



THE KLOSTERS FORUM '26



Summer 2026

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Executive Summary

TKF26 at a Glance

17–19 June 2026 | Klosters, Switzerland

The Klosters Forum 2026 (TKF26) brought together around 80 experts from the cultural, environmental, philanthropic, scientific, business and NGO sectors.

Under the theme **“The Cultural Turn: How to Centre Creative Power for Ecological Change,”** TKF26 examined a specific challenge: **environmental awareness is high, but awareness alone is not producing change at the scale or speed required. What role can culture and the creative sector play in closing this gap?**

Over three days, participants explored this question through talks, panel discussions, workshops, artistic interventions and structured (and unstructured informal) collaboration sessions.

Who Took Part - See the TKF26 Handbook



What We Learned

Five main conclusions emerged from TKF26:

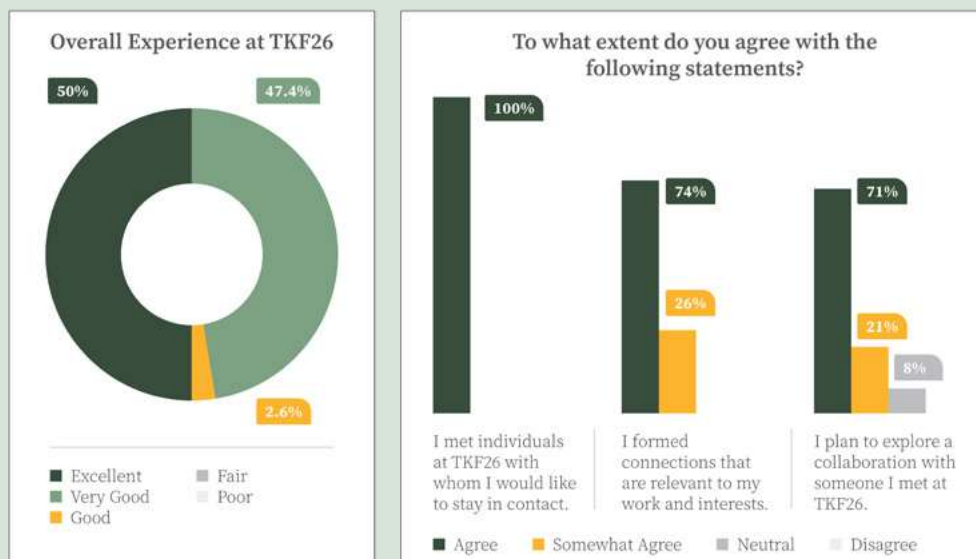
- ◇ **Culture can influence environmental action.** Art, music, storytelling, humour and other forms of cultural expression can engage people in ways that facts and conventional environmental communication often cannot.
- ◇ **Artists should be involved earlier.** Cultural practitioners can contribute to how environmental problems are framed and addressed, rather than being brought in at the end to communicate an existing solution.
- ◇ **The cultural and environmental sectors need better ways to work together.** They often use different languages, methods and definitions of impact. TKF26 showed that these differences can be productive when both sides are treated as equal partners, while also highlighting the practical challenges that need to be addressed.
- ◇ **How we represent nature matters.** Participants explored alternatives to presenting nature primarily as a resource, victim or backdrop, including approaches that give nature a more active role in creative and institutional decision-making.
- ◇ **Emotional engagement matters alongside evidence.** Awe, humour, storytelling, direct experiences of nature and inner work can help make environmental issues personally relevant and encourage action.

Turning Ideas into Collaboration

TKF26 was designed not only to discuss these questions, but also to connect people who could act on them.

The **Needs & Leads** sessions provided one concrete mechanism. More than **30 experts** presented specific needs - including funding, partnerships, talent, policy support and feedback - and received introductions, ideas and offers of assistance from across the TKF26 community.

The Community Feedback



TKF26 showed that closer collaboration between environmental experts and cultural practitioners could broaden the tools available for environmental action. The next step is to turn these connections and ideas into practical collaborations.

What Happens Next: From TKF26 to TKF27

The TKF26 community continues to connect and exchange ideas through the dedicated WhatsApp group, with the next community check-in planned for **October/November 2026**.

TKF26 marked the first year of TKF's two-year exploration of The

Cultural Turn. From 16 to 18 June 2027, we will build on the ideas, relationships and opportunities that emerged in 2026 during TKF27.

TKF27 will place a particular focus on **turning dialogue into action and strengthening collaboration between the cultural and environmental sectors.**

Based on feedback from the TKF26 community, topics to be explored at TKF27 include:

Culture as a Force for Ecological Transformation · Shifting Values, Behaviours & Social Norms · Cross-Sector Collaboration & New Ways of Working · Indigenous Knowledge & Diverse Global Perspectives · Technology & AI for Ecological Regeneration · Funding & Financing Cultural-Ecological Change · Turning Ideas into Lasting Impact

The following pages provide a more detailed account of the discussions, workshops and panels at TKF26. Look out for the “in Brief” workshop section for concise summaries and key takeaways.

Enjoy the read.

Best wishes,
Stephanie & Camilla
Co-Founders, The Klosters Forum



About The Klosters Forum (TKF)

The Klosters Forum (TKF) has built, and continues to build, a global community of changemakers united by a shared commitment to positive environmental action through collaboration.

