

Planet:Health X Network Nations

This document explores how the Network Nations framework can support Planet:Health, and how Planet:Health could serve as an iterative, applied example of a Network Nation in action. As a 'community of communities', Planet:Health exemplifies Network Nations' principles of translocal coordination and polycentric governance, operating as an interconnected ecosystem that shares resources and knowledge across geographical boundaries. Planet:Health's needs include infrastructure and information sharing, governance systems, resource management, and integration with decentralised technologies.

While Planet:Health has strong human-centered foundations, it could benefit from more structured systems and protocols to support its continued growth and impact. Based on this, this document sets out a few in-roads into how Network Nations infrastructure could support Planet:Health and vice versa, for example through developing resource commoning protocols, shared governance systems, and a decentralised technology stack that fosters global coordination for planetary wellbeing.

What is Planet:Health?

The health of people and the planet are inextricably linked and under threat. *Planetary Health* is a solutions-oriented movement that addresses the relationships between human health and all life on the planet. [Planet:Health](#) is building a translocal network of actions for planetary health, honouring and grounded by Indigenous knowledge systems and supported by emerging technologies.

Planet:Health emerged as an ecosystem to imagine, prototype & disseminate flourishing Planetary Health futures. We exist as a *community of communities* that come into embassy to share knowledge, resources and support for planetary health action (Figure 1).

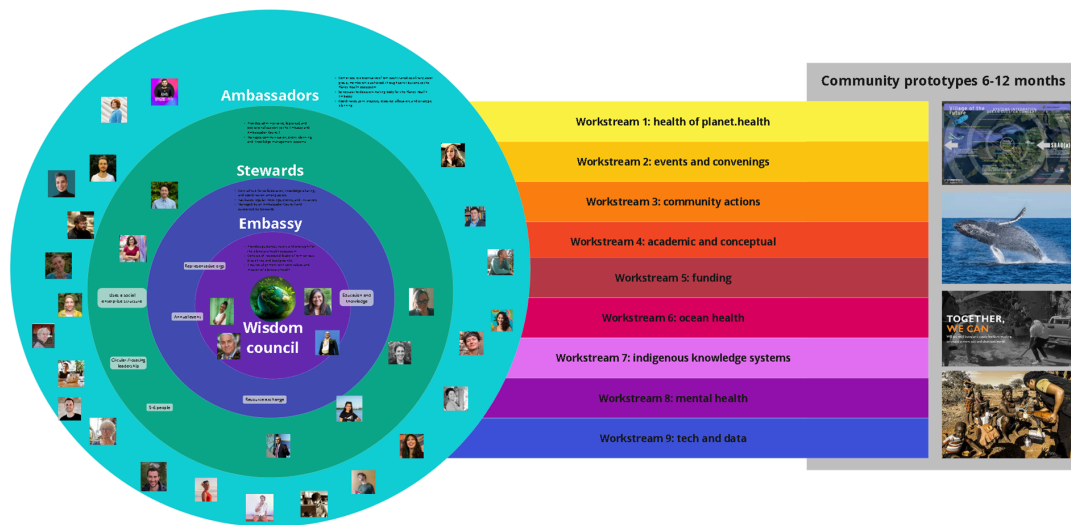


Figure 1: the Planet. Health ecosystem 2024

Planet. Health uses linked-up thinking and action to address problems at root, drawing on our own interwoven ecosystems across the planet. Examples of our planetary network and actions include:

- **[Health House](#) / Spiritual and planetary health**
Development of a network of spaces for flexible, holistic, integrated wellness practices across physical, mental, spiritual, cultural, and environmental health. Physical space plus as a set of physical, mental, technological, cultural, and community processes that are embodied in and connected to the space.
- **[NOURISH](#): Indigenous knowledge, food systems and planetary health**
Indigenous-informed, community-led participatory policy and action lab to co-design food systems that nurture health and environment across seven global locations (Alaska, Australia, India, Kenya, Peru, Tonga, USA). Using two-eyed seeing to bring together Indigenous and Western knowledge in a translocal participatory learning and action cycle.
- **Cultural / slow burning and biochar**
Utilising a cyclical approach to addressing environmental management, recycling, energy, and health: development of a knowledge and practice resource for biochar development that draws on Indigenous knowledge and cultural/slow burning practices. Centering both health and environmental benefits across multiple translocal sites across the globe, with a focus on Australia and Alaska.
- **Nature and Health activations**

