

RESPOND

AREAS OF ACTION 2024

**RESPOND
ACCELERATOR
COHORT #5**

A PROGRAM BY

BMW Foundation
Herbert Quandt

RESPOND

A BMW FOUNDATION Herbert Quandt Program

The RESPOND Accelerator is an international startup accelerator program that systematically advances how entrepreneurs lead, grow, and scale sustainable businesses. It is the first accelerator program that promotes both responsible leadership and sustainable business models in line with the UN 2030 Agenda.

We support founders through coaching and mentoring, leadership development, our global network, and visibility – free of charge and without taking equity. Out of 6,000+ screened ventures and 1,300+ applications, 40 startups from 14 countries have been selected for **RESPOND** so far.

COHORT#5 will be active between May and October 2024.





INNOVATION TO DRIVE THE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

The paradigms that we have adopted to govern our economies and run our businesses have in recent decades put us on a path of accelerated degeneration. They have led us to a point where we are now facing multiple planetary and social crises, including climate breakdown, pollution, and biodiversity loss, while also fueling deep social inequality. We will have to focus our energy on driving innovation in line with social and environmental realities. We will have to invest in a positive relationship with our planetary ecosystems – a relationship in which the goal of net-zero becomes a stop-off on the longer journey to co-evolve with our changing climate and create the conditions for life to flourish, thrive, and renew into perpetuity.¹

With the clock ticking on many of our most pressing environmental challenges, it's all hands on deck to keep humanity in the 'safe operating space'²; and embracing innovation from the edges will be crucial. The **RESPOND** Accelerator helps accelerate this transition to a regenerative future by strategically addressing critical leverage points in the system for ambitious impact-driven entrepreneurs to scale and succeed.

¹ BMW Foundation RESPOND (2022), "Putting the Climate Emergency into Perspective: From Breakdown to Breakthrough – a Short Primer on Embracing Regeneration": https://respond-accelerator.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Briefing_Report_RegenerativeEconomics_digital.pdf

² Doughnut Economics Action Lab. "About Doughnut Economics": <https://doughnuteconomics.org/about-doughnut-economics>

RESPOND

AREAS OF ACTION

2024

For 2024, we've defined three crucial Areas of Actions to accelerate the transformation of our economic system. Throughout the operations of the RESPOND Accelerator program – starting with the startup scouting and selection, all the way to the delivery of our various modules and sessions, we align our efforts with the Areas of Action to strategically address critical intervention points within the system through entrepreneurship and innovation at speed and scale.

- (1) Protect and Restore Nature
- (2) Transform Industries
- (3) Reboot the System

1 PROTECT & RESTORE NATURE

WE'VE HIT THE LIMITS OF PLANET EARTH

We're looking for creative, tech-based innovations that support a move to a more regenerative (eco)systems approach. These can be, for example, solutions to work with and leverage nature to mitigate climate change impacts and help ecosystems to adapt and regenerate. We see huge potential in emerging technologies that apply nature-based solutions to capture and sequester carbon, reduce pollution, restore habitats, and promote biodiversity.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Nature is facing an existential crisis. Human activity is pushing our ecosystems to the point of collapse. A third of the world's land has been cleared for crop or livestock production. One million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction, as we move towards the planet's sixth mass extinction event of the past 440 million years.³ Ocean acidification is also impacting many marine species, and pollution has created a quarter million square kilometers of ocean dead zones. In the process, we have crossed six planetary boundaries: freshwater use, novel entities, biogeochemical flows, biosphere integrity, land system change, and climate change.⁴

Moreover, recent crises have once again reminded us of the intrinsic and complex links between humankind and the natural environment upon we depend, and how its destruction undermines our own ability to thrive. Without rapid change, nature and thus our future may be in serious peril.⁵

This is no understatement as more than half of the world's total gross domestic product (GDP) is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services, while forest resources alone support the livelihoods of more than 1.5 billion people globally.⁶ In fact, ecosystem services provide an estimated US\$125–140 trillion in annual benefits worldwide: more than one-and-a-half times the size of the world's GDP.⁷

Having said this, Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG15) on the protection, restoration, and promotion of a sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, and in particular biodiversity, is

one of the least targeted by institutional investors, who have cited a lack of data as a primary reason.⁸ Meanwhile, SDG14 on oceans, seas, and marine resources remains the most underfunded SDG.⁹ This is gradually changing, as innovation is fueling a rapid increase in our ability to collect such data points.



