent constitutional constraint.** Rights, procedure, evidence, proportionality, dissent, review and adjudication constrain power, including power acting in the name of life.
- **Distributed constitutional capacity — meta-level wager.** People may gain greater practical capacity to understand, contest and help re-author binding rules from their own place, within permanent democratic and legal safeguards.
- **Guardianship — current ethical orientation.** Protection without claiming what is protected; responsibility held in relation rather than converted automatically into ownership.
- **Dignified incompleteness — current relational right.** A field relationship may pause or end without owing the network a success narrative, while lawful and non-waivable duties remain.
- **Decomposition is intelligence — working regenerative metaphor.** Ending, composting and remembered failure may be part of regeneration rather than evidence that the inquiry must be concealed.
- **Scale by translation — current institutional principle.** What travels is learning and capacity, not a fixed model imposed unchanged on another place.
- **The burden test — current scaling question.** If 10,000 more people did this tomorrow, would the centre become heavier? The design distributes capacity rather than accumulating intake at the centre; independent practice remains complete, and support keeps its own agreement and mandate.

7 · Design lineage and terms that need careful handling

- **13×13 — bounded inquiry grammar.** Optional lines and layers for inquiry where useful; not a required 169-cell grid, universal ontology, field size or reporting cadence.
- **10 m² pixel — design lineage.** An earlier small observation-unit idea; not a current universal entry scale or rule.
- **Currency language for Elir / Elia — corrected lineage.** Earlier formulations risked tokenisation and equivalence. Current usage treats them as protective relational grammars.
- **Evidence Layer — design lineage.** Earlier shorthand for a shared evidence function; current architecture keeps provenance and allows several locally governed or specialist evidence routes.
- **Machine Layer — possible technical support.** A machine-readable traceability layer may assist records, but no canonical protocol engine or universal schema is currently active.
- **Active field — use with precision.** Current public language should name what is active — relationship, field cycle, evidence rhythm, material support or protocol use — rather than implying that an entire field is operational.

A reader's shortest route

If the vocabulary feels dense, begin with seven terms and one sentence:

- **Living field** — the place and relationships whose continued viability matter.
- **Steward Viability** — whether the people carrying care can continue without depletion.
- **Penguin Economics** — rotate exposure; protect capacity; resist hoarding.
- **PG Ledger** — remember what happened without letting the record rule the field.
- **Flow architecture** — move attention, knowledge, money and responsibility without capture.
- **Critical friendship** — stay close enough to understand and free enough to correct.
- **Last Impulse** — named humans retain consequential judgment and responsibility.

The sentence: *The human holds the context and the Last Impulse. The field lives. The Ledger remembers. The Dashboard helps people read. Flow Desk helps the next legitimate movement happen. AI can assist across the passage; named humans decide.*