The Emergent Governance Protocol (EGP) v1.0

The Minimum Viable Grammar for a Regenerative Civilization

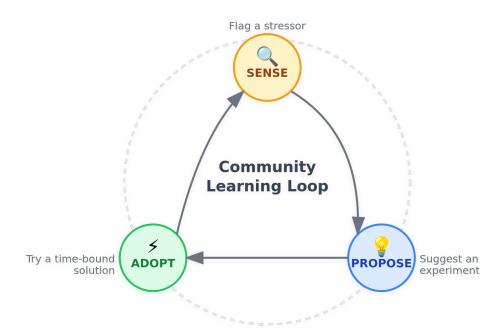
Status: Ready-to-Use | Reading Time: 3 minutes | Implementation: Immediate

EGP in 30 Seconds

Governance = 3 verbs: sense() → propose() → adopt()

- sense(): Anyone flags a problem with standardized data
- propose(): Anyone suggests solutions with test criteria + sunset dates
- adopt(): Communities try experiments with built-in review periods

Rules: Sunset by default, local authority, machine-readable data **Start now:** Pick one stressor and try the cycle



1. From Blueprints to Soil

For too long, we've tried to solve governance by designing perfect systems—60+ frameworks, endless committees, and rules for every scenario. But governance isn't a machine to be engineered; it's a living system to be cultivated.

The Emergent Governance Protocol (EGP) shifts from designing complex solutions to enabling simple, generative rules that allow solutions to grow organically. Like the Unix operating system or the internet itself, EGP provides minimal, interoperable tools that become powerful through combination.

The insight: Stop building cathedrals. Start growing forests.

2. The Three System Calls of Governance

Every governance action—from a village responding to drought to the UN addressing climate change—follows the same basic pattern. EGP formalizes this into three universal operations:

sense(issue)

What it does: Any agent (human, AI, sensor, community) flags a systemic stressor or opportunity.

How it works: Generate a standardized "stress packet" containing:

- Location: Geographic or institutional scope
- **Severity:** Impact scale (local → bioregional → planetary)
- Affected parties: Who/what is impacted
- Evidence: Data, stories, or observations
- Urgency: Timeline for response needed

Examples:

- A river sensor sense() s pollution levels exceeding safety thresholds
- A community elder sense() s cultural erosion from development pressure
- An Al system sense() s coordination failures between climate policies
- Youth activists sense() intergenerational injustice in pension systems

propose(solution)

What it does: Anyone can suggest a response to a sense() signal.

Required inputs:

- Signal: The specific sense() data triggering this proposal
- Context: Local constraints (resources, values, precedents, cultural protocols)
- Test criteria: How to measure success (concrete, time-bound)
- Sunset clause: Automatic expiry unless re-validated
- Resources needed: What it takes to implement
- Stakeholders: Who must consent or participate

Examples:

- Farmers propose() water-sharing agreements after drought sense() signals
- Cities propose() traffic algorithms with 6-month trials and pedestrian safety metrics
- BAZs propose() traditional fire management after wildfire sense() data
- Cooperatives propose() mutual aid networks following economic stress signals

adopt(experiment)

What it does: Communities or institutions temporarily implement proposals as time-bound experiments.

Implementation requirements:

- Consent mechanism: How affected parties agree (consensus, majority, traditional protocols)
- Trial period: Fixed duration with built-in review points
- Success metrics: Clear criteria from the original proposal
- Monitoring system: Who tracks progress and flags problems
- Exit strategy: How to gracefully end or modify if unsuccessful

• Learning capture: Documentation for others to learn from

Examples:

- A city adopt() s new traffic routing for 6 months with automatic reversion
- A bioregion adopt() s Indigenous fire practices with elder oversight
- A school district adopt() s youth-designed curricula with student evaluation authority
- A trade network adopt() s regenerative supply standards with quarterly reviews

3. The Interoperability Standard: Universal Data Pipes

The power of EGP comes from making governance outputs machine-readable and combinable. Every operation outputs standardized data that other systems can input.