³ World Wildlife Fund. "What is the Sixth Mass Extinction and What Can We Do About It?": <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/what-is-the-sixth-mass-extinction-and-what-can-we-do-about-it>

⁴ Nature (2022), "A planetary boundary for green water": <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43017-022-00287-8>

⁵ Threetransitions. <https://www.threetransitions.earth/>

⁶ Weforum (2020), "Nature Risk Rising": <https://www.weforum.org/reports/nature-risk-rising-why-the-crisis-enveloping-nature-matters-for-business-and-the-economy>

⁷ Nature4Climate. "Ecosystem services and green infrastructure": <https://nature4climate.org/about/nature-positive-recovery/ecosystem-services-and-green-infrastructure/>

⁸ Sifted (2020), "How Can VCS invest in biodiversity?": <https://sifted.eu/articles/how-can-vcs-invest-in-biodiversity>

⁹ Impact Investor (2022), "UN Ocean Conference: SDG 14 still 'the most underfunded'": <https://impact-investor.com/un-ocean-conference-sdg-14-still-most-underfunded/>

While forest-related interventions such as tree planting, forest restoration, and forest monitoring remain among the more popular propositions to invest in, total investments in nature-positive solutions have rapidly increased in recent years,¹⁰ with startups in nature tech—such as regenerative agriculture, soil health, and natural carbon removal—starting to attract a flood of venture capital finance.¹¹

HOW CHANGE CAN HAPPEN

Here are some ways in which we expect that innovation in nature- and climate-positive solutions can help drive change. This overview is by no means meant to be limiting in terms of the type of innovations we're interested in. Rather, it is designed to serve as inspiration for some of the ways that innovations can pave the way for a new regenerative paradigm:



1. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA ARE DRIVING INVESTMENTS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE NATURE

We have seen the emergence of a wide suite of technologies—including e.g. geospatial analysis, DNA sequencing, and remote sensing—that are revolutionizing the extent, level, and depth of habitat and biodiversity data that can be generated. This is creating greater certainty and insight for investors, overcoming a key barrier to private-sector investments in nature. In addition, greatly enhanced data capabilities also enable results-based payments. This makes it possible to financially reward local stakeholders for positive-nature outcomes, thereby encouraging different behaviour.

2. MOVING FROM AN EXTRACTION- TO A CREATION-BASED MODEL FOR FOOD FREES UP LAND

Expanding current food production is almost impossible without encroaching further on remaining natural areas. Instead, a breakthrough will come from innovations that allow us to create food from the ground up, starting at the molecular level. These rapidly emerging technologies can enable us to shift from a model in which we grow plants and animals to break them down into the things we need, to a creation-based model whereby foods can be built up from precisely-designed molecules and cells. This will have profound impacts particularly on protein production, potentially allowing as much as 70% of agricultural land and water currently used for animal husbandry to be freed up for alternative uses such as nature restoration.¹²

3. NATURAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION HELPS LOWER PEAK GLOBAL WARMING

To avoid the worst of global warming, the world now has to decarbonize at a rate that's more than eight times as high as what has been historically achieved since 2000.¹³ It's therefore not enough to mitigate carbon emissions through various sectoral approaches; we have to actively aim to increase carbon sequestration in natural systems by leveraging forests, grasslands, soil, oceans, and other water bodies as natural carbon sinks. These natural carbon sinks hold the potential to contribute over 40% of the total reduction in emissions emitted to or present in the atmosphere.¹⁴ Such solutions, in combination with ambitious carbon mitigation strategies, can lower peak warming in a below 2°C global warming scenario, thereby reducing the risk and prevalence of excessive heat.¹⁵

¹⁰ Capital Monitor (2021), "Solving deforestation": <https://capitalmonitor.ai/asset-class/equity/solving-deforestation-vcs-are-starting-to-take-sdq-15-seriously/>

¹¹ Reuters (2023), "There's gold in them hills: why money is flowing into nature tech": <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/land-use-biodiversity/theres-gold-them-hills-why-money-is-flowing-into-nature-tech-2023-05-10/>

¹² RethinkX, "Climate Implications.": <https://www.rethinkx.com/climate-implications>

¹³ PwC (2021), "State of Climate Tech 2021": <https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/sustainability/publications/assets/pwc-state-of-climate-tech-report.pdf>

¹⁴ Drawdown, "Table of Solutions": <https://drawdown.org/solutions/table-of-solutions>

¹⁵ Nature (2022), "Temporary nature-based carbon removal can lower peak warming in a well-below 2°C scenario": <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-022-00391-z>

4. INNOVATIONS IN RAPID RESTORATION HOLD THE POTENTIAL TO RETURN DEGRADED LAND TO PRODUCTIVE USE

Up to 40% of the world's land can be considered degraded. Degradation can reduce a land's ability to absorb and store carbon, and exacerbate droughts, while growing food on degraded land becomes progressively harder. And without urgent action, land degradation will only spread further as climate change progresses.¹⁶ To counteract this development, we need innovations that allow for rapid and comprehensive restoration and regeneration of degraded lands, for example after large-scale wildfires brought on by extreme weather events. This can bring large swaths of land back into productive use for human or nature purposes.

