





Zoöp

for more Life

Photo: Patricia de Ruijter – Mediakaal.nl

- The planetary climate crisis and ecological degradation are the effects of an economic model that systematically serves the interest of some humans only, and that treats most other bodies as extractable resources.
- The life-sustaining capacity of the planet is diminishing, with increasing speed. *
- All bodies participate in ecosystems, in which all bodies depend on each other for their existence.
- Ecological regeneration is essential to keep the world habitable for all life, human and other-than-human.

Why Zoöp?

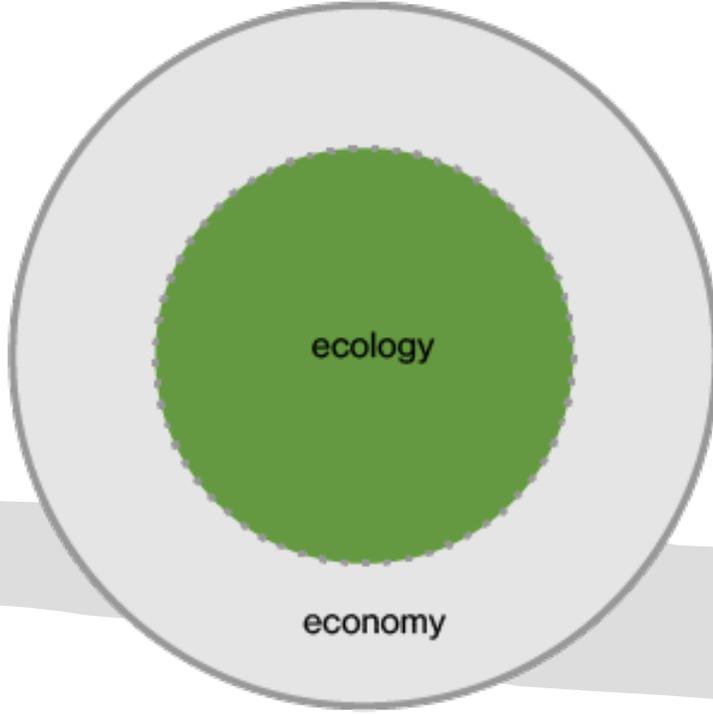
Zoöp

- In our current cultural, technical, legal, political, financial structures and logics it is very hard to act according to this insight...



Economy – ecology - zöonomy

Zööp



A cosmogram depicting the worldview of a default economic actor

Economy – ecology – zoönomy

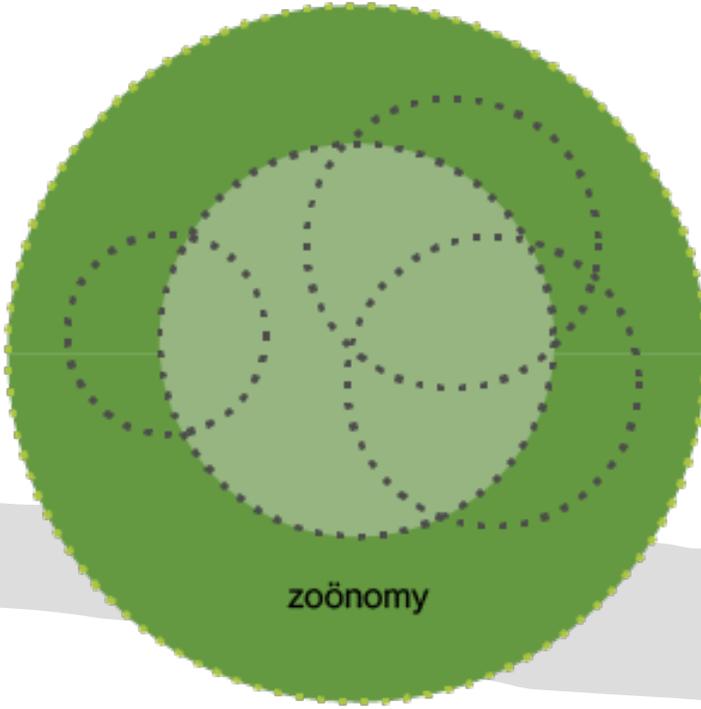
Zoöp



The first necessary move is to re-align this cosmogram, to open a pathway to a future habitable earth

Economy – ecology - zoönomy

Zoöp



A future cosmogram in which ecology and economy are no longer seen as separate or opposed

Degenerative

Net negative
Short term
Business-as-usual
Competitive
Laws & regulations
Organisation as machine
Nature versus culture
Capitalism-as-is

Sustainable

Net zero
Mid term
Do less harm
Collaborative ('liberal')
ESG / CSR
Organisation as family
Nature next to culture
Capitalism, softened

Regenerative

Net positive
Long term / forever
Restore, regenerate
Interdependent
Beyond SDG's
Organisation as living system
Culture as nature as culture
Degrowth / postgrowth



Zoöp =

Zoöperation

Cooperation + zoë
(Greek for 'Life')

Zoöp in a nutshell

Zoöp is an organisation model for cooperation between humans and other-than-human life, that safeguards the interests of all life. A Zoöp makes the interests of other-than-human life part of organisational decision making.

An organisation that becomes a Zoöp, commits to a learning process to find out how to become **symbiotic** with the ecosystems it participates in.

The Zoöp model can be adopted by all organisations, non-profit and for-profit.

Zoöps share knowledge and together foster the development of a regenerative economy or human-inclusive ecosystem, or **zoönomiy**, an economy that sustains all life.

What kind of organisation can become a Zoöp?

Any body that can legally sign a contract can in principle become a Zoöp. Zoöp functions for organisations with impact on a volume of biosphere.

Required is intrinsic motivation. If there is a formal hierarchy in the organisation, preferably this motivation exists both at management level, as well as among workers.

A Zoöp organisation needs to have a willingness and ability to learn, to transform conceptual and practical habits.

