

Dreaming DAF 2022 - Summary Report

Introduction

Deep Adaptation Forum has adopted a practice of annual review of purpose and priorities. These reviews have historically included formal facilitated workshops and traditional strategic planning processes.

In 2022 the Core Team of DAF chose a slightly different approach, one aimed at tapping into the liminal and inviting more creativity.

The process included four steps. Each of these are described below along with a summary of the outcomes.

The final section is a statement from the Core Team sharing their responses and declaring their commitments for the current year.

Stage One - Facebook Polls - May to June 2022

Recognising that we have a large community in facebook who are, to a greater or lesser extent, somewhat remote from the more active and engaged community of volunteers we chose to run a series of polls in the DA Facebook group, inviting responses to the following questions (top responses provided below each question):

1. What is the most important thing you get from your participation in the DA Facebook group?
 - a. A sense of belonging and community - 27%
 - b. Useful information on the topic of collapse - 17%
 - c. Inspiration on how to engage in local community-building - 11%
2. What topic do you feel better informed about, as a result of your participation in the DA Facebook group?
 - a. Spiritual approaches to deep adaptation - 28%
 - b. How to process your grief and emotionally adapt -25%
 - c. Social justice aspects of deep adaptation - 18%
3. What would you be hoping to find more of, in this group or in other Deep Adaptation spaces?
 - a. Ways to connect with other DA members locally - 30%
 - b. Ways to share and learn about practical aspects of DA - 19%
 - c. Ways to collaborate with other DA members on inspiring projects - 16%
4. If you were to start using another DA online platform, which of these functions would be most appealing to you?
 - a. Ways to locate other DA members near you - 38%
 - b. An online space for DA-related courses and trainings - 26%
 - c. A Deep Adaptation wiki for various resources - 17%

These questions were intended to gain a steer from this large, and growing, community in relation to the types of services and opportunities they find, or would find, value in within the Forum.

The full responses to these polls can be found [here](#)

Stage 2 - Holding Group Dreaming DAF - April to May 2022

The Holding Group of the Deep Adaptation Forum provides mission oversight and lends support to the Core Team of the Forum. This group has been in existence for just over 2 years and meets formally twice each year and informally every month.

In April they commenced their 'Dreaming DAF' exploration by sensing into two questions, the responses to these questions are included below each:

1. What is something important to you in your life that brings you to the DAF Holding Group?
 - a. Community
 - b. Clarity
 - c. Service
 - d. Social change
2. What would you be experiencing if the HG was fulfilling a meaningful - or more meaningful - role for DAF?
 - a. Contributing
 - b. Belonging
 - c. Purpose and growth
 - d. Energy
 - e. Orientation
 - f. Fund
 - g. Flow
 - h. Embodiment
 - i. Local connections

The responses to these questions are more fully explained in [this document](#)

In part two of this process, Holding Group members were invited to consider what these responses meant for the way they worked together and how they contributed to the Forum as a whole. This began with an acknowledgement of what the group already does to support the aspirations identified and an exploration of what more they may do. This resulted in a list of actions which are now being implemented. These actions are listed below for information. Many of these are being implemented through various means and the remainder are under consideration as to the best way to implement.

- Have monthly updates from each HG member during informal calls, on their activity in DAF and beyond
- During informal calls, HG members could also share about the challenges in their personal lives, DAF, and elsewhere. (e.g. through wisdom circles)
- Share more information in the group about HG members - not just expertise, but also their passions and inspirations
- Introduce scaffolding to facilitate one-to-one connections between HG members (e.g. stewarding)

- Identify topics that HG members would like to harness their passions and networks to work on them in small group settings
- Organising online panel discussions, bringing together HG members and their networks for rich sharing
- Find ways to bring in more involvement between HG and people/groups from outside DAF. Look for more synergies
- Introduce processes and rituals into HG calls, such as symbolic meditation (interbeing), and other forms of guided meditation
- HG members could participate in co-creating local adaptive networks where they live, to foster local resilience

A more complete record of the discussion in this session is provided [here](#).

Stage 3 - DAF Community Dreaming DAF - July 2022

For this part of the process a large representative group of active members were invited to participate, with core team members, in a process convened and facilitated by former Core Team Member and current Holding Group Member, Katie Carr.

This process was meditative in nature, inviting participants to engage their imagination in connecting with what they found between the stories they tell themselves about this community. For this reason the notes from this session, while available, are not provided here as they reflect personal sensations and impressions from the deep meditative process.

In the second part of this process people were invited to reflect on how their dreaming experience might inform their decisions about what to hold on to, where to direct their loving attention and energy and what to let go of.

