

Revision C

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Blue Planet Governance



The era of global *tragedy of the commons* ends.
The new paradigm begins when Interdependent Regional Governments unite!
To form a chaordic organization called,
The ***United Regions***
Where coordinated expertise in Earth Science, Human-Nature and Economics
Provide Regional Guidance to Maximize *Real Wealth*:

*Real wealth is a measurement of a robust ecology
and of the general health and happiness of the people!*

~written in backcast~

Creating the beginnings of order before and shortly after the Paradigm Junction A look back from O50APC

TS Note [g]: The pinnacle goal of BPG processes is to eventually reduce human activity to that which can be sustained within the Gaian renewing flows of nature. When this occurs, *optimum population* will be in balance with *optimum human activity* and *optimum human happiness*. In the following text, when these 3 Dimensions (population, activity, happiness) are in optimum balance, this state will be referred to as 3D-Optimum. This is the systemic goal of system of human civilization.

To proceed with the *Paradigm Junction Proposal* (PJP), a few members of the Gaia Preservation Coalition (GPC) began to look for individuals with both a broad knowledge of, and acceptance, of the human predicament and who also had a specialty backgrounds in one or more of the many relevant areas. These would be needed to define the basic structure of *Blue Planet Governance* (BPG). With referenced to the United Nations (UN) of old, the team adopted the name, *United Regions – Shadow Of Sanity Team*, or UR-SOS team for short. [R1]

As with the design of any new complex system, the UR-SOS team began the documentation of the, as yet imaginary, organizations spelling out the basic interacting ground rules for; the *State Of Gaia* section, the *Human Activity Index* section, the *Global Standards* section and the *Bank of Gaia*. The team members were from all parts of the world meeting by internet.

Some contributors were associated with the many existing relocalization movements such as Transition Towns, The Zeitgeist Movement, Idle No More, and various others. [R2]

One of the first tasks of the UR-SOS team was to adopt a tool used by successful corporations. They established a *Quality Assurance* (QA) system [GL]. The QA system is a means of ensuring that documentation defining the various elements of the BPG processes always meets the needs of the function that they are intended to deal with. The QA process usually included vetting tests to ensure documents are complete and easily understood. Each amendment is sign-off at least two approve others. The philosophy of QA was to be incorporated in all aspects BPG, following the wisdom that had been developed by large multinational corporations: This would be the essential unifying control component of dynamic governance.

A group of lawyers and retired judges undertook to the sketching of drafts of the multitude of laws that would be needed to give the beginnings of clarity to such things as the transfer of property from private ownership to leaseholder, with the Regional government being the steward of its lands. They sketched laws covering corporate responsibilities and their relationship to shareholder Regions. Legal clarity was need on the qualifications and commitment of various Regions of the world before they could be accepted into the global dynamic society.

The emerging specialty documentation was always tested for compatibility with the architectural design of the basic dynamic engines. To ensure compliance the various specialty team quality assurance leaders kept in close touch with a group from the UR-SOS systems dynamics team that directed system design. The overall project effort took on an "*Apollo 13*" sense of urgency where *Failure is not an option!*

The UR-SOS team backed-up their growing pages of documentation in several global data banks using a variety of communication routes in order to be robust enough to survive the inevitable attacks from the moneyed interests that spearheaded corporate globalization. They had maintained a powerful psychopathic influence in the affairs of the world for centuries BPC. When the new system of finance would eventually make the old irrelevant, they knew that the *Gods of Money* [R4] would not be pleased. As efforts of the UR-SOS team were becoming known, the banks and federal governments simply ignored them at first. But when proto-regional governments began to make significant exchanges using Gaia\$, corporate governments were lobbied hard to pass laws condemning the UR-SOS activities as being against national interests, and therefore of a terrorist nature. But long before the emergence of the UR-SOS team, many states, counties and cities had declared themselves exempt from corporate bullying [R2]. Lessons learned by governments during *The Arab Spring* uprisings of 2011 had shown that when ruling dynasties turn on their own people they enter a no-win struggle. No sustaining action was taken because the once robust

nation-states were becoming destabilized from years of failure to regulate their banking monetary systems and they had no means to deal with the end of cheap energy and the end of growth.