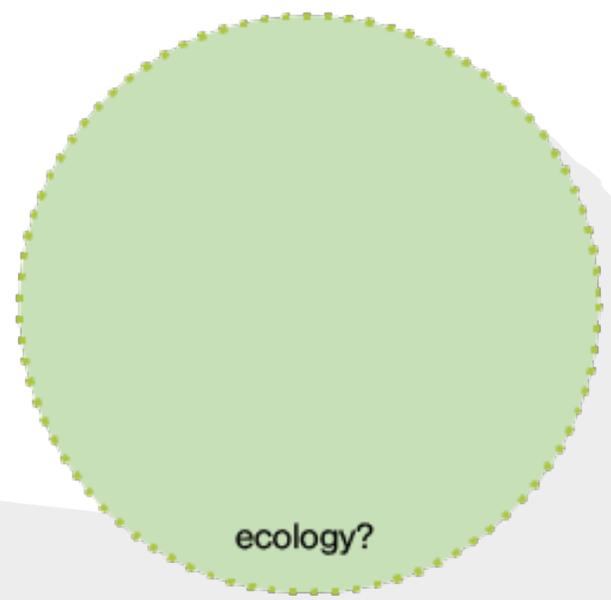
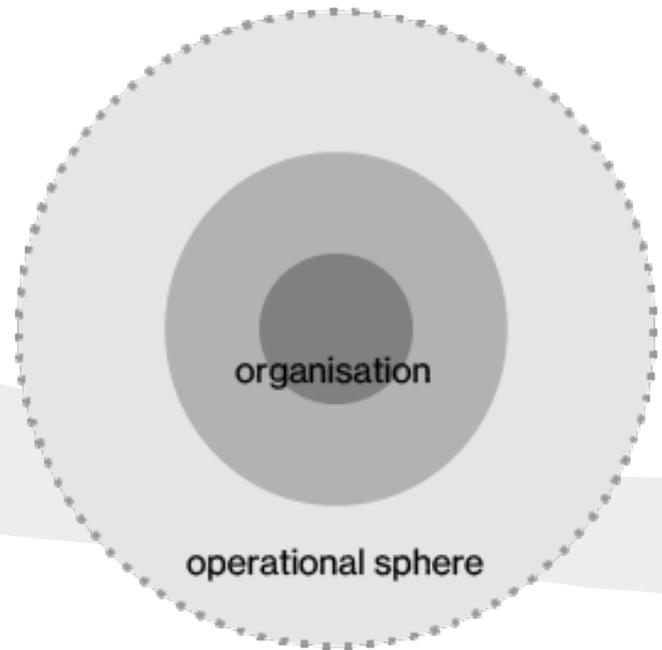
A Zoöp organisation forms good collaborative bonds, on the basis of trust (gives trust, and therefore receives trust) and from the acknowledgement of full interdependency of all ecological actors. Sharing these values, next to sharing goals is important.



- 
- Zoöp is
- an organisation model
 - a learning process
 - a basis for collaboration (movement)

Organisation > proto-Zoöp > Zoöp

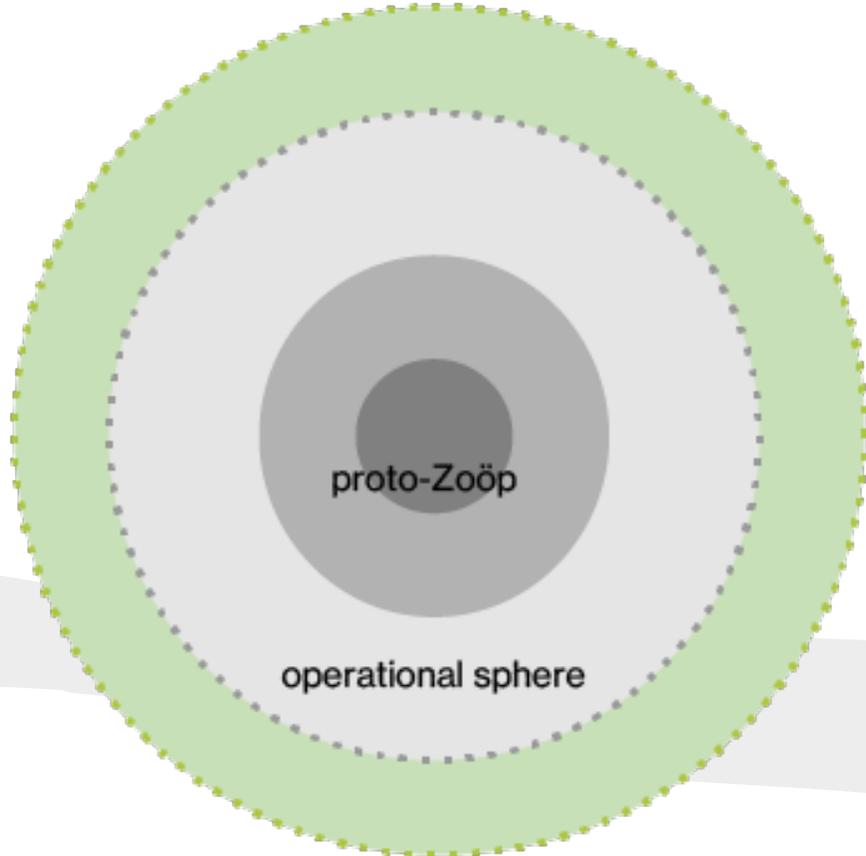
Zoöp



Relation between economic actors and 'ecology' as perceived from perspective of default economic actors

