horizontal line

**Antonija Bogadi, PhD.**

**DAWN Developing Smart Governance in Alliance with Nature**

**18th January 2022**

# OVERVIEW

DAWN will engage world recognized scientists and experts to explore, provide requirements and solutions, and widely communicate future scenarios and opportunities for blockchain technology and smart contracts for just and innovative Nature Based Solutions (NBS)\* implementation.

\**NBS - are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that help adapt to climate change impacts and reach social and environmental resilience. Examples; protecting or restoring forests and wetlands, coastal areas, increasing biodiversity, implementing green infrastructure.*

Key Performance Indicators:

* **Open science-practice panel discussion** event with 6 recognized scientists in fields of governance and environmental justice, and well known blockchain experts; min 25 participants per event, audience including quadruple helix innovation network of local residents, university students, civil society, companies, public agencies, universities, and other stakeholders, social media (LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube) announcement campaigns with one promotional video and min. 10 social media posts on each for the event, and recording of the event
* Creation of **DAWN Knowledge Repository Interactive Web page**, at least 500 visits
* One scientific or professional **article** based on the results of the panel discussion, published in impactful open access journal
* One **public talk** on the relevant event in front of min 30 participants, and recording of the talk
* Three **blog posts** on Medium (existing account antoniabogadi.medium.com) and on web page, min. 2 social media post for each blog
* Developing and conducting **workshop** for practical guidelines for digital representation of a green area on the blockchain in a shape of NFT, for financing nature projects through NFTs, and for tokenized certificates creation and provision, for at least 25 participants
* Development and launching of **webinar** focusing on tailoring communication to public, min 100 views
* Organization of **1 final event/ party** in Vienna with 100 - 150 participants during which participants will have an opportunity to socialize with the engaged researchers and experts, familiarize with DAWN knowledge, NFTs, and deliver basic knowledge about opening wallet and minting tokens.

Risks:

1. **Lack of participation in the activities.** To facilitate participation, the project will engage existing Dr. Bogadi ’s academic, professional and personal dense network of university student’s, scientists, teachers, practitioners and NGO partners who will not only provide the perspective of academic, practice, and community representatives, but that also have a wide network of contacts that they will invite to participate in the activities.

2. **COVID-19 and future pandemics preventing gatherings and events participation.** All of the events will be covered through social media, and there will be a possibility to attend events online. The schedule is made in consideration that bigger events will be in late spring and summer months, with least possibility that they will be forbidden, and they can be held outside.

# Target Audience

* **Scientific and research community**, and experts involved in research about social and environmental justice, co-design, participative approaches in decision making processes, private and voluntary governance, and blockchain governance systems
* **Environmental justice organizations** on local, national, and international levels
* **Lecturers and students from Viennese and Austrian Universities**, especially ones dealing with commons, public spaces, social resilience, and socio politics of climate change impacts
* **Businesses** dealing with Nature Based Solutions Design and Technology
* **Community-based civil organizations** in City of Vienna dealing with participatory decision-making processes, and topics of inclusivity and justice
* **General Public**, especially ones tired of current governance systems

# Objectives

1. **Explore and analyze** requirements, co-create and propose new forms of innovative use of blockchain governance and smart contracts for NBS implementation while reaching social and environmental justice.
2. **Develop** awareness and better understanding of blockchain governance, its effects and their impacts on different people, generate active interest, create networks, partnerships, and synergies and encourage up-take of the outcomes of the project for the audience highlighted above.
3. **Position** NFTs as a solution to build just governance and NBS implementation which includes social and environmental justice.

# Why this project

I am researching resilient governance models for years, using sophisticated theoretical frameworks and methods, mostly complex adaptive systems theory and actor-network theory, in order to give policy advice to governments. Since I became familiar with the mind-blowing possibilities of blockchain governance and smart contracts, I have realized that they are actually the best possible, most elegant exemplars of using those theories in practice, and have capacity to transform our world. Therefore, I have strong intention to steer my research in that direction and be part of this process. This project would allow us to diagnose the current state of understanding potentials of this topic in scientific community, co-create possibilities for determining future projects and investments, and concisely communicate it with all stakeholders.

# What will you do

There is growing recognition that using the properties of nature through nature-based solutions (NBS) can help to provide viable and cost-effective solutions to a wide range of societal challenges stemming from climate change impacts. Although the NBS realization depends critically on the governance models that enables the inclusive and beneficial NBS implementation processes, research gaps regarding promising governance models still exist. Also, despite the significant amount of existing research and good practices, and increased interests of science and public, underexplored possibilities of blockchain technology and smart contracts to create new governance forms for NBS implementation are still not tackled enough.