Representing Planet.Health at pop-up cities such as Edge City Lanna through facilitating the Nature and Health Node. Bringing together web3 and planetary health innovators from SE Asia and focusing on local food systems and spiritual practices.

- **Mental health & climate action in East Africa**

Bringing together organisations such as MAMA Kenya, Girls4Girls Africa and Ember Incubator to identify challenges and plan actions at the intersection of climate and mental health.

- **Whale Corridor and planetary scale action**

Development of planetary scale coordination concepts such as a Pacific whale corridor and 'whale bank' / nature-for-debt swaps and other mechanisms for pooled finance and environmental conservation.

- **Community health multi-solving**

Supporting community and Indigenous leaders to develop localised and translocalised actions for holistic community health. Including the health/art/livelihoods centre in East Pokot Kenya (MAMA Kenya)

- **Unlikely conversations**

Bringing together community leaders, policy/science experts and web3 innovators for conversations at the intersection of technology, planetary health, and decentralised action.

Planet.Health is interested in advancing the use of emerging technologies to facilitate decentralisation, ownership and agency, and to help us experiment, imagine and build with new eyes. We believe in the power of decentralised technologies to facilitate right-scale, community-led, sovereign change. We are particularly focused on translocal coordination because our network extends over most continents on the planet but draws on local knowledge and place-based action. The recent focus of Planet.Health has been to understand how we can build and sustain the mycelial infrastructure for Planetary Health action, drawing on social and decentralised tech innovations. The questions we are asking are:

- How can we join forces, transcend sectors and disciplines to respond to collective Planetary Health challenges?
- How can we localise our responses and respect pluralities of knowledge and action, whilst taking these to the right scale?
- What does a distributed, decentralised infrastructure of knowledge and practice for Planetary Health look like?
- How can our actions be informed by right-relationships: between ourselves, each other, and our environment?
- How can this work be governed and funded appropriately?

What are Network Nations?

Network Nations offer a new institutional paradigm and framework to facilitate global, networked, coordination and translocal emergent practices across sectors, geographies, and disciplines. In the face of global polycrises and the systematic disintegration of the social contract between states and populations, attempts have been made to experiment with networked governance and community building outside of national boundaries. However, approaches such as Network States tend to replicate the constraints of nation states and risk reinforcing ideas/practices that further entrench socioeconomic and environmental inequalities.

Network Nations offers an antidote: a model for collaboration, governance and resource stewardship from a networked perspective that transcends boundaries and offers a pro-social, pro-planet alternative to address the inadequacies of 21st century governance models. The Network Nations framework explores how to:

- build upon existing institutional frameworks, but recombine them innovatively
- create new forms of political agency for addressing yet-to-be-resolved global challenges
- enable novel global coordination systems that operate across national boundaries

Network Nations are based on ten foundational insights / principles:

1. They are neither local nor global but ‘translocal’
2. Their design is neither centralized nor decentralized, but ‘polycentric’
3. They offer an approach grounded not in supremacy nor subordination, but functional sovereignty
4. They deploy neither market nor state, but ‘commons-based’ mechanisms
5. They don’t encourage dependency or independency, but facilitate interdependencies and entanglements
6. They build communities through stake-based approaches, which are neither exit-based nor voice-based
7. They nurture a plural governance approach that is neither political nor post-political, but meta-political
8. They support change agents who are neither insiders or outsiders, but “beyonders”
9. They are neither techno-utopian nor techno-dystopian but techno-realist
10. Their approach is neither prescriptive or descriptive, but emergent

As an emergent and flexible framework that allows for context specific adaptation, Network Nations has put forward a suite of provocations for future collaborators, which are paraphrased below.