Organisation > proto-Zoöp > Zoöp

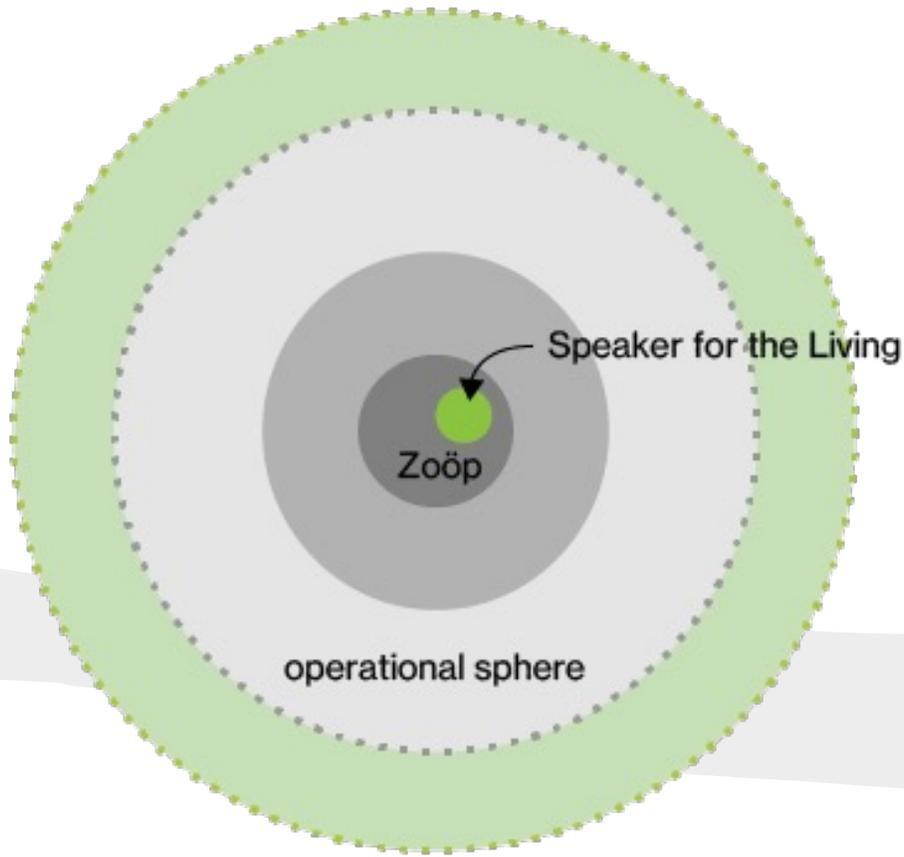
Zoöp



The shift in perspective after which an organisation is ready to consider adopting the Zoöp model

Organisation > proto-Zoöp > Zoöp

Zoöp



The moment an organisation becomes Zoöp, by signing the Zoöp Contract and installing a Speaker for the Living

Speaker for the zoë

A Zoöp includes a Speaker for the Living as advisor, teacher and **board observer** in its organisation. The Speaker first of all has a good ear for the voices and interests of other-than-human life in the operational sphere of the Zoöp. The Speaker helps to translate these to organisational decisions.

In order to allow the Speaker to act independently, the Speaker is delegated by the Zoöconomic Foundation (see slide 34). This foundation was set-up to focus on the task of representing the voices and interests of other-than-human life in the operational sphere of Zoöps.

The Zoöp together with the Zoöconomic Institute and Foundation chooses who will take up the role of Speaker for the Living.

- The role of the Speaker for the Living is a combination of the role of the [Maori guardians](#) in the New-Zealand Rights of Nature implementations (Whanganui River, Mt. Taranaki, te Urewera forest) and that of the [board observer](#) that represents the interests of investors as is sometimes done in start-ups.
- In practice, the Speaker helps her Zoöp to follow the learning proces of the **zoönomi annual cycle**.

What kind of people than take up the role of Speaker for the zoë / the Living?

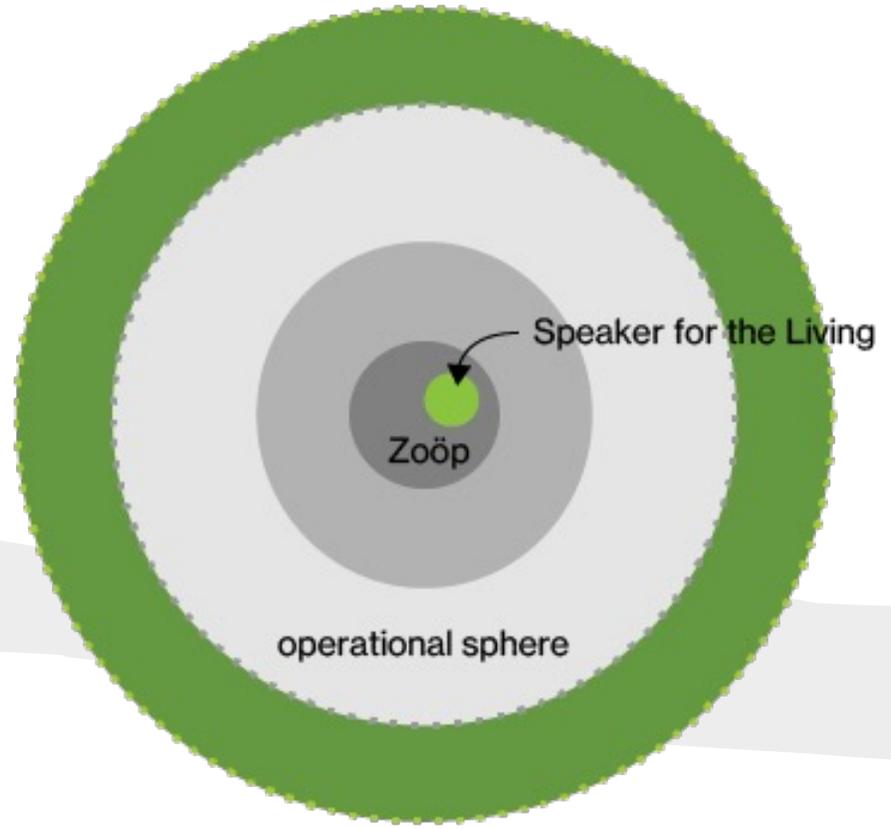
- A SftL should have grounded knowledge of the ecosystems that the Zoöp participates in.
- A SftL has internalised solidarity with the interests of other than human life (habitat, food, forming of relations, choice with the above)
- A SftL knows how to work with humans (has organisational savvy)
- A SftL should have some domain knowledge of the work of the Zoöp they will be working in.
- A SftL is independent of the organisation in which they work as SftL.