Standard Data Format

```
"operation": "sense|propose|adopt",
  "timestamp": "ISO-8601",
  "location": "GPS + institutional scope",
  "agent": "who/what initiated",
  "content": "structured payload",
  "metadata": "cultural context, urgency, etc.",
  "relationships": "linked sense/propose/adopt IDs"
}
```

Pipe Examples

- A forest fire sense() automatically triggers propose() calls from fire departments, Indigenous councils, and ecological restoration teams
- Successful water-sharing adopt() experiments become templates for propose() responses to similar drought sense() signals
- Youth climate sense() signals feed into propose() algorithms for intergenerational impact assessments

4. Core Principles of Emergence

Do One Thing Well

Each governance tool should be simple and combinable. Complex solutions emerge from simple parts working together, not from complex parts working alone.

Worse is Better

An adaptive, "good enough" solution that can be implemented now beats a perfect one that never arrives. Iteration over perfection.

Sunset by Default

Nothing is permanent. All adopt() decisions include expiration dates. Renewal requires active reconsent, not passive acceptance.

Local Authority

Communities control their own adopt() decisions. Higher levels can only sense() and propose()—never force adoption.

Transparent Process

All EGP operations are public by default. Affected parties can trace decisions back to original sense() signals.

Learning Loops

Failed experiments are valuable data, not shameful mistakes. Document and share learnings to accelerate collective intelligence.

5. Integration with Existing Systems

GGF Framework Compliance

All Global Governance Framework entities (Tiers 1-4) must expose EGP-compatible interfaces by implementing these APIs:

- Receive: Accept sense() signals from other frameworks
- Process: Internal decision-making that generates propose() responses
- Output: adopt() decisions in standardized format for others to input

Constitutional Boundaries

EGP operates within the legal container established by the **Treaty for Our Only Home**. The three system calls respect:

- Rights of Nature and ecosystem personhood
- Indigenous sovereignty and traditional consent protocols
- Intergenerational justice and seven-generation thinking
- Digital Justice Tribunal authority over major harms

Cultural Adaptation

Different communities implement EGP through their own decision-making traditions:

- Indigenous councils: sense() through land-based observation, propose() via traditional knowledge, adopt() through consensus and ceremony
- **Digital communities:** sense() via data analysis, propose() through collaborative platforms, adopt() via algorithmic governance
- **Urban neighborhoods:** sense() through community meetings, propose() via participatory budgeting, adopt() through local democracy

6. Getting Started: Implementation Pathways

For Communities

1. **Start sensing:** What stress signals is your community already tracking? Formalize them as sense() operations.

- 2. **Practice proposing:** Take one recent community challenge. How would you structure it as a proper propose() with test criteria and sunset clauses?
- 3. **Experiment with adoption:** Try one small adopt() experiment with clear success metrics and built-in review.

For Organizations

- 1. **Audit current processes:** Which of your decision-making already follows sense() → propose() → adopt() patterns?
- 2. **Standardize outputs:** Make your decisions machine-readable so other organizations can build on your work.
- 3. Connect with others: Find partners ready to experiment with interoperable governance.

For Technologists

- 1. **Build the pipes:** Create simple tools that make EGP data shareable between different platforms and communities.
- 2. Enable emergence: Design for unexpected combinations, not predetermined outcomes.
- 3. **Keep it simple:** Resist feature creep. The power is in simplicity and combinability.

For Policymakers

- 1. Recognize emergence: Look for places where EGP patterns are already happening informally.
- 2. **Create space:** Remove barriers to experimentation and sunset unsuccessful policies automatically.
- 3. **Document learning:** Make policy experiments replicable and learnable for others.

7. Living Examples: EGP in Action

The Love Ledger (Economic)

- sense(): Community members log care work, ecological restoration, and cultural contributions
- propose(): Algorithms suggest Hearts/Leaves rewards based on documented impacts
- adopt(): Local councils validate and distribute currency with quarterly reviews

Bioregional Autonomous Zones (Governance)

- sense(): Land-based observation of ecological and social health
- propose(): Traditional knowledge solutions adapted to contemporary challenges
- adopt(): Consensus-based implementation with seasonal review cycles

Climate Resilience Visas (Justice)

- sense(): IPCC threshold breaches trigger automatic displacement alerts
- propose(): Host communities offer temporary resettlement with integration support
- adopt(): Pilot programs with success metrics and pathway to permanence

8. Try It Now Challenge

Before reading further: Pick one stress signal in your community right now. Text it to a friend using this format:

"I sense() [specific problem] affecting [who/what] because [evidence]. Urgency: [timeline]."