- **Network Nations as institutional scaffolding for translocal communities**
 - How can governance frameworks help communities organize themselves across locations while maintaining adaptability?
 - What kinds of digital and physical spaces would allow communities to effectively test and refine self-governance approaches?
 - How might we reimagine citizenship as a dynamic process based on participation rather than geography?
- **Network Nations as a composite of layered, polycentric governance structures/functions**
 - Which areas should local nodes operate independently, and how can common protocols maintain network cohesion?
 - What processes could effectively manage overlapping governance areas and resolve conflicts?
 - How can systems allow natural emergence of new governance centers while preventing fragmentation?
- **Network Nations as a Vehicle for Self-Governance**
 - How can special economic zones serve as testing grounds for alternative governance systems?
 - What role might blockchain and decentralized identity play in creating independent governance systems?
 - How can functional sovereignty be achieved while maintaining productive relationships with existing institutions?
- **Network Nations as Stewards of Translocal Commons**
 - What governance structures could prevent both overuse and underuse of shared resources?
 - How can network technologies enable community management of resources outside traditional systems?
 - What mechanisms could effectively bridge local and global needs?
 - How might we cultivate a culture of shared responsibility?
 - What approaches could govern infrastructure as a shared resource while preventing power concentration?
 - How can frameworks combine local and global assets effectively in a networked commons?

- **Fostering entanglements through Network Nations**
 - What pilot projects - e.g. shared governance tokens for co-managed funds - could effectively test entanglement strategies?
 - Which mechanisms like mutual resource pools could best align incentives and entangle for long-term collaboration?
 - What safeguards are needed to prevent unhealthy dependencies or power imbalances?
- **Stake-based participation and governance**
 - What would effective stake-based governance systems look like?
 - How can we measure and value non-quantitative / non-financial contributions?
 - What mechanisms could prevent system gridlock and power abuse by major stakeholders?
- **Metapolitics for diverse, multi-actor spaces through interactive arenas**
 - How can governance systems prioritize learning and coordination across diverse views without requiring ideological agreement?
 - What approaches would integrate civil society into translocal decisions while avoiding existing power imbalances?
 - How can we maintain openness to diverse perspectives while preventing gridlock or capture by powerful actors?
- **Fostering a 'beyond' ethos**
 - What blockchain frameworks could enable rapid prototyping of alternative governance systems?
 - How can resource allocation balance innovation with supporting existing initiatives?
 - What strategies could help new governance frameworks build trust and recognition?
 - How might we ensure new systems remain accessible and inclusive rather than technologically exclusionary?
- **Technology as a means not an end**
 - How can we align technology with community values and governance needs?
 - What mechanisms would enable ongoing community input in technology development?
 - How might technology enhance rather than disrupt existing social and cultural systems?
 - What safeguards could prevent technological solutions from creating new forms of inequality?

- How can we balance technological innovation with preserving valuable traditional practices?

Planet.Health as a Network Nation?

Planet.Health exemplifies many core Network Nations principles through its structure as a "community of communities" that spans continents. As a translocal network, it bridges local actions with global coordination, while starting to explore polycentric governance models supported by a commons-based approach to resource stewardship. Planet.Health is particularly open to emerging and decentralised technologies that respect community priorities and traditional practices.