Learning process the zoönomic annual cycle

Organisation model, learning process

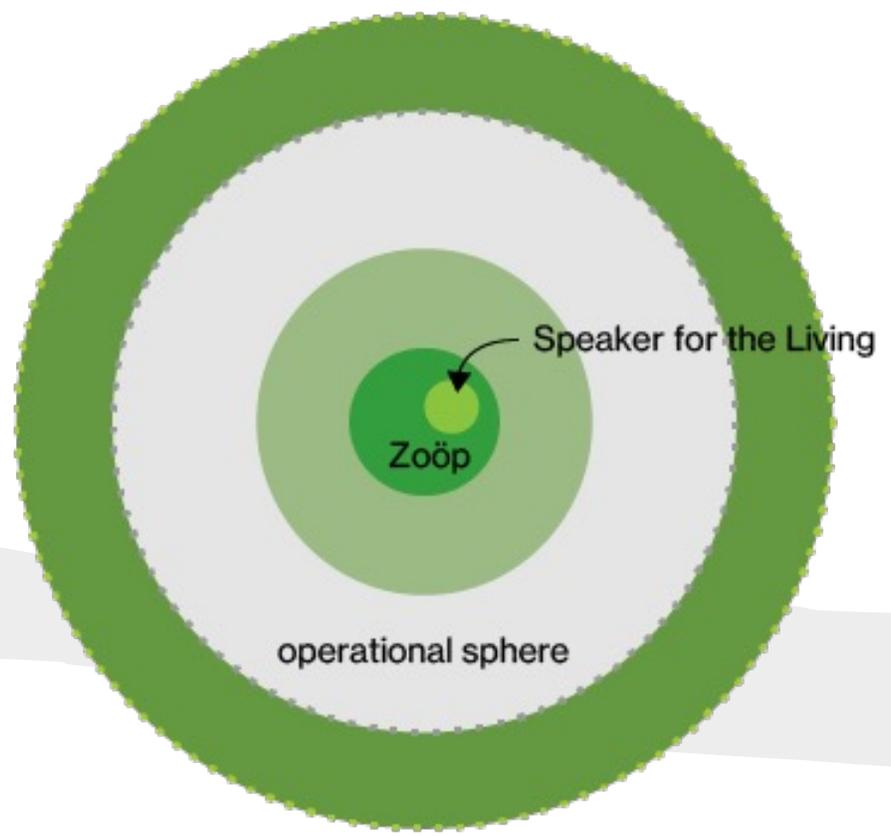
Zoöp



When an organisation becomes a Zoöp, ecological concerns move to the foreground.

Organisation model, learning process

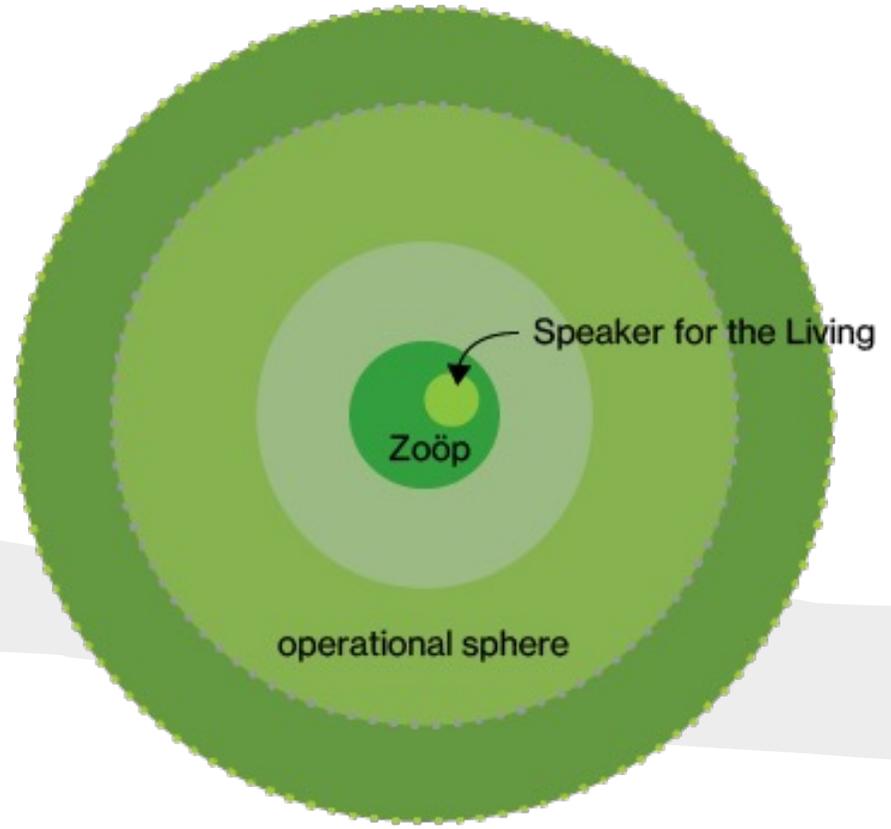
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Decision making processes become sensitised to ecological and more-than-human concerns

Organisation model, learning process

Zoöp



Which leads to reorganising the operational sphere of the Zoöp

A Zoöp is committed to follow the **zoönomie annual cycle (ZAC)** – a structured learning process through which the Zoöp figures out how to act as symbiotic body in the ecosystems it participates in.

The questions of the **ZAC** are basic ecological questions. In a Zoöp these questions are not only asked about the living (and a-biotic) entities of a Zoöp, but also about all the human artefacts and human activities of an organisation, because they are all part of the **zoönomie integrity** of the organisation.

Based on the answers, the Zoöp focuses on yearly regenerative goals and performs interventions to meet this goals.

- **1 Identifying.** What bodies from the Zoöp?

- **2 Observing & Sensing.** What are the life worlds of these bodies?

- **3 Characterising.** Do these bodies support, obstruct or ignore each other in their quality of life? Do they form degenerative relations or regenerative relations? (or neutral relations?)

The first three questions together produce a qualitative map of the ecological (actually: zoönomie) relations of the Zoöp.

- **4 Focusing.** With this as reference frame, the Zoöp formulates regenerative goals for the coming year: which of the (bundles of) degenerative relations will we aim to transform into regenerative relations?

- **5 Intervening.** What interventions should be done to meet these goals?

Zoönomie integrity?

Zoönomie integrity differs from ecological integrity on two points:

Ecological integrity covers interactions of other-than-human bodies but tends to omit humans.

Zoönomie integrity includes the role of humans and works on the assumption that humans can act as useful species in ecosystems.

Ecological integrity tends to be based on historical reference frames for natural, whole, and pure ecosystems.

Zoönomie integrity does not aim at a particular (even if dynamic) fully flowering end-state for a specific group of worthy species.

Greater zoönomie integrity is the *result* of engaging in a continually growing number of regenerative relations, in an open-ended process, that also embraces novel ecosystems

RASL workshop

The goal is to make a qualitative map of the socio-ecological (zoönomie) relations of the Hillevliet building & community (questions 1 – 3 of the **ZAC**).

To allow you to situate (question 4 of the **ZAC**) your research project, that should (aim to) contribute to the zoönomie integrity of the Hillevliet building & community.





- Sensitising
- Organising
- Strategising

We found that interventions tend to come in three flavours:

- **Sensitising:** Developing horizontal, reciprocal relations between human (collective) bodies and other-than-human collective bodies. Developing an **ecocentric** sensibility.
- **Organising:** (Re-)arranging immediate surroundings, developing a local multispecies community within the organisations sphere of agency, according to this ecocentric sensibility.
- **Strategising:** Relating to the outside world that operates on different values. Collaborating to work on complicated or large scale questions.



