Collaborative 2025 Project Reporting Guidelines

OAK Foundation and Hans Wilsdorf Foundation Funded Portfolio

Obtaining reports from Collaborative partners on how allocated funding was used enables Climate KIC, as the Secretariat, to effectively coordinate and meet the reporting requirements of our funders, as well as to meet our fiduciary responsibilities, and to ensure that funds are used for the intended charitable purposes.

Through this report, we need to ensure:

- **Accountability** – to understand how the project partners have spent the allocated project funds and how they delivered in terms of the contractually agreed results (i.e. what was set out in the project work plans).
- **Results/ Impact** – understand what sort of results and impact the project has had.
- **Learn** – understand what went right, what went wrong, and how we are learning together through our collective portfolio.

Partners are requested to report to Climate KIC according to the *schedule* included in their funding grant agreements. If such a schedule isn't stipulated in the agreement, it will be agreed in writing at least 2 months prior to expected submission.

The reporting *format* can be stipulated in the agreement or agreed in writing at a later stage and in advance of the reporting deadline.

Reports are requested to be submitted via email (in the future they may be requested to be submitted via Climate KIC's online grant management system, AmpImpact).

Reporting format

New Land Economy: FreeLand

Dark Matter Labs

Section A: Narrative Report

1. Progress against the original purpose

- *Contribute to the Collaborative's ambitious outcomes in mitigation, environmental regeneration, nature restoration, adaptation, and resilience, ensuring that collective action delivers more than the sum of its parts*
- *Develop and implement the governance and collaboration for the Collaborative, widening across and enabling the participation and leadership from Global South-originating organisations*
- *Leverage funding from donors to increase philanthropic support for the critical work of 'weaving' and orchestrating systemic transformation and for portfolios of solutions capable of delivering impactful outcomes with speed, scale, and coordination while ensuring efficiency driven by collective action*

This initiative explores how land governance can be radically reimagined for the 21st century—moving beyond ownership and property rights into frameworks of stewardship, relational accountability, and entangled value, all of which are necessary for addressing the root causes of climate change and embedding climate resilience.

Originally this was intended to be an exploration with the Office of the Governor of California. Due to a budget reduction, the scope was readjusted, and the remaining funds are now being used to leverage parallel funding from the Nova Scotia Law Foundation to support a demonstrator with the Indigenous-led Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre in Halifax, Canada. In particular the demonstrator, using the MNFC's new community centre garden site, explores how we can develop and implement a model of "self-owning land" that serves as a viable governance alternative to the extractive logics of fee-simple property, creating an approach that embeds regenerative land stewardship in line with Indigenous legal orders based on kinship and rootedness in the land.

The partnership brings together multiple disciplines, including strategic and tech design, legal practitioners, and Indigenous law academics. In particular, the demonstrator not only aims to explore "self-owning land" as a pathway to Indigenous self-determination, but a model scalable across both Indigenous and non-Indigenous contexts, addressing other systemic land and property related climate issues such as land and resource conflict.

2. Achievements

Convened a multi-stakeholder gathering: The Self-Owning Land Gathering was a transformative event for the project, serving as a space for Indigenous Elders, community leaders, Friendship Centre board members, and legal academics to discuss and co-design the strategy for the self-owning land model. The deliberation, collaborative work, and the valuable consensus built during this gathering resulted in several foundational documents: the layered goal space which addresses the multiple audiences and agendas driving this work; the identification of governance leverage points; and a

three-horizon theory of change for further scaling, and a clear plan for sequencing Indigenous research, legal, and governance design workstreams.

Engagement of the MNFC board: the project proposal is being presented to a board meeting. Ongoing engagement with the Mi'kmaw chiefs on this work continues.

Agreeing an academic partnership: The partnership managed to secure a partnership with Mi'kmaw Indigenous legal academics at Dalhousie University, allowing the project to draw on existing body of expertise, offering additional research capacity through graduate students, and freeing up resources to focus on the systemic perspectives and a broader theory of change.

3. Enabling factors

Political events: Canada's adoption of UNDRIP into law creates a critical opportunity to redesign relationships with land; the recognition of Indigenous self-determination and legal orders creates the demand for alternative governance approaches and innovation. This legal framework provides a pathway for collaborative approaches to land stewardship and resource management, moving beyond extractive models to embrace practices with a regenerative worldview built-in.