One branch of UR-SOS team wrote the draft constitution for a regional government. Another developed operating procedures for a regional *Bank of Gaia* (GB-R). One part of the team began to sketch the working documents for regulation of Wealth Factors (WF) and began to assess wealth data in various sample regions of the world. They drew on significant libraries of data already available from organizations like the *Ecological Footprint Organization* [Wicki] or from national and regional statistics on wetlands, agriculture, energy, demography, etc. They even began gathering compiled data on human happiness, attitudes and hopes. For some people, even the possibility of an alternate socioeconomic system turned around growing despair – it brought hope and a measure of happiness. Exciting new possibilities acted like a bifurcation junction in a sea of chaotic disorder. Soon towns, counties and states throughout the world began to take notice.

Gaia\$ Creation:

Eventually the UR-SOS team had to deal with the thorny issue of how many Gaia\$ should be in the closed loop global economic system, and purchasing power of a Gaia\$.

While getting into the practical aspects of how to start the money engine of the *dynamic society*, these who were tasked with creating the *Bank of Gaia* decided to work backwards in time, envisioning the needs of their future society, after the dynamic forces of BPG reduced population to optimum. They then speculated on a suitable amount of Gaia\$/capita.

In the years prior to PC, scientific opinion indicated that human *optimum population* at BPG would somewhere between half billion to 2 billion. This assessment would be subject to annual review. This number presumed that almost all humans on earth will be part of the *dynamic society* by the time in the future when BPG's *optimum population* would be reached. Without war or other massive die-off trigger, this might take several decades.

When at 3D-Optimum, it was speculated that the average person's accumulated Gaia\$ wealth would be \$10,000. This was an arbitrary starting number chosen to give some relevance to dollar values about a hundred years before Paradigm Change. Besides the Gaia\$ of individuals, a sum of \$30k was added to represent the Gaia\$ held in government and corporate accounts: $\$10k + \$30k = 40k$. The speculated starting numbers meant that when *optimum population* is reached in year APC 0?? there would be 2 billion adults X \$40k = 8^{10} , or \$80,000,000,000, or 80 billion global sum in thousands of BG-Rs throughout the world, as recorded by BG-UR.

This speculative 40k Gaia\$ per capita became the default standard amount used to start the prototype economic system running when enough people in several areas of the world - counties or cities - agreed to become a proto Region of the new experimental system. They

created on-line dummy Regional governments and a BG-Rs as specified in the emerging draft documents of the UR-SOS team. All engaged citizens received at least the basic monthly payout. Some of the many existing *Local Exchange Trading Systems* (LETS) [F5] decided to tie their local currency to the Gaia\$. Besides the pioneering communities, several existing companies started a not-for-profit section in order to be part of the historic creation of the new paradigm, while keeping the rest of their operations functioning in the old era. And as the population of each proto region grew, 40k Gaia\$ per person was added to the local BG-R. This kept the wealth per capita locked in to the starting numbers until it would begin to float from dynamic forces after a critical number of global regions joined the dynamic society experiment at a future date. As explained in the previous section, wealth per capita would be different from Region to Region after WF assessments and human population numbers began to enter the equation.

In the dying days of the growth paradigm millions of people in all nations of the world were suffering the consequences of peak oil, chaotic weather and the historic inflationary runaway of a bursting fiat\$ economy bubble – food prices soared and many were starving even in onetime, *first world*, countries. Of the relatively few rich enough to remain reasonably buffered from the growing chaos, many recognized that the energy-intensive/wasteful economic system and way- of-life they had been born into was near an end. There was a thirst for hope of a stable system of trade and commerce where everyone could participate at a comfortable and equitable level. The lack of an alternative socioeconomic system had been the key reason many intelligent people remained in denial of the cantankerous *elephants in their living room* – these elephants being that the issues of excess human population; global warming/ecological decline; the loss of democracy and a failing monetary system. The possibility of a viable alternate began to break down the walls of denial. Twitter about the proposed dynamic society went viral.