The Zoöp movement

Movement diagram

Zoöp

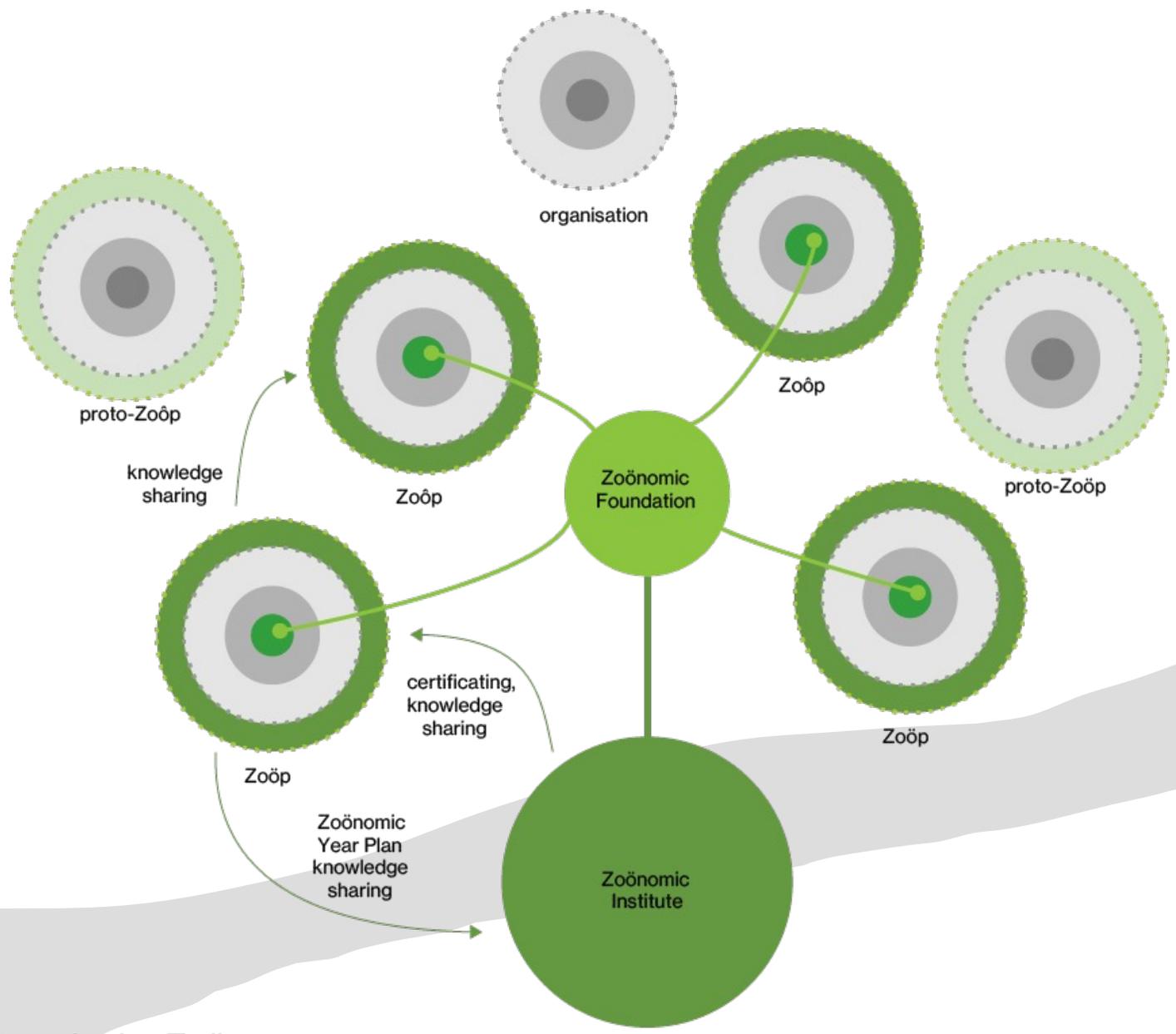


Diagram of the kinds of actors in the Zoöp movement

Examples

Zoöp Nieuwe Instituut







Identifying What bodies form the Zoöp?



We use the term **bodies**:

- to help to level the (conceptual) differences between the various actors participating in ecological relations
- to refer to human bodies but also to those of plants, trees, and any other organism.
- for more organisational structures such as a municipal body or a government
- In the understanding that all bodies are collective bodies

- **More-than-human bodies**
- **Organisational bodies**
- **Legal bodies**
- **Human artefacts**
- **Others**

List of bodies

- Soil life of the New Garden: worms, nematodes, microbes, mycelia etc.
- Plants, trees, waterplants
- Japanese knotweed
- Butterbur
- Plants sprouting from Hans's seeds
- Wadi
- Dunescape next to facade
- Compost heap
- Insects
- Amphibians, frogs, turtles
- Geese, ducks, fish, rabbits
- The New Garden
- The Ponds
- The sedum, insects and birds that live on the roof of the archive building
- The nonhuman collectivities of the Museumpark and beyond that exchange with those of HNI (such as ducks, birds, bats, etc.)
- Plants in the building

- Gebouwbeheer HNI (Joost)
- Zoöp workgroup
- New parking lot
- Terraces, walking bridges
- Buildings, facades
- Exhibition materials >>>
- Media technologies >>>
- Energy >>>
- Water
- New website
- Printed material
- Fences
- Paths
- Urban lighting
- Stone staircase next to the pond
- Mudbanks in the pond
- Plastic and other waste in the ponds
- Board of Observers (RvT)
- Municipality of Rotterdam
- Police
- Ministry of Culture
- The New Café
- Audiences & visitors

Zoöconomic Annual Cycle

Zoöp

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Nieuwe Tuin, welcome guest: coltsfoot– indigeneous wild plant / photo Frank Bruggeman (2023)



Compost heap, De Nieuwe Tuin / photo Wietske Nutma (2022)

Rabbits in the morning, De Nieuwe Tuin / photo
Wietske Nutma (2022)