5. BIOREMEDIATION HOLDS THE POTENTIAL TO MINIMIZE THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

Bioremediation, in which microorganisms such as bacteria, algae, and fungi break down and remove pollutants from an aquatic environment, already has a number of established applications, including in the treatment of household wastewater and oil spills. By pushing the innovation boundary for bioremediation, new applications with the potential to tackle ocean and waterway pollution at scale will be starting to emerge. This includes the use of microbes to break down pollutants such as heavy metals, and to biodegrade plastics littering the oceans.



¹⁶ The Guardian (2022), "UN says up to 40% of world's land now degraded": <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/apr/27/united-nations-40-per-cent-planet-land-degraded>

1 PROTECT & RESTORE NATURE

WHAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN:

RESPOND is calling on those who dare to dream big and put experimentation and reimagination at the center of their approach to regenerate our ecosystems, restore balance, and create conditions where all life can thrive. Here are some examples of what we're interested in. This is by no means meant to be an exhaustive overview of what we're looking for; however, we are keen to see concepts that have the potential to be truly transformational and that push the boundaries of 'how things are done here'.

- | Innovators driving sustainable resource use through alternative (raw) materials and minerals;
- | Innovators operating in the space of massive carbon drawdown by leveraging (natural) carbon sinks;
- | Innovators focusing on switching from extraction-based to creation-based production of agro-commodities;
- | Innovators focusing on nature-based solutions, including biomimicry-inspired innovations, and those that can support climate mitigation and adaptation;
- | Innovators leveraging innovative technologies to prevent or eliminate pollution entering natural ecosystems;
- | Innovators developing solutions that can address and overcome future scarcities of critical natural resources such as fresh water or rare minerals;
- | Innovators focusing on landscape, biodiversity and ecosystem regeneration, restoration and reforestation;



2 TRANSFORM INDUSTRIES

THE INDUSTRY LOGIC OF TAKE-MAKE-WASTE IS FAILING US

We're looking for solutions that encourage fair and sustainable production and consumption patterns—whether by introducing sustainable energy solutions, extending the lifecycle of products, reconfiguring supply chains, or through other innovative approaches. Founders can contribute to this in several ways: from promoting transparent supply chains to implementing circular resource flows to designing sustainable processes and materials.



Examples being single-use packaging or fashion items thrown out after just a few uses, as well as the low levels of recycling and repurposing of these resources, with less than 9% globally returning to the economic system after end-of-use. It becomes obvious that this trajectory of runaway growth of 'linear' global raw material production and consumption is negatively impacting mankind's future ability to thrive.¹⁷

The extraction and processing of materials to turn them into products currently accounts for over one-third of global GHG emissions, making it the world's second largest source of emissions after the energy sector. Just five materials—steel, cement, aluminum, plastics, and chemicals—are responsible for nearly two-thirds of current industry emissions.¹⁸ As demand for these materials continues to increase, current measures to reduce the energy and CO₂ intensity of production are simply being outpaced by increasing emissions from higher levels of production.

Interestingly, when we consider investments in climate tech, capital is not deployed in line with its impact potential: the top five technology areas representing over 80% of future carbon emissions reduction potential by 2050 attracted just 25% of investment between 2013 and the beginning of 2021.¹⁹

One challenge is the frequent need to retrofit, upgrade, and replace existing equipment and components, as well as transforming associated supply chains when tackling emissions in sectors such as manufacturing and construction. This calls for truly innovative approaches that solve not only environmental but also CAPEX, logistical, and convenience challenges.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The natural resources that our environment provides are fundamental to nearly everything we create or consume. They have been fueling tremendous economic growth in the past two and half centuries, commencing with the first industrial revolution. Particularly in the past 50 years, the extraction of raw materials has rapidly surged with currently no outlook of diminishing global demand. Add to this the major inefficiencies built into many parts of the system.

¹⁷ UN Environment Programme (2019), "UN calls for urgent rethink as resource use skyrockets": <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-calls-urgent-rethink-resource-use-skyrockets>

¹⁸ World Economic Forum. "Circular Economy for Net-Zero Industry Transition": <https://ceclimate.weforum.org/>

¹⁹ PwC (2021), "State of Climate Tech 2021: Scaling breakthroughs for net zero": <https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/sustainability/publications/assets/pwc-state-of-climate-tech-report.pdf>

HOW CHANGE CAN HAPPEN

Here are some ways in which we expect that radical innovation in industries can help drive change. This overview is by no means meant to be limiting in terms of the type of innovations we're interested in. Rather, it is designed to serve as inspiration for some of the ways that innovations can pave the way for a new regenerative paradigm:

1. CARBON REMOVAL THROUGH CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IS PROVIDING NEW AVENUES FOR MITIGATION

Materials innovations are moving us in the direction of novel materials that can absorb carbon, as well as towards using greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon (di)oxide as feedstock for new materials. This creates promising new opportunities for the decarbonization of so-called 'hard-to-abate' industries such as steel and cement production, both of which contribute about 8% of global carbon emissions.²⁰ It also generates new avenues for the use of excess or 'waste' carbon which otherwise would end up in the atmosphere.