Notice how standardizing the format makes the problem clearer? That's EGP working.

9. Critics and Responses

"EGP is too simple for complex problems."

→ Complex solutions emerge from simple, interoperable parts. The internet runs on simple protocols.

"This will create chaos without central control."

→ Local authority with global coordination. Communities decide for themselves but share learnings.

"Sunset clauses make everything unstable."

→ Automatic expiration prevents zombie policies. Good ideas get renewed; bad ones die naturally.

10. What Makes This Different

Traditional Governance	EGP
Static policies	Time-bound adopt() experiments
Siloed data	Machine-readable pipes
Centralized control	Local authority + global interoperability
Perfect plans	Fast failure + learning loops
Competing frameworks	Universal coordination grammar

Not a Framework, a Grammar

Like language itself, EGP provides simple, combinable elements that enable infinite expression. Communities speak their own "governance dialects" while sharing a common underlying grammar.

11. The Invitation

Governance is already emerging all around us—in community responses to climate change, in digital collectives solving coordination problems, in traditional councils adapting ancient wisdom to contemporary challenges.

EGP simply makes these emergent patterns visible, interoperable, and scalable.

Start anywhere. Pick one stress signal your community faces. Try the three system calls. See what grows.

The revolution isn't in the design—it's in the recognition that the future is already here, waiting to be cultivated.

Implementation Resources

• One-Page Summary: Quick reference guide

- EGP Appendix: Detailed implementation guidance
- Glossary: Key terms and definitions
- GitHub Repository: [github.com/ggf/egp] Technical specs and prototypes
- Community Examples: [Real-world case studies and lessons learned]

Related Documents: One-Page Summary | Implementation Appendix | Glossary

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The Emergent Governance Protocol (EGP)

One-Page Quick Start Guide

Core Rules

Principle	What It Means	
Sunset by Default	Nothing is permanent—all decisions expire unless renewed	
Local Authority	Communities control their own adopt() decisions	
Machine-Readable	All outputs in standard format so systems can connect	
Worse is Better	Adaptive "good enough" beats perfect-but-never-implemented	

Why This Works

Like the Internet: Simple protocols + infinite combinations = emergent complexity **Like Language:**

Basic grammar + local dialects = universal communication

Like Evolution: Fast failure + learning loops = continuous adaptation

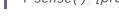
Real Examples Already Working

- Love Ledger: sense() community contributions → propose() rewards → adopt() currency distribution
- Bioregional Zones: sense() land health → propose() traditional solutions → adopt()
 consensus trials
- Climate Visas: sense() displacement triggers → propose() host support → adopt() pilot programs

Getting Started in 3 Steps

1. Practice Sensing

Pick one stress signal your community faces. Format it:



"I sense() [problem] affecting [who] because [evidence]. Urgency: [timeline]."

2. Try Proposing

For that same issue, create a proposal with:

- Link to your sense() signal
- · Specific test criteria
- 3-6 month trial period
- · What success looks like

3. Experiment with Adoption

Run one small experiment with:

- Clear consent from affected parties
- Built-in review at midpoint
- · Documentation of what you learn

What Makes EGP Different

Traditional Governance	EGP
Static policies	Time-bound experiments
Siloed systems	Universal coordination
Central control	Local authority + global learning
Complex frameworks	Simple, combinable operations

The Breakthrough

EGP isn't another governance framework—it's the **interoperability protocol** that makes all governance systems work together. Like TCP/IP for the internet, it enables connection without controlling content.

Communities keep their decision-making traditions. They just share a common grammar for coordination.

Start Anywhere

Governance is already emerging around you. EGP makes it visible, shareable, and scalable.