Through the lens of Network Nations, Planet.Health's strengths lie in its human-centered and relationship-driven approaches:

- **Community Building & Cultural Integration:** central focus on bringing together diverse communities and knowledge systems; deep respect for and integration of Indigenous knowledge; an embassy approach that brings together expertise and community leaders; focus on the creation of physical spaces and place-based community actions
- **Relationship-Based networking:** emphasis on fostering relationships between different knowledge systems, entanglements across geographical boundaries, emergent, ground-up approach to networks for planetary health
- **Knowledge Exchange & Learning:** two-eyed seeing approach, emphasis on local wisdom and place-based action, exploration of spiritual and holistic health practices, shared learning across different cultural contexts
- **Adaptive Leadership:** emergent, flexible, organic governance, attempts to recognise multiple forms of expertise and contribution, balance between local autonomy and network cohesion, emphasis on co-design and participatory approaches

From the same perspective, areas where Planet.Health could strengthen its approach include:

- **Infrastructure and information sharing:** need for more robust digital platforms for secure, accessible communication across regions; lack of standardized systems for knowledge sharing and documentation; need for better tools to collect and analyze data across locations; opportunity to develop more formal resource sharing and allocation mechanisms
- **Governance:** we would benefit from more explicit governance protocols for decision-making; opportunity to formalize stake-based participation systems; we need to develop structured approaches to measuring non-financial contributions

- **Resource Management:** a large need for tech/systems to pool and manage shared resources; opportunity to develop clearer protocols for resource allocation; mechanisms for transparent tracking of resources and impact; potential to explore innovative funding models like shared governance tokens
- **Technical Integration:** we should better leverage blockchain and decentralized technologies; need better integration of digital tools with traditional practices; opportunity to develop a user-friendly technical interface; need for better safeguards against technological exclusion

The table below presents the alignment and opportunities for Network Nations x Planet.Health.

Principle	NN Provocations	PH alignment	Opportunities
Network Nations as institutional scaffolding for translocal communities	<i>How can governance frameworks help communities organize themselves across locations while maintaining adaptability?</i> <i>What kinds of digital and physical spaces would allow communities to effectively test and refine self-governance approaches?</i> <i>How might we reimagine citizenship as a dynamic process based on participation rather than geography?</i>	-Currently function as a community of communities that spans multiple continents - Connects local actions while maintaining global coordination - Creates bridges between different knowledge systems, particularly Indigenous and Western approaches	Planet.Health governance codesign using the Network Nations framework Development of a digital platform for knowledge and information sharing Developing and digitizing membership / citizenship models
Network Nations as a composite of layered, polycentric governance structures/ functions	<i>Which areas should local nodes operate independently, and how can common protocols maintain network cohesion?</i> <i>What processes could effectively manage overlapping governance areas and resolve conflicts?</i> <i>How can systems allow natural emergence of new governance centers while preventing fragmentation?</i>	- Operates as an interconnected ecosystem rather than a centralised organization - Allows different nodes to operate autonomously while maintaining network cohesion - Facilitates and is built upon diverse connections from the community to the global level	Community-led governance framework codesign using Network Nations framework
Network Nations as a Vehicle for	<i>How can special economic zones serve as testing grounds for alternative governance systems?</i>	- Works within existing systems while maintaining independence	Focus on designing functional sovereignty for Planet.Health's

Self-Governance and sovereignty	<i>What role might blockchain and decentralized identity play in creating independent governance systems?</i> <i>How can functional sovereignty be achieved while maintaining productive relationships with existing institutions?</i>	- Builds sovereign capacity for communities to address their own health needs - Maintains productive relationships with institutions while pursuing alternative approaches - Actors in our network need to be able to mobilise resources and decisions in a way that is protected from risk of current institutions	finances and governance so that more radical social movements (esp. those at legal or financial risk) can adapt this model
Network Nations as Stewards of Translocal Commons	<i>What governance structures could prevent both overuse and underuse of shared resources?</i> <i>How can network technologies enable community management of resources outside traditional systems?</i> <i>What mechanisms could effectively bridge local and global needs?</i> <i>How might we cultivate a culture of shared responsibility?</i> <i>What approaches could govern infrastructure as a shared resource while preventing power concentration?</i> <i>How can frameworks combine local and global assets effectively in a networked commons?</i>	- Focuses on shared resource stewardship for planetary health - Develops shared knowledge resources and practices - Creates common spaces for knowledge exchange and action	Development of a DAO and other related tooling for stewardship of resources Designing for pooling and distribution of financial and non-financial resources
Fostering entanglements through Network Nations	<i>What pilot projects - e.g. shared governance tokens for co-managed funds - could effectively test entanglement strategies?</i> <i>Which mechanisms like mutual resource pools could best align incentives and entangle for long-term collaboration?</i> <i>What safeguards are needed to prevent unhealthy dependencies or power imbalances?</i>	- Create deliberate connections between different initiatives - Foster relationships between different knowledge systems and practices - Build interdependent networks for resource sharing and support	Strengthening entanglements through embedding network nations mechanisms Development of shared governance tokens for a co-managed Planet.Health fund Development of a mutual aid resource pool