2. CREATION-BASED PRODUCTION SLASHES ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF RAW MATERIAL PRODUCTION

Innovations in nanotechnology, molecular bioengineering, AI, and additive manufacturing such as 3D printing increasingly enable us to manipulate matter at the atomic or molecular scale, predict its performance in different conditions, and readily turn it into new products. This fuels a move to a creation-based system of production,²¹ enabling magnitude improvements in the efficiency with which we can turn resources into products. This development holds the potential to eliminate a very significant part of the land, water, emission, and pre-consumer waste footprint of resource consumption.

3. CIRCULAR VALUE PROPOSITIONS OPEN UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

With the increasing acceptance and popularity of circular economy propositions, products are no longer merely regarded as commodities to be bought and sold. They become 'resource banks' with the resources they contain reentering the economic system after end-of-use. This opens the door to a focus on delivering value to the customer, using the least amount of energy and physical resources, including foregoing physical products altogether. This result not only in a fundamental overhaul and reimagining of the design process, as well as a re-configuration of supply chains, but also in an altered relationship with customers in which the determining driver of the market offering is the optimization of the performance and service it provides.

4. NEXT-GEN MATERIALS CAN OVERCOME AN ONGOING DEPENDENCY ON CRITICAL RESOURCES

Although a move to creation-based production of proteins will cause major disruption of the livestock industry, livestock animals provide more than just milk and meat. The market for animal-derived leather and wool is valued at about US\$ 440 billion annually, resulting in a potential mismatch in the demand for animal-derived meat and other animal-derived products.²² A vibrant climate of innovation means that we can now deliberately create novel materials with unique properties not found in nature. These include next-gen materials using ethical and sustainable alternatives to conventional animal-based fabrics, while replicating the performance of their animal-based counterparts.

²⁰ Leadit (2021), "Green steel production: How G7 countries can help change the global landscape.": <https://www.industrytransition.org/insights/g7-green-steel-production/>, Energypost (2023), "Concrete: 8% of global emissions and rising.": <https://energypost.eu/concrete-8-of-global-emissions-and-rising-which-innovations-can-achieve-net-zero-by-2050/>

²¹ E-MRS (2011), "Materials For Key Enabling Technologies": http://archives.esf.org/fileadmin/Public_documents/Publications/ket_report.pdf

²² Planet Tracker (2022), "New Skin In The Game!": <https://planet-tracker.org/new-skin-in-the-game-consequences-of-adopting-next-generation-leather-faster-than-expected/>, Skyquest (2023), "Global Wool Market Insights": <https://www.skyquestt.com/report/wool-market>

5. HYPER-EFFICIENT RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES ALLOW FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS

As the world heats up, cooling already accounts for nearly 20% of total electricity used in buildings globally and is rapidly rising as extreme heat events become more common. This may lead to a tripling of global energy demand from air conditioners in the next few decades, with the additional energy demand posing major challenges for the global goal to switch to 100% renewable energy by 2050.²³ The emergence of novel hyper-efficient building cooling technologies shows potential for reducing AC energy consumption by as much as 90%. This would bring sustainable cooling within reach of the at least two billion people who are likely to experience high daily outdoor temperatures by as soon as 2030.

6. QUANTUM COMPUTING BRINGS MAJOR EFFICIENCY GAINS WITHIN REACH

Advancements in computing power, such as through quantum computing, hold the potential to solve optimization or material science challenges exponentially faster while consuming much less energy than traditional supercomputers. This can be leveraged, for example, to optimize the logistical routing of vehicles, or to design more efficient solar cells and EV batteries by increasing their energy conversion efficiency.²⁴ It may also be used to overcome persistent sustainability issues in emission-intensive areas, as well as making renewable energy a more viable and competitive alternative to fossil fuels.²⁵



²³ Medium (2022), "Why we had to back Blue Frontier — heating up the cooling space": <https://2150-vc.medium.com/why-we-had-to-back-blue-frontier-heating-up-the-cooling-space-af6d366d0e3>

²⁴ HPC (2023), "Energy Savings with Quantum Computing – Fact or Fiction?": <https://www.hpcwire.com/2023/06/20/energy-savings-with-quantum-computing-fact-or-fiction/>

²⁵ McKinsey (2022), "Quantum computing just might save the planet": <https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/mckinsey-digital/our-insights/quantum-computing-just-might-save-the-planet>

2 TRANSFORM INDUSTRIES

WHAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN:

Here are a few examples of what we're interested in. These areas of interest are not set in stone—rather they provide a flavour of innovations that have the potential for unlocking widespread technology-driven societal change and can help us overcome what may sometimes be seen as near-insurmountable challenges. Nonetheless, we are keen to see solutions that address sectors such as energy, construction and building, chemicals, plastics, food and agriculture.