List of bodies

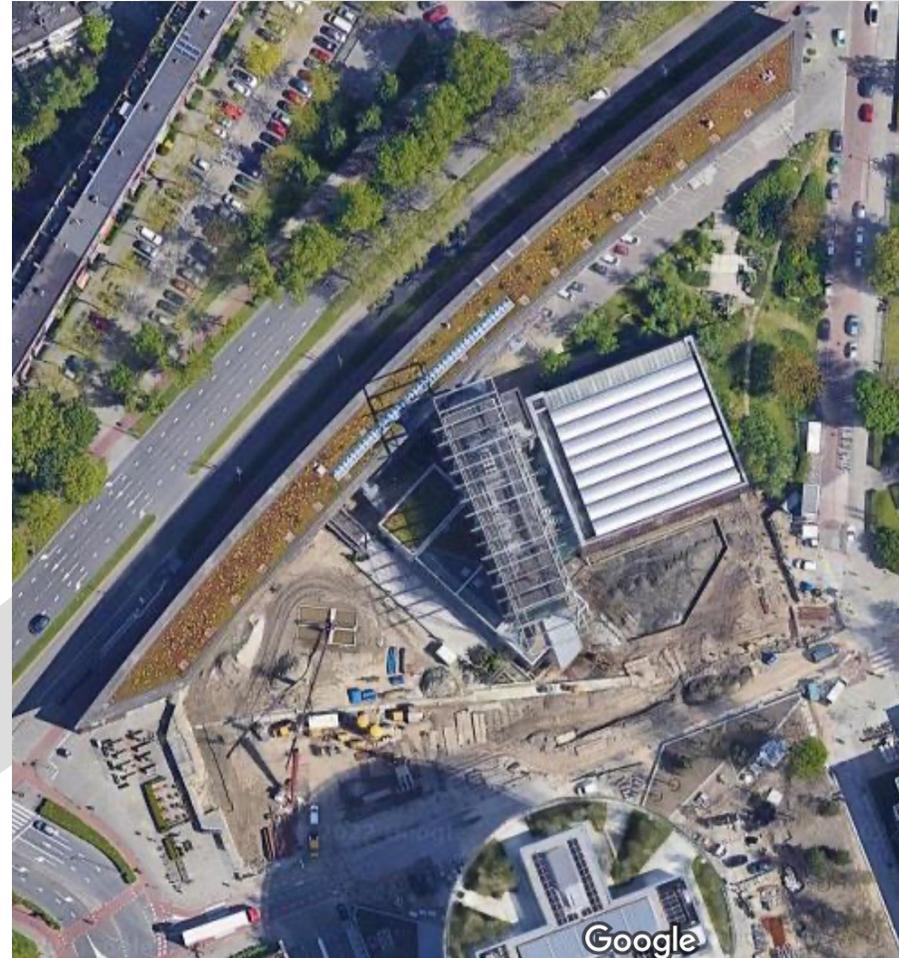
Alive HNI ☆ 🗑️ ☁️

Bestand Bewerken Bekijken Invoegen Opmaak Gegevens

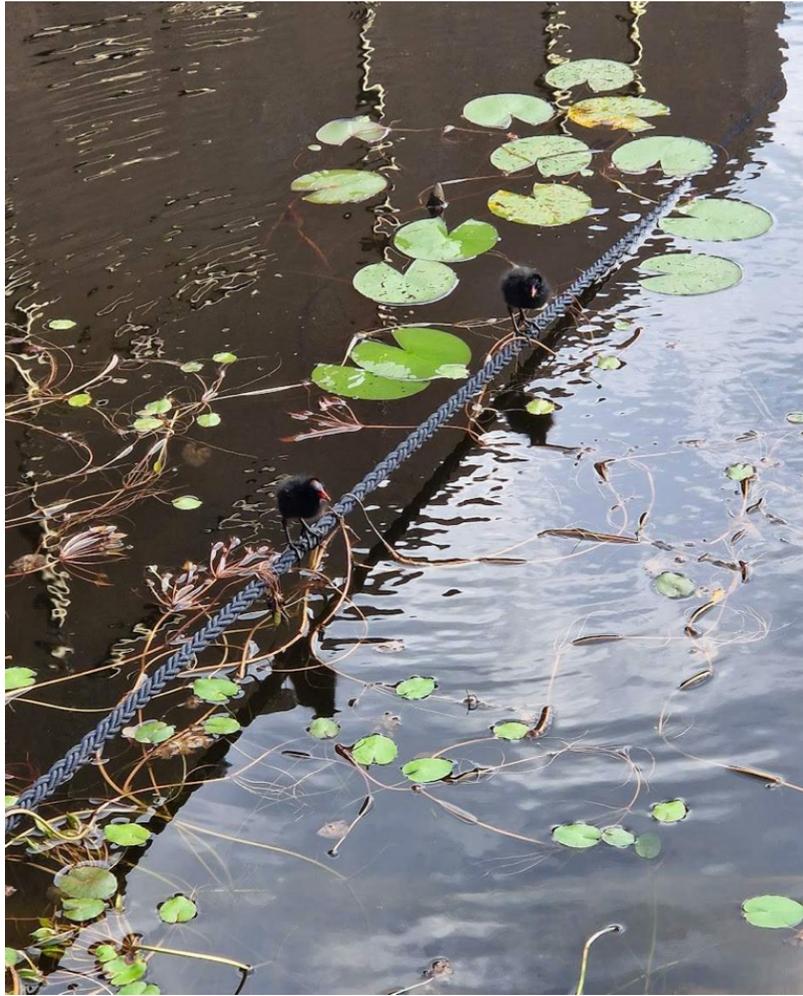
🖨️ ⌵ 75% 🗖️ Alleen bekijken

R5 fx

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Name:	Location:	Prevalence:	Extra info:	Picture:	
2	acute sedge	left pond				
3	common mare's tail	left pond		probably planted		
4	european speedwell	left pond				
5	yellow marsh marigold	left pond		unknown type, organically entered		
						



The sedum roof, Nieuwe Instituut / photo Google Maps



Ducks and geese in the ponds, Nieuwe Instituut / photo Frank Bruggeman (2022)



Het Nieuwe Café, Nieuwe Instituut

Observing
What are the life-
worlds of these
bodies?