Stake-based participation and governance	What would effective stake-based governance systems look like? How can we measure and value non-quantitative / non-financial contributions? What mechanisms could prevent system gridlock and power abuse by major stakeholders?	- Value diverse forms of contribution beyond financial metrics - Emphasizes participation and active engagement in planetary health initiatives - Recognise multiple forms of expertise and knowledge	Developing a system of contributions that allow for a ledger of non financial contributions to be recorded and valued
Metapolitics for diverse, multi-actor spaces through interactive arenas	<i>How can governance systems prioritize learning and coordination across diverse views without requiring ideological agreement?</i> <i>What approaches would integrate civil society into translocal decisions while avoiding existing power imbalances?</i> <i>How can we maintain openness to diverse perspectives while preventing gridlock or capture by powerful actors?</i>	- Transcends traditional political boundaries to address planetary health - Brings together diverse perspectives without requiring ideological consensus - Creates spaces for dialogue across different worldviews and approaches	Pioneering translocal learning and action cycles for community-led, translocal policy development
Fostering a 'beyond' ethos	<i>What blockchain frameworks could enable rapid prototyping of alternative governance systems?</i> <i>How can resource allocation balance innovation with supporting existing initiatives?</i> <i>What strategies could help new governance frameworks build trust and recognition?</i> <i>How might we ensure new systems remain accessible and inclusive rather than technologically exclusionary?</i>	- Acts as a bridge between traditional institutions and new forms of organization - Experiments with innovative approaches like web3 while respecting existing practices - Creates new spaces for collaboration that transcend conventional boundaries - Explores novel funding mechanisms - Willingness to prototype new solutions while maintaining strong community roots	Promoting PH as a 'beyond' network framing practical community based actions as 'beyond' Encouraging and onboarding our network to use web3 technologies, particularly in LMICS
Technology as a means not an end	<i>How can we align technology with community values and governance needs?</i> <i>What mechanisms would enable ongoing community input in technology development?</i>	- Uses emerging technologies thoughtfully to support decentralization and coordination - Focuses on technology as	Developing PH as an example of how community-first innovation can be supported by translocal technological

	<i>How might technology enhance rather than disrupt existing social and cultural systems?</i> <i>What safeguards could prevent technological solutions from creating new forms of inequality?</i> <i>How can we balance technological innovation with preserving valuable traditional practices?</i>	an enabler rather than an end in itself - Balances innovation with respect for traditional practices and knowledge systems	infrastructure Crowd-sourcing feedback and critiques of the governance and tech models from actors in the PH network
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Next steps?

Based on the above analysis, some priority areas for prototyping and collaboration could include:

1. Developing resource commoning protocols that allows Planet.Health members to contribute to a common resource pool (accounting for financial and non-financial contributions)
2. Co-designing a shared governance system built upon Planet.Health values and incorporating Network Nations principles
3. Applying a decentralised technology stack (starting a DAO as a first step, for example) to explore practical applications of blockchain to the Planet.Health network.

Planet.Health will be convening our core stewards at Fey in from the 1-7th April 2025. This would be a great opportunity to coordinate and deepen some of these discussions.