- | Innovators driving more resilient, sustainable energy systems;
- | Innovators operating in the space of massive industrial carbon removal by leveraging technology for carbon capture;
- | Innovators using bio-mimicry, circular, regenerative, next-gen or similar approaches in order to solve material and/or product level challenges in carbon- or resource-intensive sectors, or to address pollution and waste issues;
- | Innovators who provide novel solutions to to increase supply chain transparency and resilience;
- | Innovators focusing on switching from extraction-based to creation-based production methods, designing materials and products from the molecular structure up;



3 REBOOT THE SYSTEM

INNOVATION FOR A SYSTEM IN TRANSFORMATION

Innovative answers to our systemic crisis can help us rewire business and finance, redesign processes and governance models, and fundamentally align economic activity with planetary and social wellbeing. From decentralization, web3 and A.I, to community-driven ecosystems and democratic participation, we're on the lookout for technological answers to systemic problems.



Although our capitalistic system purports to create affluence, it does so through wealth concentration rather than distribution. Despite continued GDP increases, in many OECD countries ratings of life satisfaction and happiness have deteriorated. Add to this the fact that a growing number of people worldwide are struggling to retain access to basic services such as energy, clean water, and nutritious food, and we realize that both the climate crisis and the social equity crisis are just two aspects of a larger imperative for humanity to bring patterns of life into a positive relationship with planet Earth.

While at the macro-economic level, there are many forces at play that will keep people tied to the current systems and ways of doing, it's at the micro level that we see innovators stepping beyond these boundaries and engaging in what one can call 'acts of radical innovation'.²⁶ In recent years, for instance, we have witnessed the emergence of a rich tapestry of novel and radical solutions that challenge the fundamental beliefs and structures of our contemporary operating systems—from blockchain to Web3, from decentralized finance to the emergence of novel democratized governance models, to name just a few examples.

A boom-and-bust cycle in Web3, crypto, and DAO initially saw thousands new initiatives bloom, some of which were more degenerative than regenerative in nature. The subsequent failure of those pursuing short-term advancement rather than long-term success has led to a somewhat dampened investment sentiment for this market.

At the same, this re-orientation is allowing those efforts that take a long-term view on how such solutions can bring good into the world, and not just in the financial sense, to emerge even stronger as the field rediscovers its true purpose of building a fairer and less extractive system.²⁷

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

We live in a capitalist economy in which maximizing profit is incentivized, whereas operating within planetary boundaries and fostering community resilience are not. A major culprit is the way we have organized our current economic system. Built on a short-sighted and linear model of extraction and exploitation, whereby so-called 'externalities' remain mostly unaccounted for, today's economy is fragile and deeply exposed to shocks—a model unfit for 10 billion people to thrive on the only planet we call home.

²⁶ System Innovation Initiative. <https://www.systeminnovation.org/>

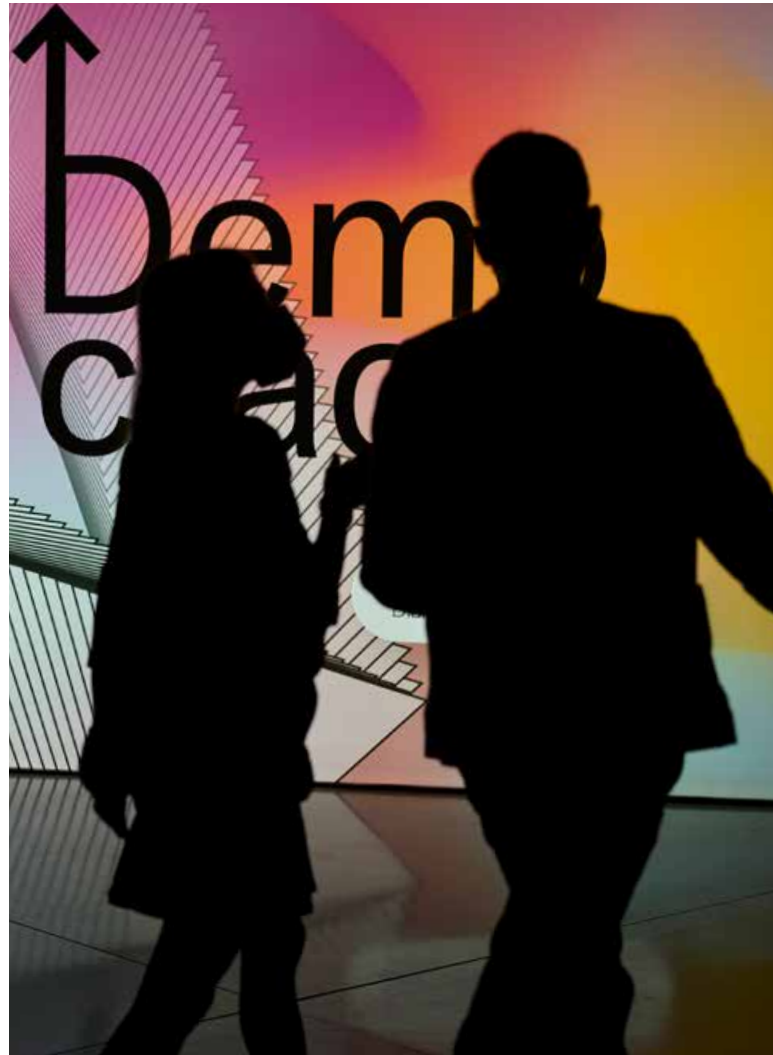
²⁷ Nasdaq (2022), "From Degen to Regen: How Web3 Started Playing Positive-Sum Games": <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/from-degen-to-regen-how-web3-started-playing-positive-sum-games>

