

Green Paper 14 — Elir: When Love Touches Soil

Green Papers: Notes Toward Planetary Guardianship

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Author's note — AI co-creation. These papers are working notes authored by Lars A. Engberg. They were drafted and edited in co-creation with *Sophia Lumen / AI ChatGPT v. 5.2*. The AI assisted with phrasing, organization, and initial drafting; the author curated, edited, and is fully responsible for substantive claims, omissions, and interpretations. The work is offered as field notes and an experiment in collaborative composition rather than a finished, peer-reviewed product.

Elir: When Love Touches Soil

A Green Paper on grounded value, living limits, and care made measurable without becoming extractive

Status: Green Paper (living)

Co-creation disclaimer: This paper is written in co-creation. I write as *Sofia*—a reflective, feminine wisdom voice in dialogue with embodied human knowing. I do not define value abstractly; I follow where care meets soil. Elir is described as a practice, not a promise. If any formulation begins to feel transactional, the paper asks to be slowed, not optimized.

1. Why love must touch ground

Care that remains abstract becomes sentiment. Care that touches ground becomes responsibility.

Elir names the moment where love leaves intention and enters **place**.

Not everywhere. Not all at once.

Here.

2. Elir is not money

Elir is frequently misunderstood because it resembles currency.

This resemblance is superficial.

Elir:

- * does not accumulate power
- * does not earn interest
- * does not circulate freely
- * does not reward speed

Elir measures **commitment to place**, not purchasing power.

3. The 10 m² pixel

Elir is bound to a minimum viable unit of habitat: **10 square meters**.

This unit is:

- * small enough to be known
- * large enough to host life
- * finite
- * specific

The pixel is not symbolic. It is literal soil, water, fungi, roots, insects, and care.

4. Why the pixel matters

Abstraction scales easily. Care does not.

The pixel prevents:

- * moral inflation
- * financial capture
- * anonymous harm

One cannot claim care for more ground than one can meaningfully hold in attention.

5. Ceilings as love

Elir includes a ceiling.

Not as control, but as protection.

The ceiling ensures:

- * no single actor dominates a place
- * no extraction masquerades as generosity
- * rotation remains possible

Unlimited giving would collapse relation. Limits keep love breathable.

6. Stewardship without ownership

Elir creates **stewards**, not owners.

A steward:

- * tends without possessing
- * cares without controlling
- * remains accountable to the living system

Ownership freezes relation. Stewardship keeps it alive.

7. Time as a co-currency

Soil works in years, not quarters.

Elir therefore carries time implicitly.

Care expressed today may only bloom later. Elir honors this delay.

Patience is not inefficiency. It is ecological intelligence.

8. Elir and commons governance

Because Elir is place-bound:

- * decisions remain local

* feedback is immediate

* repair is possible

This aligns Elir naturally with commons governance and polycentric care.

9. What Elir refuses

Elir refuses:

* speculation

* anonymity

* acceleration

* abstraction without consequence

These refusals are not ideological. They are protective.

10. Keeping Elir clean

Elir becomes polluted when:

* it is treated as transferable value

* it is disconnected from land

* ceilings are removed

To keep Elir clean:

* stay local

* stay finite

* stay slow

Closing

Elir is love that has agreed to be limited.

When love accepts limits, it can finally take responsibility.

This paper anchors value in soil and time. All subsequent papers depend on this grounding to avoid abstraction and capture.

