Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Book Release:

Bioregional Financing Facilities: Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet

June 20, 2024, the Solstice – Today marks the release of *Bioregional Financing Facilities: Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet,* co-authored by Samantha Power of The BioFi Project and Finance for Gaia, and Leon Seefeld of Dark Matter Labs and Dark Matter Capital Systems. This publication presents an innovative approach to addressing the ecological crisis and driving systemic change towards bioregional, regenerative economies through the creation of Bioregional Financing Facilities (BFFs).

Overview:

The book proposes a groundbreaking solution: a network of bioregional institutions designed to empower communities and channel financial resources to grassroots regeneration. As awareness of the polycrisis grows, a wave of financial capital is forming that is attempting to avert further ecological, social, and economic collapse. And yet, there is a significant risk that if this capital flows through a financial architecture rooted in the same inequitable power structures and logic based on abstraction, it will simply perpetuate, and perhaps even accelerate, existing extractive processes. At this pivotal moment in human history, the authors propose a new layer in the global financial architecture, through the creation of Bioregional Financing Facilities to serve every bioregion on Earth.

Bioregional Financing Facilities can drive the decentralization of financial resource governance, the design of project portfolios for systemic change, and the transition to a regenerative economy. They have the potential to become the connective tissue between financial resources and people engaged in on-the-ground regeneration. They can achieve this by enabling integrated capital raised from a variety of sources to flow to aggregated portfolios of systemically coordinated and supported regenerative projects on the ground. In return, regeneration benefits can flow back to investors in a community-determined, non-extractive way. This book lays out how this infrastructure can put financial systems in service to life.

Key Highlights of the Book:

- Why we are at a turning point for the Earth and the financial sector
- The necessity of moving beyond “closing the nature finance gap”
- How we get financial resources to synergistic portfolios of bioregional regeneration projects
- An overview of Bioregional Financing Facilities (BFFs) and their transformative potential

- Templates for four types of BFFs: the Bioregional Trust, Bioregional Venture Studio, Bioregional Investment Company, and Bioregional Bank
- Innovative approaches for capitalizing BFFs
- A provocative call to action for a wide range of stakeholders

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"Our institutions are no longer serving us. We must give birth to institutions that support a new kind of economy, a new kind of philosophy, a new kind of ontology, a new way of being on this planet. And Bioregional Financing Facilities can play a critical role in supporting that transition."
- Lynne Twist

Audience and Call to Action:

The book ends with a detailed list of potential actions to advance the field of bioregional finance "BioFi" for stakeholders in the following categories: bioregional organizers, regenerators, Indigenous communities, investors, philanthropists, policymakers (at the national and local levels), multilaterals and development agencies, web3 practitioners, innovators, technologists, futurists, economists, financial services consultants, storytellers, artists, designers, and academics.

Implementation of BFFs:

One of the direct results of this book is the creation of The BioFi Project, co-founded by Samantha Power and Edward West, which will offer resources, capacity building, training, and thought leadership for Bioregional Organizing Teams intending to design, build, and implement their own Bioregional Financing Facilities inspired by this book. The BioFi Project will launch a BioFi Community of Practice and set of webinars in July and today begins accepting expressions of interest from bioregions interested in receiving the organization's support. Details at www.biofi.earth.

Similarly, Dark Matter Labs will continue to collaborate with Bioregional Organizing Teams on their journey toward a next generation of financial architecture and resource governance as well as sharing learnings in this field in an open-source manner. More information at www.darkmatterlabs.org.

"The regenerative economy I imagine MUST be built on a foundation of bioregionally adapted, landscape scale regeneration. Bioregional Financing Facilities are the critical missing infrastructure. A brilliant and timely clarion call!"
- John Fullerton

Contributors:

The book includes contributions from a wide range of experts and practitioners in economics, finance, ecology, systems design, and bioregional organizing including 12 inspiring case studies showcasing bioregional initiatives around the world.

Availability:

The e-book is now available for free at www.biofi.earth, www.darkmatterlabs.org, and www.bfi.org. The print and kindle versions will be available soon at www.amazon.com.

"In the 50+ years of my work in the bioregional movement, I never imagined that anything like Bioregional Financing Facilities (BFFs) would come forth in my lifetime (or ever). BFFs provide a specific, fully integrated, comprehensive pathway for taking ecological economics and bioregionalism from the realm of the theoretical and visionary to operational implementation. In this astonishing work the epochal spiral comes around again in a living architecture of manifestation."
- David Haenke

About the Authors:

Samantha Power is a regenerative economist and futurist designing and building a financial architecture that serves the bioregional movement.

Leon Seefeld is a systems thinker, innovator, and regenerative business model designer, weaving new partnerships for bioregional transition finance.

Contact Information:

The BioFi Project

Samantha Power
samantha@biofi.earth
www.biofi.earth
Oakland, CA

The BioFi Project is a collective supporting bioregions to design, build, and implement Bioregional Financing Facilities (BFFs) that connect financial resources with regenerators. We partner with bioregional organizing teams and Indigenous communities across North America and around the world to apply the BFF templates and capital raising and allocation approaches laid out in this book.

The BioFi Project team is made up of practitioners in the areas of economics, finance, governance, bioregionalism, ecology, regeneration, and social justice. The BioFi Project establishes partnerships with bioregions and then engages in a listening process; supports asset mapping; identifies which BFF is best to start with; designs a detailed proposal for a BFF; and supports the bioregion with capital raising, capital allocation, and governance implementation. At the global level, the team also shares the concepts laid out in this book, stewards a community of practice, builds relevant software tooling, and supports eco-credit co-design facilitation. The BioFi Project is a fiscally sponsored project of Buckminster Fuller Institute, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit organization.

Dark Matter Labs / Dark Matter Capital Systems

Leon Seefeld
leon@darkmatterlabs.org
www.darkmatterlabs.org
London, UK

Dark Matter Laboratories (Dm) is a not-for-profit working to: (a) Demonstrate a new civic and commons economy; and (b) Build the open – financing, contracting, and governance – tools, instruments, and mechanism for the mass adoption of this economy. We analyze the shifts required in the underlying 'dark matter' – monetary, economic, governance, regulatory, and policy systems – to make a future of mutual thriving possible, and we work with partners across the planet to demonstrate these alternatives in neighborhoods, cities, and bioregions. We share our insights openly for mutual learning and catalytic collaboration.

A new theory of value is inherent to all our doing. Our vision is of a world with massive shared investment in civic and commons goods, and a new landscape of public luxury and private sufficiency as well as shared efforts to regenerate the natural world and human well-being. In our view, novel approaches to financing bioregional regeneration, such as the Bioregional Financing Facilities discussed in this book, are an important means to this end. Hence, Dm will continue to work with bioregional regenerators, demonstrating what is needed yet currently perceived as the edge of the possible.

Publishers:

The book is published by the BioFi Project, Dark Matter Labs, and the Buckminster Fuller Institute.

Note to Editors:

High-resolution images and additional background information are available upon request.