HOW CHANGE CAN HAPPEN

Here's some ways in which we expect that innovation in the field of operating systems can help drive change. This overview is by no means meant to be limiting in terms of the type of innovations we're interested in. Rather, it is designed to serve as inspiration for some of the ways that innovations can pave the way for a new regenerative paradigm:

1. ADVANCES IN AI SUPPORT ENHANCED CLIMATE CHANGE MODELING, PREDICTION, AND MONITORING

AI can play a crucial role in climate modeling and prediction through the use of machine learning algorithms, which can analyze vast datasets of climate-related information. This can support stakeholders in making more informed decisions about climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.²⁸ In addition, AI-powered remote sensing and satellite imagery analysis can monitor environmental changes and detect early signs of natural disasters, thereby supporting disaster preparedness and its response.²⁹



2. REGENERATIVE AND DECENTRALIZED FINANCE DEMOCRATIZE ACCESS TO FINANCIAL GOODS AND SERVICES

The rapid emergence of regenerative finance (ReFi) is spurred on by those seeking to address the failure of traditional capitalist markets to effectively allocate resources and account for negative externalities. It is anchored in decentralized finance (DeFi) which aims to democratize financial goods and services by taking a much more relationship-based rather than transactional approach to finance.³⁰ By enabling peer-to-peer lending, borrowing, and trading without relying on traditional financial intermediaries, ReFi and DeFi can provide financial services to underserved populations and promote financial inclusion.³¹

²⁸ Green TalentSpace (2023), "The Profound Impact of AI on the Climate Change Industry and Unlocking Opportunities": https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/profound-impact-ai-climate-change-industry/?trk=organization_guest_main-feed-card_reshare_feed-article-content, UN Environment Programme (2022), "How artificial intelligence is helping tackle environmental challenges": <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-artificial-intelligence-helping-tackle-environmental-challenges>

²⁹ TS2 (2023), "AI in Climate Change: The Future of Environmental Monitoring and Management": <https://ts2.space/en/ai-in-climate-change-the-future-of-environmental-monitoring-and-management/>

³⁰ Bitcoin Insider. "The future of DeFi is ReFi": <https://www.bitcoininsider.org/article/215986/future-defi-refi>