One of the tasks of the UR-SOS team who undertook to sketch the *Human Activity Index* was to compile a list of industries that were essential to maintain order during and after the coming paradigm change. Some of the target essential industries were:

- Basic and advanced communications for global networking, along with computing devices of a wide variety;
- Flow-energy equipment providers and electrical grid operators;
- Transportation systems of rail, marine shipping, and non fossil fURL vehicles;
- Farm machinery, particularly non fossil fuel operated;
- The food distribution industry;
- Pharmaceutical product manufacturers;
- Manufacturers of critical equipment for all of the above;
- And many others in a prioritized list.

While a few established manufacturers began a non-profit section to operate in the new economy, many others were reluctant to do so because corporations in the BPC era were designed only to enrich their shareholders and directors - benevolence was not a part of their creed. Many people who had retired from industries put their skills to use by starting industries as outlined in the draft non-profit documentation, and they received interest-

free loans from the BG-R. Some of the early non-profit organizations expanded rapidly with branches in several Regions. In these early transition times, both Gaia\$ and fiat\$ were used but they were never interchangeable.

The UR-SOS team persisted through several years of chaotic change and occasional wars, droughts, famines and floods. Gradually many parts of the world were exchanging goods and services using Gaia\$ because it was the only stable economic system available. All transactions were tracked and recorded at each fledgling proto BG-R and summed at the proto BG-UR. As the number and density of Regions joined in, the BioRegional governments were formed and eventually the Associations Of BioRegional (AOBioRegional) governments became essential to coordinate wider trade issues. Many historic national and state/provincial borders were straddled or otherwise ignored as BioRegions were formed where convenience and neighbourly co-dependence trumped obsolete border lines.

And finally in 2BPC it became clear that it was time for the United Regions to begin to officially assume the role that the UR-SOS team had designed and developed. When participation in the dynamic society had reached about 30% of the people of the world, on December 21, 20?? The UR General Assembly declared the new era had begun. Since this represented a major paradigm change in the relationship between humans and our Gaian home, and our new role as *dependent care takers of nature*, instead of *takers of nature*. It was time to make it official. And this special day, solstice, December 21 became APC000. And the rest is history as humanity's outlook slowly began to grow brighter by a little bit each day thereafter ☺.

The Early Transition Years

After about 10 years of somewhat chaotic global trade and Regional development, about 65% of global population lived within an operating dynamic Region. However, there remained some areas of the world where the people could not let go of their ancient cultures or religions making it impossible for them to accept some of the BPG terms, such as to accept that humans are a part of nature, or that females have equal status with men, or that fertility rates must be regulated by their Region. Global trade became more and more difficult for these areas as the rest of the world moved on. Eventually nature's impartial methods reduced their population through overgrowth and die-off.

Fortunately, with new human expectations and new corporate goals of the new era, the rate of draw-down of Gaian resources soon became dramatically less than it had been BPC: especially in Regions of areas that had been formally known as *industrial nations* where billions of fiat\$ made many people feel rich enough to paid no attention to thrift and efficiency. In their consumerist socioeconomic system about 50% of the energy used, had been wasted.

The Tombstone debt:

It was understood by the UR-SOS team that the Human Activity (HA) of more than 7 billion people was far more that the planet could sustain permanently. They also knew, however, that to make a relatively non chaotic civilized reduction in population by attrition, it would

take several decades to achieve the optimum levels and a sustainable state. Therefore, the BG-UR would need to provide enough funds to maintain civil infrastructure, trade and commerce, and personal finances, during the transitional era of negative growth. During the time between paradigm change and 3D-Optimum, the resources of Gaia would continue to be drawn down. And the extra Gaia\$ needed to operate society while humans are beyond Carrying Capacity (CC) would effectively be a loan against future well-being, against the young and following generations. In order to impress individuals with the urgency of orderly negative growth, this extra money in the dynamic system was called the *Tombstone Debt* as a constant reminder that their Region is still in ecological overshoot.