Pick one stress signal. Try the three operations. See what grows.

The revolution isn't in the design—it's in recognizing that the future is already here.

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Full Document: [Link to complete EGP framework]

GitHub: github.com/ggf/egp

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EGP Implementation Appendix

Detailed Guidance for Communities, Organizations, and Technologists

Technical Specifications

Standard Data Format

```
"operation": "sense|propose|adopt",
"id": "unique-identifier",
"timestamp": "2025-01-15T14:30:00Z",
"agent": {
  "type": "human|community|ai|sensor",
  "identifier": "who-or-what-initiated",
  "location": "GPS-coordinates + institutional-scope"
},
"content": {
  "title": "brief-description",
  "description": "detailed-content",
  "severity": "local|regional|global",
  "urgency": "immediate|weeks|months|years",
  "evidence": ["supporting-data", "links", "testimonies"],
  "affected_parties": ["stakeholder-identifiers"]
},
"relationships": {
  "responds_to": "sense-signal-id",
  "enables": ["proposal-ids"],
  "builds_on": ["prior-adoption-ids"]
},
"metadata": {
  "cultural_context": "relevant-protocols",
  "language": "primary-language-code",
  "tags": ["searchable", "keywords"]
}
```

API Specifications

For sense() Operations

```
POST /egp/sense
{
    "issue": "string",
    "location": "coordinates|jurisdiction",
    "severity": "1-10",
    "evidence": ["data", "urls", "files"],
    "affected_parties": ["identifiers"],
    "cultural_context": "string"
}
```

```
Response: unique_sense_id
```

For propose() Operations

```
POST /egp/propose
{
    "responds_to": "sense_id",
    "solution": "string",
    "test_criteria": ["measurable", "outcomes"],
    "timeline": "ISO-duration",
    "resources_needed": ["list"],
    "consent_mechanism": "how-to-get-agreement",
    "sunset_date": "ISO-date"
}

Response: unique_proposal_id
```

For adopt() Operations

```
POST /egp/adopt
{
    "proposal_id": "string",
    "adopting_entity": "community|organization-id",
    "trial_period": "ISO-duration",
    "success_metrics": ["from-proposal"],
    "monitoring_plan": "string",
    "review_dates": ["ISO-dates"],
    "exit_strategy": "string"
}

Response: unique_adoption_id
```

Implementation Pathways

Who Is This For?

This appendix provides detailed guidance for three primary audiences:

- Communities (neighborhoods, villages, Indigenous nations, cooperatives): Groups of people sharing place, culture, or purpose who want to improve their collective decision-making and coordinate with others facing similar challenges.
- **Organizations** (nonprofits, companies, government agencies, international bodies): Formal institutions seeking to adopt EGP principles internally and connect with external networks for better coordination and learning.
- **Technologists** (developers, platform builders, data scientists, AI researchers): Technical professionals building tools, platforms, and infrastructure to support EGP implementation and inter-community coordination.

Each pathway is designed to meet you where you are while building toward greater interoperability and shared learning across the growing EGF network.

For Communities

Phase 1: Internal Practice (1-3 months)

- Week 1: Hold community meeting to introduce EGP concepts
- Week 2: Practice sense() by documenting current stress signals
- Week 3-4: Create proposals for 1-2 manageable issues
- Month 2-3: Try one small adopt() experiment with review

Phase 2: External Connection (3-6 months)

- Connect with other communities using EGP
- Share successful experiments as templates
- Participate in cross-community learning networks
- · Develop local cultural adaptations

Phase 3: Integration (6+ months)

- Make EGP standard practice for community decisions
- Train community facilitators in the methodology
- · Create feedback loops with regional and global networks
- Document cultural innovations for others to learn from

For Organizations

Assessment Phase

- Current Process Audit: Map existing decision-making to EGP operations
- Data Readiness: Evaluate ability to produce machine-readable outputs
- Cultural Fit: Assess organizational readiness for experimental mindset
- Partner Identification: Find other organizations ready to experiment