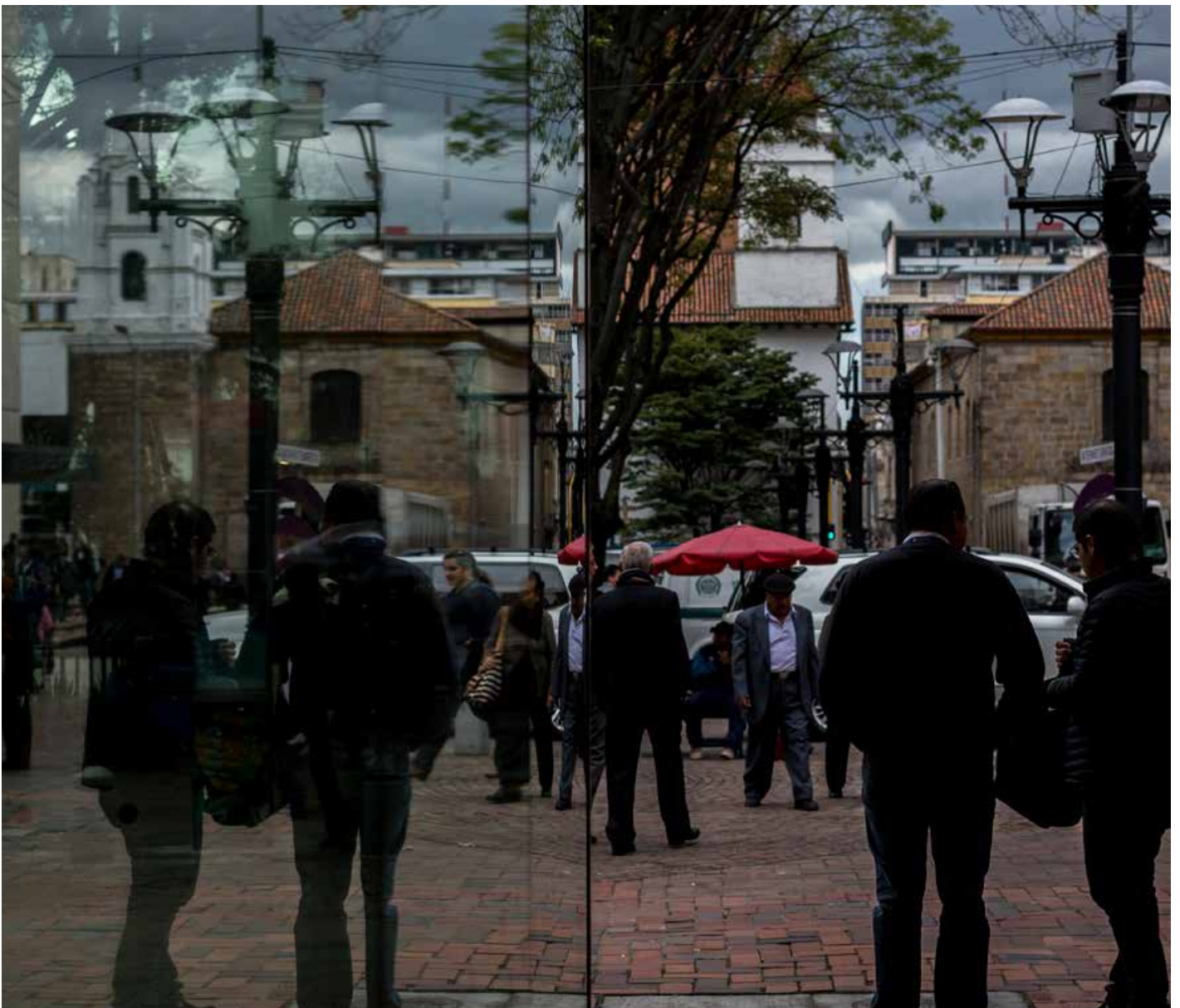
³¹ Shareable (2022), "This is biodiversity in economic form: A look at the 2022 ReFi Unconference": <https://www.shareable.net/this-is-biodiversity-in-economic-form-a-look-at-the-2022-refi-unconference/>

3. DECENTRALIZED DIGITAL SOLUTIONS EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS TO BECOME CHANGE AGENTS

Solutions such as DAO and Web3 have the potential to be a force for good by upending existing power structures and instead allowing for transparent and decentralized decision-making. This eliminates the need for centralized intermediaries and empowers individuals to have a direct say in governance, promoting more democratic and inclusive outcomes. Equally, these solutions can also enable people to collaborate more easily on issues they care about, fostering both innovation and solidarity.³²

4. GOVTECH CAN SUPPORT GREATER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY

GovTech supports a more citizen-centric, universally accessible, and whole-of-government approach to how governments provide services to their citizens.³³ It can, for example, leverage data analytics and AI to support evidence-based policymaking by assessing the impact of different policies on environmental and social issues. Equally, the use of GovTech can greatly facilitate data sharing and collaboration between government agencies and other stakeholders such as business and research institutions to leverage collective expertise and resources when tackling today's major crises.³⁴



³² Cifar Alliance (2023), "Blockchain for Climate Innovation": <https://www.cifaralliance.org/blockchain-for-climate-innovation>

³³ Worldbank. "GovTech Global Forum: Governance in the Digital Era": <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/govtech>

³⁴ World Economic Forum (2022), "How making the most out of GovTech's boom will strengthen public services": <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/12/how-making-the-most-out-of-govtechs-boom-will-strengthen-public-services/>

3 REBOOT THE SYSTEM

WHAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN:

Here are a few examples of what we're interested in. Don't let this deter you: we apply a broad lens to systems change, although we are keen to see concepts that have the potential to truly rewire our operating systems for the better.