Therefore, I aim to tackle exactly these deficiencies within this project. The project will engage the scientific and expert community to co-investigate the requirements, explore and propose new forms of innovative governance models and implementation of co-approaches that capacitate Nature Based Solutions for enhancing social and environmental justice, and say it out loud to the world. It is expected that by the end of the project at least 250 of all of impactful scientists, university students and lecturers, businesses and environmental organizations in Austria and beyond will be introduced to the concept of NFT first hand, and that materials will reach more than 1000 viewers, readers, and followers worldwide.

# How will you do it

Project will be done in two work packages. First it the knowledge production, and second transferring this knowledge to target audience and beyond.

# Work package 1: CREATING KNOWLEDGE

**Months 1 – 2.** **Panel discussion**: Guided panel discussion with relevant, famous, recognized and influential researchers and blockchain experts in high end “Impact Hub Vienna” location (https://vienna.impacthub.net/) Topics: underexplored possibilities of blockchain technology and smart contracts to create new governance forms for Nature Based Solutions implementation, blockchain governance and collective design approach, decentralizing governing power over society's common goods, providing regenerative economic value to participants, impacts of blockchain technology.

**Months 2 – 3.** Writing **scientific or professional article** and **giving** **talk** on high impact conference or event. Tasks: Data collection and analysis from panel discussions, proposing new forms of innovative blockchain governance models for fair Nature Based Solutions implementation. Development of solutions, guidelines and recommendations.

Month 4. Deliverable 1. Report on panel discussion, article creation, and conference talk. Report will include submitted scientific or professional article in an impactful open-source journal titled “Roadmap of possibilities of blockchain technology and smart contracts to create socially and environmentally just Nature Based Solutions”, and Future Research & Innovation Agenda. This document will state needed, opportunities and barriers in establishing tokens for Just Nature Based Solutions Implementation.

**Deliverable 2.** Report on dissemination campaign, with promo material and report on the panel discussion, description of strategies to reach each specific target group, and actions taken. Report will include video and short reports of panel discussion on YouTube, Twitter and LinkedIn, and recorded talk on the conference. Report includes Knowledge Repository **Web page** with Online Community section, blog articles, webinar program and report, workshop program and report, final event program and report.

# Work package 2: TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE

**Month 1 – 2.** Creation of DAWN Knowledge Repository **Web page** with Online Community section.

**Month 1 – 5.** Creation of promotional videos and other **promo materials**. Dissemination campaigns via LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

**Months 3, 4, 5.** Writing three **blogs** on Medium.com and DAWN web page.

**Month 3 – 4.** Development and launching of the **webinar**.

**Month 4 - 5** Development and conducting **workshop** for practical guidelines of digital representation of a green area on the blockchain in a shape of NFT.

**Month 5.** Organization of 1 **final event**/ party in Vienna in high end location, Talent Garden Vienna (<https://talentgarden.org/en/event-spaces/austria/vienna/>).

**Deliverable 3.** Plan for research and commercial exploitation of the results after the project’s end.

# MILESTONES

**Milestone 1** Month 3. Completed open panel discussion with scientists and experts.

**Milestone 2** Month 5. Final event in Vienna.

The open dissemination and sharing of research and other data will depend on ethics concerns regarding privacy issues and the potential misuse or misappropriation of data. Sensitive data will be stored on password protected data repositories which are under the responsibility of the institution that collected the data. Taking into consideration the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), the project results will be communicated as open as possible and as closed as necessary.

Open access publications.

I plan to publish contributions in journals under the Open Access Gold standard, or Green standard if Gold standard is not possible. Additionally, all papers and other outcomes presenting the project results will be accessible on the project’s website. The main outcomes, including the articles, Future Research & Innovation Agenda, as well as videos, blogs, webinar and workshops materials and recordings, and events recordings, will be published on the project’s website, networking events, meetings and conferences.

By building a network of stakeholders DAWN will raise awareness of its project and showcase it. This will encourage stakeholders within its network to take-up DAWN results, its best practices and its outputs, share them further, with their own networks and build on these further creating a ripple effect.