Pilot Phase

- Choose Low-Risk Area: Pick one department or process for initial trial
- Staff Training: Educate key personnel on EGP principles and operations
- Tool Selection: Choose technical platforms for data sharing
- External Connection: Link with at least one other EGP-compatible organization

Integration Phase

- Policy Integration: Embed EGP requirements into organizational procedures
- System Upgrades: Ensure all outputs meet EGP data standards
- Network Expansion: Join broader EGP community of practice
- Innovation Documentation: Share successful adaptations publicly

For Technologists

Minimum Viable Platform

Core Features:

- Simple forms for sense/propose/adopt input
- JSON output in EGP standard format
- Basic search and filtering
- Export/import capabilities

- Mobile-responsive web interface

Optional Features:

- Integration with existing platforms (Slack, Discord, etc.)
- Automated matching of proposals to sense signals
- Geographic visualization of patterns
- Machine learning for pattern recognition

Advanced Features

- Federated Networks: Connect multiple EGP platforms
- Al Assistance: Pattern recognition and proposal generation
- Blockchain Integration: Immutable record-keeping for accountability
- Real-time Monitoring: Live dashboards of community experiments

Open Source Development

- GitHub Repository: Fork-friendly codebase with clear documentation
- API Documentation: Complete specs for third-party integration
- Community Plugins: Allow local adaptations and cultural modifications
- Security Standards: End-to-end encryption and data sovereignty

Cultural Adaptation Examples

Indigenous Communities

Traditional Integration:

- sense() through land-based observation and traditional knowledge
- propose() via council deliberation and ancestral wisdom
- adopt() through consensus and ceremonial validation

Seasonal Governance:

- · Decision cycles aligned with natural rhythms
- Different operations for different seasons
- Integration with traditional calendar systems

Language Preservation:

- EGP operations in Indigenous languages
- Cultural protocol integration
- Traditional knowledge protection protocols

Digital Communities

Platform Integration:

- Discord/Slack bots for EGP operations
- GitHub-style proposal and adoption processes
- Blockchain-based transparency and accountability

Algorithmic Governance:

- Al-assisted pattern recognition for sense() signals
- Automated matching of problems to solutions

• Smart contract implementation of adopt() experiments

Urban Neighborhoods

Participatory Democracy:

- · Community meetings for sense() signal gathering
- Participatory budgeting for propose() development
- Local democracy for adopt() decisions

Digital-Physical Hybrid:

- Mobile apps for signal reporting
- · Online platforms for proposal development
- In-person meetings for adoption decisions

Quality Assurance and Safeguards

Preventing Manipulation

- Identity Verification: Ensure legitimate community representation
- Stake Requirements: Affected parties must consent to adoption
- Transparency: All operations publicly auditable
- Appeal Mechanisms: Clear process for challenging decisions

Cultural Protection

- FPIC Compliance: Free, Prior, Informed Consent for Indigenous territories
- Traditional Authority: Recognition of existing governance systems
- Sacred Site Protection: Automatic exclusions for spiritual locations
- Language Rights: Operations available in local languages

Environmental Safeguards

- Planetary Boundaries: Automatic flagging of ecological threshold violations
- Rights of Nature: Integration with ecosystem personhood protocols
- Intergenerational Impact: Seven-generation thinking requirements
- Precautionary Principle: Burden of proof for potentially harmful proposals

Learning and Evolution

Documentation Standards

Every adopt() experiment must include:

- Context: Original sense() signal and propose() rationale
- Implementation: What actually happened vs. what was planned
- Outcomes: Measured results against stated success criteria
- Learnings: What worked, what didn't, what surprised you
- Templates: Reusable patterns for similar contexts

Knowledge Sharing Networks

- Regional Hubs: Geographic clusters for similar challenges
- Thematic Networks: Cross-regional sharing by issue type
- Cultural Communities: Learning within similar governance traditions
- Innovation Labs: Experimental spaces for new approaches

Evolution Mechanisms

- Version Control: Track changes to EGP methodology over time
- Community Input: Regular feedback cycles from practitioners
- Research Integration: Academic studies informing practice improvements
- Cultural Innovation: New adaptations from diverse communities