'Hacking' existing legal conditions: The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre owning its land asset provides a crucial foundation for exploring alternative governance models. By leveraging the existing legal freedoms associated with property rights, the project can experiment with innovative, *voluntary* approaches to land stewardship and benefit for the commons, demonstrating viable alternatives to conventional ownership structures. DML's building of an all-partners consensus around this approach was crucial for progressing this project, without relying on legislative change or legal enforcement. This is reflected in a revised work plan, focusing our time on developing community-facing tools that support distributed decision-making and stewardship of shared resources in ways that are genuinely bottom-up. This will be complemented **subsequently** with approaches in private law (e.g. legal organisation/entities, private contracts).

Transystemic opportunities: 'self-owning land' is emerging as a movement across multiple contexts, as a recurring response to climate and biodiversity challenges. Dark Matter Labs is continuing to actively participate in this field, including joining the Land that Owns Itself Working Group convened by Lawyers for Nature, working on a self-owning land pilot in the England and Wales jurisdiction, and presenting at the international Multi-Species Justice symposium convened by the University of Sydney's Environment Institute. This ensures that learnings are exchanged between Halifax and other contexts, and that our governance approaches can be targeted to address shared problem spaces.

4. Challenges

Significant change in budget and project scope: After the original California-based project plan, based on a €50k budget, was already 25% completed, the project team was notified of a reduction of the budget to €25k. This shift required recalibration of the project scope and budget allocations, largely to leverage existing match funding for Halifax from the Nova Scotia Law Foundation. Rather than a policy

paper and engagement emphasis, the focus has been recentred on a live, place-based demonstrator with a cross-sector consortium of partners.

Industrial action: Dalhousie University staff's industrial action delayed the engagement and scoping of the roles of Professor Naiomi Metallic and Professor Cheryl Simon who are important in bringing the Mi'kmaw Indigenous legal orders and traditions. At the time, non-dependent workstreams progressed in parallel, and this has since been resolved.

Sensitivities over Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property: Indigenous legal orders are a rich precedent for regenerative and resilient approach to a relationship with land, but Cultural and Intellectual property is sensitive and requires considerate protocols in what part of the work can be scaled as open-source knowledge and what part needs to remain under the Indigenous stewardship. To address this, we have devised a 'braided' approach to IP, making clear the distinction between these strands. We have also adopted Indigenous Data Sovereignty standards where appropriate. Co-design with the community also has its own rhythm, which means dependent workstreams have to factor in contingencies and flexibility in their planning.

5. Supporting documentation

Due to the politically-sensitive nature of the work, we were requested by the Indigenous community partners to not engage in public communications until a shared communications strategy can be jointly agreed.

Partnership work documents (for internal use only):

Three-horizon Theory of Change:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1xMTNFE4mjhR3lPEUQ7DgE82P34xQ8hmF&usp=drive_fs

Multi-Stakeholder Goal Space:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LMOYyHrI-dsRywk6um4INr-S3mjDltvZ&usp=drive_fs

Annex 1 - Learning Report

Section B: Financial report

1. Breakdown of expended funding

	Budget (based on 50% of the original €50k allocation)	Actual (until 31 December 2025)
Consultants and other contracted services	**N/A**	**N/A**
Core support	**N/A**	**N/A**
Indirect overhead	**5,500.00**	**5,800.00**
Other direct costs	**N/A**	**N/A**
Sub-granting	**N/A**	**N/A**
Staff salaries and related charges	**16,500.00**	**17,400.00**
Travel and conferences	**3,000.00**	**1,499.00**
TOTAL	**25,000.00**	**25,000.00**
Over/(under)-spend		**(301.00)**

2. Summary of expended funding

Originally, this project was budgeted at €50k around a strategy paper and convening in the California context. After around €11.7k of the budget had been spent on the California project plan (primarily on research and land systems analysis), the project team was notified of a reduction of the budget to €25k, and the decision was made to reallocate the remaining funds to the Halifax demonstrator. There are comparable deliverables across California and Halifax: the funds budgeted for a convening in Sacramento has been reallocated to gatherings in Halifax; staff time for drafting a strategy paper identifying California's land governance problem spaces and propositions have been reallocated to support a strategy paper on how self-owning land could be an approach for addressing system-wide land governance problems, with some of the background research reused; and the governance design time reallocated to support governance design in the Halifax context.

3. Confirmation of public benefit use of the funding

No funds have been used for private interest. Any incidental revenue has been or will be reinvested in public benefit activities within the project.