Every Region was assigned a part of the Tombstone Debt. As the Wealth Factor (WF) data began to accumulate at the *Human Activity Index*, the assignment of this debt was slowly shifted as part of the dynamic process. Regions that could maintain a nearly positive WF balance would have their portion of the *Tombstone Debt* lowered. Regions with a large negative WF balance experienced a low wealth per capita, so WF regulatory controls encouraged less resource throughput and tighter fertility restrictions. Eventually as populations and resource throughput dropped, these Regions moved toward balance and the Tombstone Debt was slowly paid off.

Note: Ball park hypothetical numbers: Presuming 7B humans at PC, expecting 2.5B at optimum, and fertility rates adjusted for population decline, to reach optimum these would be the time:

Fertility to give a 1% decline/year, optimum reached in about 126 years;

Fertility to give a 1.5% decline/year, optimum reached in about 84 years;

Fertility to give a 2% decline/year, optimum reached in about 64 years;

Fertility to give a 2.5% decline/year, optimum reached in about 50 years;

Just what the rate would be with one child per female, cannot be predicted - too many variables. But it would likely be less than 2.5 %/year.

New Regions joined, adult citizens started with a bank account with 10,000 Gaia\$. For home owners, property taxes changed to lease payments on the land. Taxes on property previously owned by corporations changed to leases from the Regional government. Relative values of individual items took some wild swings in the beginning causing the need for temporary price controls but eventually supply and demand ruled, and relative stability emerged. Goods that travelled a long distance had transportation energy costs included in price, therefore, to “buy local” if possible became elementary.

Although the UR provided guidelines for Regional bylaws, in the first few years each Regional government created many new by-laws and regulations to deal with their specific issuers.

Economists soon adjusted their thinking to the closed loop dynamic systems and became enthusiastic about working in science based economics, rather than in *the dismal science*, as economics had been labelled a century before.

extracting water from the local aquifer. But this is only the beginning. The ordinance would also ban energy giant PG&E, and any other corporation, from regional cloud seeding, a process that disrupts weather patterns through the use of toxic chemicals such as silver iodide. More generally, it would [refuse to recognize corporate personhood](#), explicitly place the rights of commURity and local government above the economic interests of multinational corporations, and recognize the [rights of nature](#) to exist, flourish, and evolve.

These commURities are beginning to band together. When the attorney general of Pennsylvania threatened to sUR Packer Township this year for banning sewage sludge within its boURdaries, six other Pennsylvania towns adopted similar ordinances and twenty-three others passed resolutions in support of their neighboring community. Many people were outraged when the attorney general proclaimed, "there is no inalienable right to local self-government."

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[R3]

[Polly Higgins](#) is a barrister, author and international environmental lawyer advocating a different approach to preventing the destruction of our planet. Instead of our laws protecting the property rights of the few, we can shift to laws that impose responsibilities, duties and obligations for the benefit of the many.

Voted by the Ecologist as one of the "[Worlds Top 10 Visionary Thinkers](#)" for her earlier work advancing the Universal Declaration of Planetary Rights, Polly has submitted a second proposal to the United Nations: [the Crime of Ecocide](#). <http://www.pollyhiggins.com/Welcome.html>

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[R4]

Gods of Money: F. William Engdahl, 2009

"Some 60 families--names like Rockefeller, Morgan, Dodge, Mellon, Pratt, Harkness, Whitney, Duke, Harriman, Carnegie, Vanderbilt, DuPont, Guggenheim, Astor, Lehman, Warburg, Taft, Huntington, Baruch and Rosenwald-- formed a close network of plutocratic wealth that manipulated, bribed, and bullied its way to control the destiny of the United States."

He continURs: "They operated in absolute secrecy, lest the general public Understand how the banks' money manipulated political decisions behind the scenes, including decisions to go to war or to keep the peace."

Further data on Engdahl is in the MCP Appendix.

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[R5]

[Local Exchange Trading Systems](#) (LETS) also known as LETSystems are locally initiated, democratically organised, not-for-profit community enterprises that provide a community information service and record transactions.

End of footnotes.

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