



Bioregional Financing Facilities

Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet

Case Study 12: Regenerosity



BioFi Project



Capital Systems



BUCKMINSTER
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Regenerosity – Flowing Capital to Grassroots Regeneration by Cultivating Trust

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About Regenerosity

For over 15 years, the Buckminster Fuller Institute, Lush Spring Prize, and UNDP's Equator Prize have identified, spotlighted, and funded more than 400 leading and upcoming grassroots organizations in the regenerative movement that are delivering programs at the nexus of climate, ecology, livelihoods, and sovereignty. Regenerosity emerged in 2019 as a collaborative between these prize programs designed to bolster the critical role philanthropy has to play during these challenging times by leveraging this track-record and experience. Regenerosity works to continually grow partnerships, flow resources, and facilitate learning for regenerative grassroots organizations.

To achieve this, Regenerosity thinks systemically. From the understanding that regeneration is about creating more capacity and capability to create conditions conducive to life, Regenerosity supports a developmental culture throughout all the elements of our theory of change by:

- Supporting grassroots, community-led organizations in threatened or degraded landscapes through capacity development grants, and by inviting members of the communities Regenerosity works with to design participatory trust-based programs according to their needs.
- Bringing grantee organizations together in regional peer-to-peer learning circles and supporting their connection to other networks and funders.
- Bolstering the critical role of philanthropy by engaging funders in the concepts of trust-based and regenerative philanthropy, providing experiences of connection to nature (in partnership with Be the Earth Foundation), and attracting further funding for grassroots organizations in ways that are more trust-based.
- Creating and promoting grassroots-led stories to share the impact and inspire the larger movement.
- Developing Regenerosity into an organization that embodies those principles in governance and creates opportunities for its own growth.

Regenerosity's vision is a world where the power of gifting and collaboration can nurture thriving communities and grassroots initiatives as they steward ecosystems towards vibrant health.

Regenerosity's theory of change

Regenerosity works across scales through all of their programs. They weave action- focused collaboration between grassroots organizations, funders, and key actors to develop human capacity to be in right relationship with all living systems by centering:

- **Place-based Impact:** Co-designing catalytic programs with grassroots organizations based on long-term relationships of trust. Flowing capital and resources to these organizations so they can grow their impact and potential to become regional hubs of regenerative practice.
- **Network Collaboration:** Bringing organizations together through regional communities of peers. Organizations join learning circles in and across cohorts for peer-to-peer learning, storytelling, and strategy development.
- **Movement Building:** Spotlighting evidence and grassroots-led stories that inspire the larger movement. Engaging with funders and key actors to influence the field of regenerative philanthropy and further attract interest and resources for the growth of the grassroots regenerative movement.

Regenerosity's core programs

Regenerosity's core programs are based on shifting the power dynamics of philanthropy, catalyzing the work of their partners, and deeply listening and sharing their stories.

Seeds Flow Funds

The Seed Flow Funds are an experiment in trust-based philanthropy that puts the design (and direction) of the fund and decision-making about how the money gets spent in the hands of community leaders. The two current funds support "Indigenous Women in Brazil" and "East African Youth & Women in Permaculture".

In each of these funds, \$3,000 is distributed to individuals and groups to lead changes in their communities. So far, 13 indigenous women in 12 states across Brazil and 12 mostly women permaculturists across 3 regions in Uganda and Kenya have delivered a diverse array of unique, context-dependent community initiatives. Currently 16 more women in Brazil are participating in the second cycle.

Blossom, capacitystrengthening program

Blossom is a two-year programco-designed with grassroots partners who are working to regenerate threatened or degraded landscapes at the intersection of food sovereignty, livelihoods, and ecology. Through deploying participatory capital via a co-design process, Regenerosity is able to support their grassroots partners' growth and innovation.

The program develops partners' organizational capacity, leadership skills, and connections, and supports their prototyping of models so that local organizations can grow into thriving regional hubs. The 2021-2023 cohort enabled thousands of members of Indigenous and local communities to increase food security and secure sustainable incomes while protecting and regenerating their traditional lands; scaling regionally and/or nationally while partnering with government offices and large NGOs; and scaling their programs through additional funding received through Regenerosity's support.

Regenerosity has delivered over \$1M USD to 11 projects over 2.5 years, including supporting:

- 2,500 direct beneficiaries who saw a 76% increase in household income with partners YICE Uganda and KAFRED in Bigodi National Park
- a 100% increase in daily household meals in Nakivale Refugee camp with the participants of the food program with YICE Uganda
- a 30% increase in water availability for biodiversity and livelihoods through Tarun Bharat Sangh across 5 watersheds in India.

Pollinate storytelling series

Liberation Agriculture is a film series exploring what true regeneration cultivates. Far too often, narratives around regeneration only go so deep. With the intersections of ecological collapse and systemic oppression becoming increasingly clear, Regenerosity is sharing stories that interweave the struggle to reclaim eco systemic health and the struggle for collective liberation.

Nurture Funder Community of Practice

The Nurture Funder Community of Practice is an aligned community of funders that are learning, sharing, and experimenting with allocating financial capital in ways that are trust-based, coherent, and inclusive, in order to address social and environmental challenges from their roots.

Regenerosity takes an experimental approach that aims not only at sharing knowledge, but also create a call-to-action environment, through helping to evolve the capacity of funders for redistributing power, upgrading methodologies, and reframing governance structures; creating collaborative prototypes for alternative types of funding; and generating stories that inspire other funders to transform their practices.

Regenerosity believes in the power of shifting catalytic capital through trust-based, participatory practices, deep listening, and putting the voices of their partners at the forefront. They have catalyzed over 1.5M dollars to grassroots projects and continue to iterate and grow their programs.

This Case Study on **Regenerosity** is an Excerpt from the book **Bioregional Financing Facilities: Reimagining Finance to Regenerate Our Planet**, by Samantha Power and Leon Seefeld. To see other case studies, or to buy or download the book, visit www.biofi.earth.

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