Many suggestions were gathered from this session which included the following:

- Ensuring the network provides enough structure to allow people to self-organise - enough structure for people to feel taken care of - but not too much that it feels restrictive.
- Pay attention to who's not present in the network, think about why, and do the work to invite them to be present - then listen to them, a lot.
- Expanding the services offered by DAF
- DAF could be a spotlight for communities of resilience around the world, especially in the Global South. Marginalised communities could be intentionally invited to join in
- Provision of educational support (of young people, especially) in learning how to deal with collapse
- Facilitation of peer-to-peer support, ala the 6-month stewards program. that's been really impactful
- Not pretending we know the 'answers'
- Relationships are crucial; how we relate to new people but also to our current community, and to the rest of the world. The cause of what is happening now has come about because of how we relate to one another - and we can and must find ways that are more nourishing

Stage 4 - Core Team Reflecting - July 2022

Late in July the Core Team, facilitated again by Katie Carr, leaned into an exploration of the qualities of leadership and their shadows as a mechanism for inspiring improvements in our leadership function and in the cohesiveness of us as a team in service of the Deep Adaptation Forum Community.

By venturing somatically into the positive and shadow-sides of six qualities of leaderliness that the CT are attempting to model within our community (i.e. emergence, surrender/trust, responsibility, inviting, enabling, and sovereignty), we started to bring more individual and collective attention to this terrain we are attempting to journey across with others.

While all six qualities of leaderliness are now the subject of ongoing reflection, each core team member is mutually supporting each other through particular attention on areas for personal growth. Sarah and Dorian are bringing attention to emergence, Igor to inviting and enabling, Kat to surrender/trust, and Cat is focused on responsibility.

In terms of **responsibility**, Cat is suggesting that we can think of this in the following ways:

- Our responsibilities to current and future generations of human and non-human cohabitants on the planet, and to the environment, ecosystems and habitats (ie what is the ethos that binds us?);
- Our responsibilities to the DAF community - to provide the environment which community members are entitled to expect, if they are familiar with the purpose and Charter of the Forum; to keep them safe, insofar as is reasonably possible;
- Our financial responsibilities to use donors' contributions wisely, frugally, transparently and in keeping with DAF's aims (and if applicable, to apply them to whatever project the donor may have stipulated);
- Responsibilities as Core team staff members to deliver on our MoUs and commitments to the best of our abilities, given the resources and support available (to be diligent, to keep a focus on what is ours to do, to manage others' expectations if it becomes difficult or impossible to deliver);
- Responsibilities to one another, and to other DAF volunteers/freelancers, to give support, be compassionate and interact with honesty and curiosity.
- Responsibilities to ourselves - to balance the need to meet expectations, with the need to apply the same compassion and concern for wellbeing to ourselves when need be, seek help when we need it, take breaks when we need to, set boundaries if necessary.

Over the coming months, the Core Team members will reflect similarly on the respective qualities of leaderliness that each is bringing into focus.

Core Team Commitments to Action and Being

In response to the suggestions that originated from the community sessions, the Core Team has decided to bring attention and energy to the following ideas and intentions:

- Connect with individuals, networks, and grassroots organisations doing important DA-aligned work around the world, particularly in marginalised and/or Global South contexts, in order to bring about mutual learning between them and DAF participants, and foster respectful support for their initiatives (including materially and financially);

- Liaise with sister networks and organisations that are aligned with the DAF charter, in order to explore how the modalities and ways of organising developed within our network

may travel, like spores or seeds, and be adopted/adapted within other contexts and groups... while paying attention to what these counterparts may offer in return;

- **Engage proactively with the needs of younger generations**, particularly around integrating eco-anxiety and finding ways of generatively responding to our common predicament;

- **Support the emergence of many more locally rooted collectives around the world** that explicitly bring the DA ethos of mutual support and compassionate action into their lives, livelihoods and projects;

- **Encourage the start of new educational and peer-support endeavours** on behalf of DAF participants, by relying on an emerging e-learning platform and other means (e.g. public events), in order to foster more creativity and deeper learning within our community.

Within the Core Team itself, as a result of our reflections on the work we did with Katie on the Leadership qualities we aim to embody and how the shadow in each of us might turn up in relation to these qualities, we have decided to engage in monthly reflection and sharing sessions. Although the format is likely to evolve, what we have started to do is focus on the virtues and values that seem paramount to DAF, and explore how our individual and mutual efforts to embody these values may be enabling or disabling to ourselves and/or others.

Here are the virtues and values we have begun to consider:

- Patience
- Honesty
- Curiosity
- Diligence
- Accountability
- Non-violence
- Love

We feel this approach may help us know ourselves and each other better, and help us get the best out of each other in the context of our work in DAF.