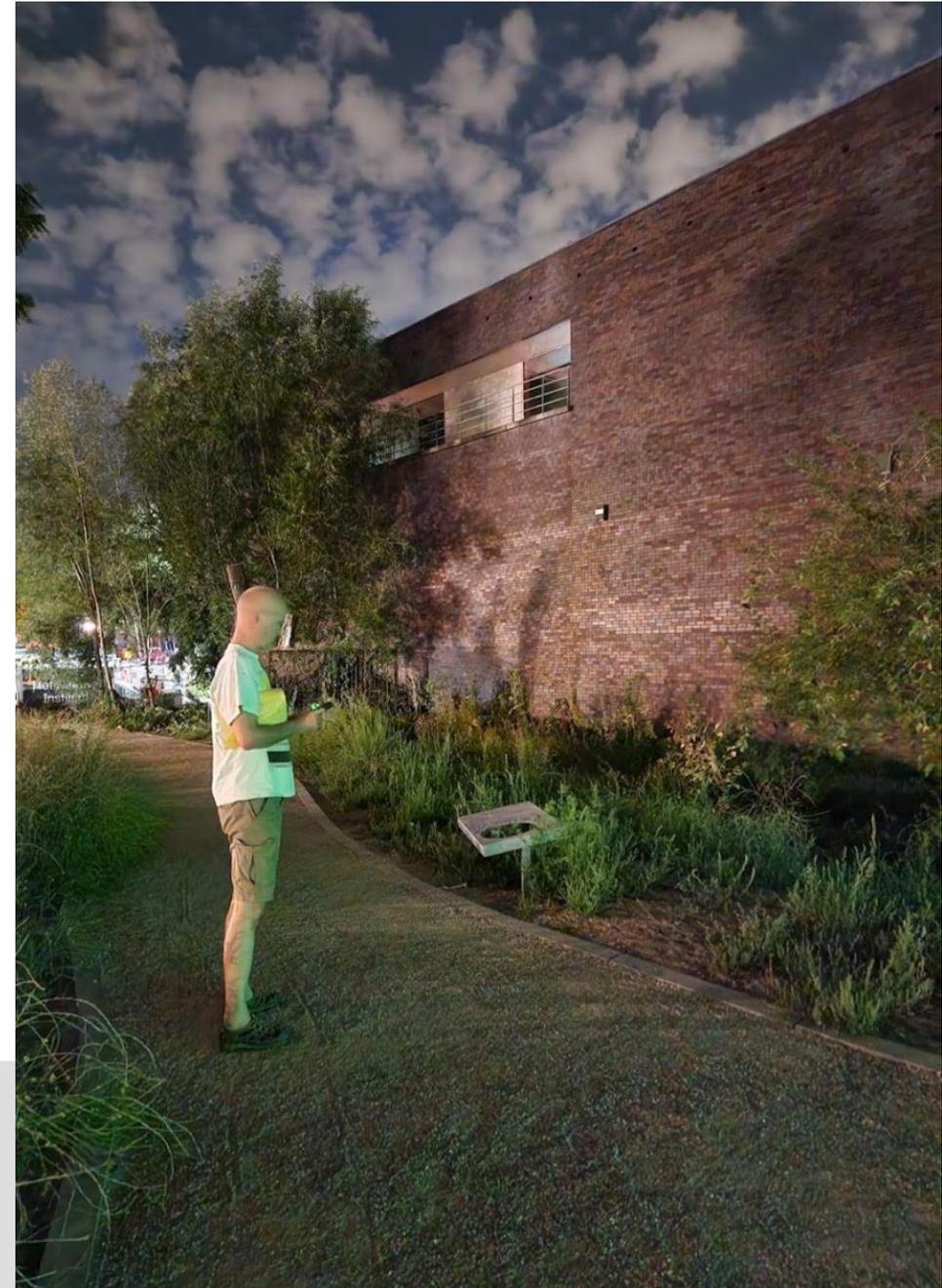
From the perspective of ducks, waterweeds

The world of spiders, mycelia



Characterising
Do these bodies form
degenerative, regenerative,
neutral relations?

Lights & Bats



Soil, cars, parking lot



Compost heap, insect metropolis. bats



Focusing

What are the painpoints?

Which should be our first
regenerative goals?

Regenerative goals 2022

- Increasing the life-sustaining capacity of the ponds
- Increasing the life-sustaining capacity of the building
- Increasing the life-sustaining capacity of The New Garden
- Increasing the Zoöp-mindedness within the organisation
- Engage our audiences in the thinking around Zoöp

Added goals 2023

- Making NI's mobility as sustainable as possible
- Exhibition materials reused or biobased (regenerative sourcing)
- Support ecological management of the city of Rotterdam
- New museum store works on regenerative retail
- Develop vision on permacomputing

Intervening

What actions should we plan to realise these goals?



The new parking lot with Solidrain concrete elements, allowing plants and better drainage / photo Frank Bruggeman (2023)



Planting and maintaining reeds and weeds in the pond / foto Klaas Kuitenbrouwer (2023)