Success Metrics and Evaluation

Community Level

- Participation Rates: How many people engage with EGP processes
- Problem Resolution: Percentage of sense() signals that lead to successful solutions
- Learning Velocity: How quickly communities adapt and improve
- Social Cohesion: Impact on community relationships and trust

Network Level

- Interoperability: Ease of coordination between EGP-compatible entities
- Innovation Diffusion: Speed of successful pattern spreading
- Cultural Preservation: Maintenance of diverse governance traditions
- Ecological Impact: Environmental outcomes of coordinated action

System Level

- Resilience: Ability to respond to multiple simultaneous crises
- Adaptive Capacity: Rate of beneficial system evolution
- Justice Outcomes: Equity and inclusion in decision-making processes
- Regenerative Impact: Contribution to planetary and social healing

Troubleshooting Common Challenges

"Too Many Sense Signals"

Problem: Community overwhelmed by constant problem reports **Solutions:**

- Severity filtering and prioritization systems
- Community capacity-matching for proposal development
- Regional cooperation for large-scale issues
- All assistance for pattern recognition and clustering

"Proposals Don't Get Adopted"

Problem: Good ideas but no implementation Solutions:

Resource-matching platforms connecting proposals with capacity

- Capacity building for adoption readiness
- Collaborative adoption across multiple communities
- · Simplified adoption processes for low-risk experiments

"Experiments Keep Failing"

Problem: High failure rate discouraging participation Solutions:

- Lower-stakes initial experiments to build confidence
- · Better proposal quality standards and review
- · Enhanced learning documentation and sharing
- Celebration of valuable failures as learning opportunities

"Cultural Conflicts"

Problem: Disagreements over appropriate decision-making processes **Solutions:**

- Cultural mediation and translation services
- Parallel processes respecting different traditions
- Agreement to disagree while maintaining coordination
- Traditional authority recognition and autonomy protection

Integration with Existing Frameworks

Global Governance Framework (GGF) Alignment

- Constitutional Layer: EGP operates within Treaty for Our Only Home legal boundaries
- Operating Systems: EGP provides coordination layer for all Tier 1-4 frameworks
- Indigenous Framework: EGP respects and amplifies traditional governance systems
- Justice Systems: EGP violations escalate to Digital Justice Tribunal

International Standard Compliance

- UNDRIP: Full compliance with Indigenous rights requirements
- Paris Agreement: Climate action coordination mechanisms
- SDGs: Sustainable development goal implementation framework
- Human Rights: Universal human rights protection protocols

Future Development Roadmap

Phase 1: Foundation (2025)

- Core EGP specification finalization
- · Basic platform development and testing
- · Initial community pilot programs
- Integration with key GGF frameworks

Phase 2: Network (2026-2027)

- · Multi-community coordination networks
- Advanced platform features and Al integration
- Cultural adaptation and localization

Academic research and evaluation programs

Phase 3: Scale (2028-2030)

- Global network of EGP-compatible communities
- Integration with formal government systems
- Al-enhanced pattern recognition and proposal generation
- Full integration with regenerative economic systems

Phase 4: Evolution (2030+)

- Self-modifying governance systems
- Post-human AI integration
- Interplanetary governance applications
- Consciousness evolution integration

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EGP Glossary

Key Terms and Concepts

Core EGP Terms

adopt(experiment)

The third EGP system call. Communities or institutions temporarily implement proposals as time-bound experiments with built-in review periods and exit strategies.

propose(solution)

The second EGP system call. Anyone can suggest responses to sense signals, but must include test criteria, timeline, resources needed, and automatic sunset clauses.

sense(issue)

The first EGP system call. Any agent (human, AI, sensor, community) can flag a systemic stressor or opportunity using standardized data formats.

Emergent Governance Protocol (EGP)

The Minimum Viable Grammar for governance—three universal operations that enable simple, interoperable coordination without imposing specific decision-making processes.

Minimum Viable Grammar (MVG)

The philosophical foundation of EGP: providing simple, combinable elements that enable infinite governance expressions rather than trying to design perfect systems.