# Team

Antonija Bogadi is a recognized researcher and policy advisor in topics of governance systems, power and influence asymmetries, participative processes, social ecological resilience, and Nature Based Solutions. Since June 2021 she is working as senior researcher and project manager in SYNYO, the largest private R&D institution in Austria. Her tasks include project management and acquisition of high budget international research projects, mostly from EU HORIZON program. Antonija Bogadi has extensive teaching, curricula building and public awareness building experience on above topics, gained through 12 years working experience as CEO of Croatian Association of Architects Varazdin (2012-2014), as a senior lecturer at University North in Croatia (2008 – 2018), and assistant professor at Technical University Vienna (2015-2021). Her education includes an awarded PhD degree in Critique of NBS governance systems from Technical University Vienna (2020), and Master degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from Zagreb University (2008).

More details are available on [antoniabogadi.com](https://www.antoniabogadi.com/), <https://at.linkedin.com/in/antonijabogadi>, and <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9360-3094>.

# Key Assumptions

Current NBS implementation processes often fail because of power and influence asymmetries in decision making processes, causing even more harm to vulnerable actors. There is current awareness among both public and scientific community that there are underexplored possibilities of blockchain technology and smart contracts to create new, just governance forms for NBS implementation. However, there are not trustworthy channels for them to learn about this specific topic, or the knowledge is dispersed and generalized. This project will close that gap.

# Why will this fail

Underestimating resources, failing to manage participants expectations, too much customization in the final phase of the project could lead to the project’s failure. Therefore, as soon as I suspect that a project is about to fail, I will take actions to mitigate the damage, and when needed, ask for help.

**Impacts**

**Impact 1.** Improved access to valuable data and tools about NEAR to versatile end users.

The results developed in this project are expected to have a clear scientific impact advancing the field of NBS governance by providing a new open-access information resource to organize knowledge, facilitate systematic information search and enable evidence-based selection of needs for future tokenization of NBS related processes.

Being open access means the database will be accessible to researchers in less privileged settings and not only in the developed world, thus making an international impact. This data is also expected to be of interest to the general public. Publishing results is expected to facilitate attracting interest and further funding.

POTENTIAL EFFECTS

→ 300% more data on potentials of NEAR in governance systems available 1 years the project end

→ 50% belter understanding of choices and risks of smart contracts

→ 20+ companies (incl. SMEs and Start-Ups) make use of DAWN activities

**Impact 2.** Raising awareness and interest on NEAR possibilities among the Nature Based Solutions and participatory decision-making processes research community and industry.

Share, exchange and pooling of data about needs, requirements and obstacles to mainstreaming smart contracts is not just an important aspect of my work, but also elementary, a moral duty to the scientific community and society in general. It is expected that this project, which is fully open access and reliant on open-source tools, will raise awareness to this topic.

POTENTIAL EFFECTS

→ 20% uptake of smart contracts and NEAR related research activities and publications in the next 5 years

→ 10% number increase of new or significantly improved products or services related to NBS related smart contracts

**Impact 3.** Increase the public acceptance of blockchain technology and related NEAR technologies and its benefits. An additional indirect impact of the project is to increase and improve the public perception of the advantages of blockchain technology and NEAR for a beneficial purpose to support challenges for society. In addition, networking with stakeholders, projects, communities and networks, and the support of the Project’s platform for partnering activities for innovations will support in streamlining cooperation activities, which will further reinforce the positive public perception.

POTENTIAL EFFECTS

→ 30% improved acceptance score based on survey at the beginning and end of project

# Project Roadmap after the fellowship

Project’s outcomes will be used for providing advisory services and matchmaking target audience via web platform, and all the materials will be available on DAWN platform after the project’s end. Further research topics and needed projects will be identified, and new partnerships formed to conceive them.

# Compensation (in USD to be paid in NEAR Tokens)

75100 USD – detailed costs breakdown will be sent on demand.

The duration of the project will be 6 months (from March 2022 to August 2022).

…

“And one should bear in mind that there is nothing more difficult to execute, more dubious of success, nor more dangerous to administer than to introduce a new order of things; for he who introduces it has all those who profit from the old order as his enemies, and he has only lukewarm allies in all those who might profit from the new. This lukewarmness partly stems from fear of their adversaries ... and partly from the skepticism of men, who do not truly believe in new things unless they have actually had personal experience of them.” (From Chapter VI of Niccolò Machiavelli, The Prince. Peter Bondanella and Mark Musa, translators. (Oxford U. Press revised edition, 1984, p.21).

…