Releasing minnows in the ponds

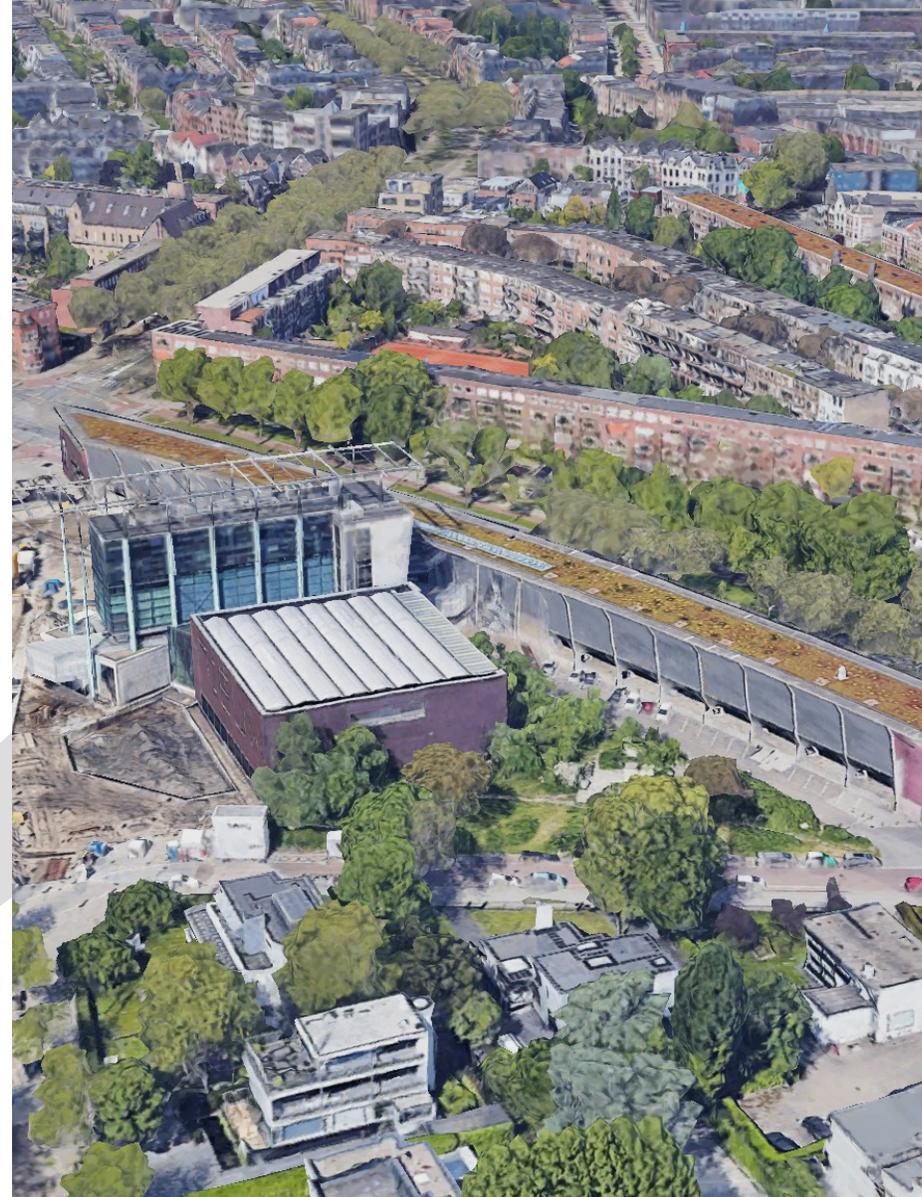
Zoöp work group NI

- Prepares the work of the Speaker for the Living
- Represents Zoöp values in the various departments
- Makes sure regenerative goals and principles are built into the project development logic of het Nieuwe Instituut.

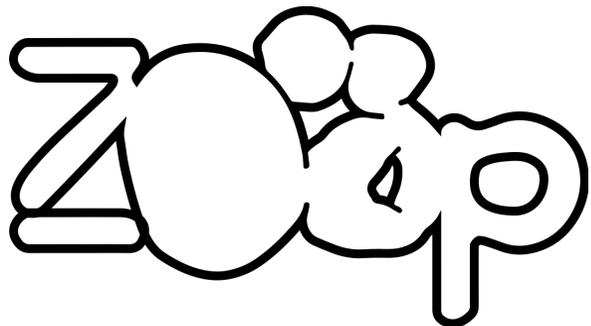
Zoöp work groep Nieuwe Instituut



All tenders that are issued in relation to the maintenance and renovation of the building will include regenerative goals that have to be realised in the renovation projects as well.



Nieuwe Instituut, 2022, Google Maps



Where are we?

2022

22 April 1 fully functioning Zoöp (NL) around 35 proto-Zoöps. For profit, non-profit. Big, small. In the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Flanders, Slovenia.

2023 (NL only)

May – June pilot-training 6 Speakers for the Living

September - matching proto-Zoöps to SsftL

Knowledge platform in operation.

October - training proto-Zoöps

November - starting 3-5 new Zoöps.

2024

Training new Speakers for the Living

Training proto-Zoöps

Establishing 7(?) BoSS Zoöps (Earth Day: 22 April 2024?)

Establishing 7-10 other Zoöps

- **Legal** Vincent Koorstra, Ernestien Idenburg, De Brauw-Blackstone-Westbroek, Marlous Stal-Hilders, Timo Buijs of NLO,

- **Ecological** Debra Solomon, Theun Karelse, Bianca Slieker, Ricardo Cano Matteo, Anne van Leeuwen, Sander Turnhout, Jane da Mosto. Rosa Boone

- **Strategy & organisation** Wietske Nutma, Merel Willemsen, Guus Beumer, Aric Chen, Josien Paulides, Caroline Nevejan,

- **Critical friends** Brice Ammar-Khodja, Thieu Besseling, Patrick van Beveren, Samuel Bianchini, Sanne Bloemink, Andrei Bocin-Dumitriu, Ziega van den Berk, Gijs Bosman, Laura Burgers, Cristina Cochior, Francesca Cozzolino, Zoé Dassaud, Leonardo Dellanoce, Malou den Dekker, Natalia Derossi, Angela Rui, Andre Ficcato, Syne Fonk, Sjef van Gaalen, Edwin Gardner, Lotte van Geeven, Michelle Geraerts, Marcel Goethals, Paulina Grebenstein, Max Hampshire, Thieme Hennis, Robin Hoske, Martina Huynh, Ian Ingram, Franceso degl'Inocenti, Florian Cramer, Sophie Krier, Eva Meijer, Linne van der Meulen, Arjen Mulder, Gilbert de Nijs, Dorine van Norren, Yanshan Ou, Daniela de Paulis, Marthijn Pool, Gerard van der Ree, Patricia Ribault, Jarl Schulp, Hugo Scurto, Francesco Sebregondi, Malachi Shapiro, Bianca Slieker, Fabian van der Sluijs, Youran Song, Jay Springett, Daniël Steginga, Miha Tursic, Jacco van Uden, Josh Wodak, Aiwen Yin, Thijs de Zeeuw, Mislav Zugaj and many many more.

Some sources

Ecology, flat ontologies

Lynn Margulis – *Symbiotic Planet*

Timothy Morton – *The Ecological Thought*, *Dark Ecology*

Bruno Latour – *Facing Gaia*, *the Politics of Nature*, *Parliament of Things*

New Materialisms

Elizabeth Povinelli – *Geontologies*

Karen Barad – *Meeting the Universe Halfway*

Manuel deLanda – *1000 years of non-linear history*

Other-than-human subjectivities, biosemiotics

Jakob von Uexküll – *A Foray into the Worlds of Animals and Humans*

Vincaine Despret – *What would animals say if we asked the rights questions?*

Brian Massumi – *What Animals Teach Us about Politics*

Eva Meijer – *When Animal speak?*

Merlin Sheldrake – *Entangled Life*

Peter Godfrey Smith – *Metazoa*

Eduardo Kohn – *How Forests Think*

- **Knowledge practices**

Rosi Braidotti – The Posthuman, The Posthuman Glossary (with others)

Donna Haraway – Situated Knowledge, Staying With the Trouble

Isabelle Stengers - Cosmopolitics I & II

Robin Wall Kimmer – Braiding Sweetgrass

- Baptiste Morizot – On the Animal Trail

- **Economic transitions, regenerative economy, human-inclusive ecosystems**

Kate Raworth – Donut Economics

Matthias Schmelzer, Aaron Vansintjan, Andrea Vetter – The Future is Degrowth

Katharina Pistor – The Code of Capital

- Robert Fletcher, Bram Buscher – The Conservation Revolution