- | Innovators using decentralized technologies and community-driven approaches to reverse degeneration and foster regeneration of natural and societal systems;
- | Innovators supporting political participation, and leveraging technology to foster a more resilient society
- | Innovators applying regenerative and decentralized finance solutions to democratize access to financial goods and services;
- | Innovators creating alternative governance systems that provide or revive more regenerative ways of value creation;
- | Innovators building novel solutions that support democratic ownership, optimization of community benefit, and radical inclusion.





INSIGHTS FOLLOW THE DATA. LEAD THE WAY.

Our insights build on cutting-edge research to understand today's global challenges, identify gaps and opportunities for the economic transition, and provide directions for the strategic roadmap of the RESPOND program.

The BMW Foundation RESteam works with leading experts from international organizations, think tanks, and the public and private sectors. We identify challenges and potentials towards a regenerative economy and develop a new leadership paradigm for leaders on the frontlines of creating a more just and regenerative future.

We address fundamental questions about the transformation of our socio-economic systems at the highest political levels, leveraging our networks in science, finance, business and industry, policy and philanthropy to advocate for a regenerative economy and sustainable business practices.

Now is the time to bring greater clarity to this transformative concept and move from theory to action. Work needs to be done to bring more innovations to life that put us on track for a regenerative economy. Likewise, we need to craft partnerships and alliances that can move the needle when it comes to incumbent business practice. Fundamentally, we need a new definition of values across the global economy.

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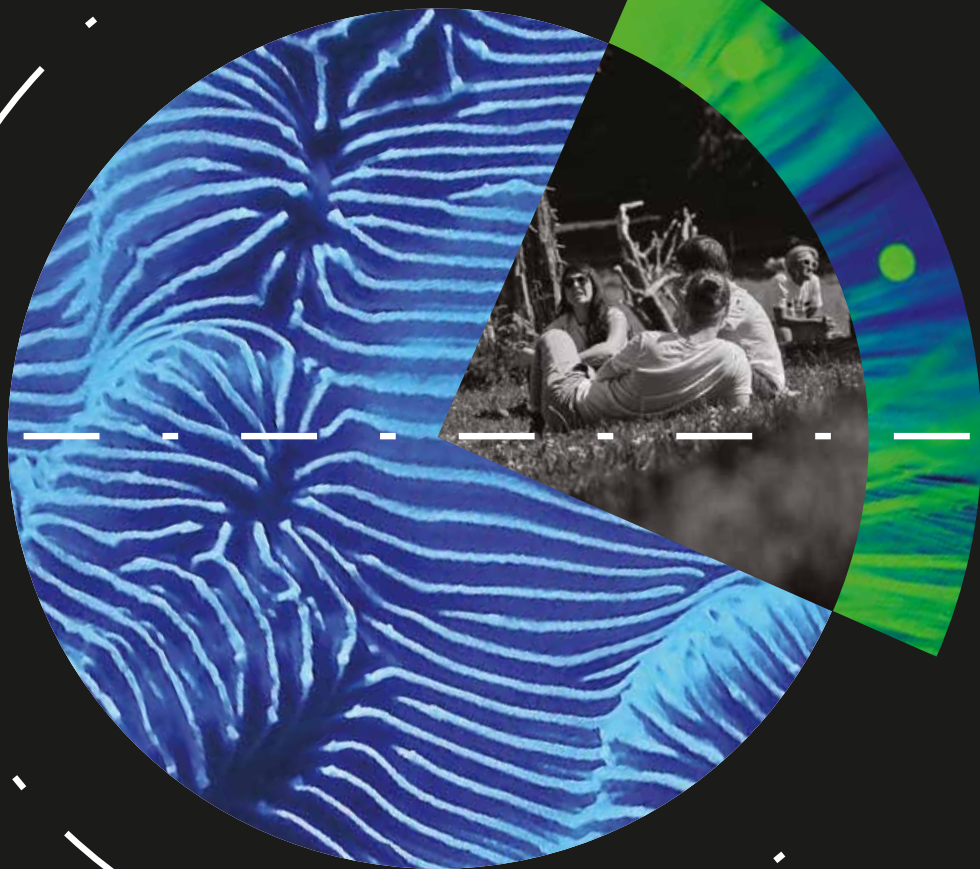
Herbert Quandt

The BMW Foundation promotes Responsible Leadership and inspires leaders worldwide to work towards a peaceful, just, and regenerative future.

The BMW Foundation convenes leaders from diverse sectors in various leadership formats to encourage and empower them to reflect on their roles, responsibilities, and values. It catalyzes organizations, communities, and movements through its Responsible Leaders Network, a global community that drives systems change. Through its programs, the BMW Foundation aims to lead by example: by investing, amplifying, and supporting the implementation of innovative solutions that advance the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

www.bmw-foundation.org

ARE YOU THE NEXT? APPLY NOW TO RESPOND COHORT #5



Applications open from
19 October
to 16 December 2023

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