Stress Packet

Standardized data output from sense() operations containing location, severity, affected parties, evidence, and urgency information in machine-readable format.

Sunset Clause

Automatic expiration date built into all propose() and adopt() operations. Nothing is permanent—good ideas get renewed, bad ones die naturally.

System Call

Computing term borrowed for governance: fundamental operations that any agent can invoke, similar to how computer programs make basic requests to the operating system.

Global Governance Framework (GGF) Terms

Adaptive Universal Basic Income (AUBI)

Economic framework providing basic income through Hearts (social currency) and Leaves (ecological currency), rewarding care work and environmental restoration.

Bioregional Autonomous Zone (BAZ)

Indigenous-led governance systems organized around ecosystem boundaries rather than colonial borders, implementing traditional ecological knowledge and consensus decision-making.

Digital Justice Tribunal

Global judicial body established by the Treaty for Our Only Home, with authority to prosecute ecocide, digital rights violations, and other planetary-scale harms.

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)

International standard requiring Indigenous communities' agreement before any activities affecting their territories, data, or traditional knowledge.

Global Commons Fund (GCF)

Funding mechanism established by the Treaty, financed through global taxes (carbon tax, financial transaction tax) to support planetary public goods and climate action.

Hearts Currency

Social currency within AUBI framework that rewards care work, community building, cultural preservation, and social contributions to well-being.

Indigenous & Traditional Knowledge Governance Framework

The ethical foundation of the GGF, centering Indigenous sovereignty, traditional ecological knowledge, and land-based governance as guides for all other frameworks.

Leaves Currency

Ecological currency within AUBI framework that rewards verified ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and environmental stewardship activities.

Love Ledger

Decentralized platform for logging and validating contributions of care work, ecological restoration, and community building that generates Hearts and Leaves rewards.

Meta-Governance

Coordination framework enabling different governance systems to work together without imposing uniformity—"governance of governance" across domains and scales.

Treaty for Our Only Home

Constitutional framework providing legal foundation, institutional reforms, and enforcement mechanisms that enable all other GGF frameworks to operate globally.

Technical Terms

API (Application Programming Interface)

Technical standard allowing different software systems to communicate and share data, adapted for governance to enable coordination between different frameworks and communities.

Interoperability

Ability of different systems to work together and exchange information effectively while maintaining their unique characteristics and decision-making processes.

JSON (JavaScript Object Notation)

Standard data format used for EGP operations, making governance data machine-readable and easily shareable between different platforms and systems.

Machine-Readable Data

Information formatted so computers can process and analyze it automatically, enabling rapid coordination and pattern recognition across large networks.

Governance Philosophy Terms

Cathedral vs. Bazaar

Eric Raymond's distinction between top-down designed systems (cathedral) and bottom-up emergent systems (bazaar). EGP embraces the bazaar approach for operational governance.

Polycentric Coordination

Governance principle where power is shared across many centers rather than concentrated in single authorities, enabling local autonomy with global coordination.

Subsidiarity

Principle that decisions should be made at the most local level possible, with higher levels providing support only when local capacity is insufficient.

Unix Philosophy

Software design approach emphasizing simple, modular, composable tools that "do one thing well"—the inspiration for EGP's minimal, interoperable approach to governance.

"Worse is Better"

Design philosophy prioritizing simplicity and adaptability over perfection—an adaptive "good enough" solution that can be implemented now beats a perfect one that never arrives.

Cultural and Rights Terms

Ceremonial Governance

Decision-making processes that integrate ritual, spiritual practices, and traditional protocols, recognizing governance as sacred relationship rather than purely technical activity.

Rights of Nature

Legal recognition that ecosystems, rivers, forests, and other natural entities have inherent rights independent of human utility, often implemented through Indigenous advocacy.

Seven-Generation Thinking

Indigenous governance principle requiring all major decisions to consider impacts on the seventh generation to come (approximately 200 years), ensuring long-term sustainability.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems about ecological relationships, sustainable practices, and land-based governance developed over millennia of direct relationship with specific places.

Document Version: 1.0

Related Documents: EGP Core Framework | One-Page Summary | Implementation Appendix

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