Recognising the complexity of systemic change, TKF brings together leaders from diverse sectors - practitioners, innovators, policymakers, NGOs, conservationists, investors, and creatives - to explore interconnected challenges and spark cross-sector solutions.

Each June, TKF hosts an annual gathering in a chalet on the Madrisa mountain and private venues in Klosters, Switzerland. Limited to around 80 invited participants and TKF Friends, the event fosters meaningful connections and focused dialogue.

In a warm and personal setting, TKF offers a neutral and carefully designed space for open conversation and discussion, expert-led workshops, inspiring talks, and time to reflect and collaborate.



“What struck me was the multidisciplinary breadth of who was in the room, the level of knowledge and leadership people brought, and the genuine generosity of both organisers and participants. It’s rare to find a gathering where truly deep conversations are possible.”

Anab Jain, Co-founder and Director, Superflux



TKF26 The Cultural Turn

How to Centre Creative Power for Ecological Change

In a world disrupted by ecological breakdown, political polarisation, and conflict, we need fresh approaches to spark collective action and enable transformative environmental change. Despite the urgency of environmental messaging, a disconnect remains between awareness and action. Facts alone don't transform systems — we must also ignite empathy and imagination. Culture opens the door to rethinking environmental challenges through fresh, dynamic perspectives that reshape how we relate to one another, to nature, and to future generations.

I am immensely grateful for this thoughtfully curated programme and for creating a much-needed space to explore the role of culture in driving climate impact and systemic change. The experience deepened my understanding of creative climate work and, on a personal level, helped me reflect more clearly on my own purpose and intrinsic motivation. I really appreciated the international perspectives and exposure to some of the most progressive cultural and climate work from around the world.

Meng Li Co-Initiator, Pionierquartier / SHIFT Integral Entwicklung/
Studio Pararaum



TKF26 Participants and Friends

TKF26 convened an invitation-only community of around 80 TKF Participants and TKF Friends (a community of supporters who play a key role in advancing the mission and vision of The Klosters Forum) in the Swiss Alps. The cohort included leading voices from the creative, cultural, scientific, philanthropic, business and NGO sectors, fostering interdisciplinary exchange and laying the foundations for new collaborations during and beyond the Forum. Every year we create a TKF Handbook with the biographies of everyone joining TKF26 to share with the Participants and Friends in advance of their arrival to make sure we can hit the ground running.



Thought provoking conversations, inspiring people, and a setting that genuinely brings everything together. The Klosters Forum creates a space where real collaboration can happen. It feels intimate and purposeful, and it stands apart from the usual conference experience.

Michelle Demateis Schmitt, Director of Finance, People and Operations, Uneathodox.

TKF26 Partners

Thank you to our main TKF26 Partner:
Mercator Foundation Switzerland.

Thank you also to our supporters Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, Allianz Foundation, Julius Baer Foundation as well as our workshop partners EarthPercent, Purpose Disruptors, Love Ssega, Dr. Susanne von der Becke, Reto von der Becke, Joséphine von Mitschke-Collande and Heiko Specking for helping to facilitate the TKF26 workshops.



Talks

We were delighted to hear the following participants present during TKF26:

(a) TKF26 Opening Presentations:

- ◇ **Indy Johar** – Executive Director, Dark Matter Labs
- ◇ **Madame Gandhi** – Music Producer, Drummer, Artist & Activist

(b) TKF26 Firestarters:

- (i) **Andrew Holland** - CEO, Stiftung Mercator Schweiz
- (ii) **Ella Saltmarshe** - Director, The Culture Initiative
- (iii) **Matthias von Hartz** - Artistic Director, Zürcher Theater Spektakel
- (iv) **Anab Jain** - Co-Founder and Director, SUPERFLUX

(c) Thought Provocation:

- ◇ **Dr. Kirsten Dunlop** - CEO, Climate KIC

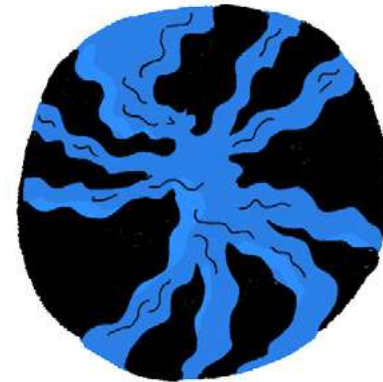
(d) Talk: Don't Underestimate The Power of Humour!

- ◇ **Oli Frost**, Creative Director, Serious People, interviewed by Hannah MacInnes, Journalist, TKF Podcast Host

[Watch all talks](#)



by
being human / mean
Biologically
entangled
with the
planet



Watch the full talk



Watch the full talk

05.00
04.59

FIRESTARTERS

anab
jain
SUPERFLUX

We all know
we're in a deep
mess

And the
elements we need
to get out of it,
happen to be the
core competencies
of art

INCULTURATION

culture
is why we
are facing
these problems
today



2 superpowers
of artists
IMAGINATION
AGENCY

What kind of
ancestors are
we becoming?

the river that runs
through you
runs through me



war
thinking
creates
war-shaped
futures

problem:
artists
don't meet

ella
saltmarshe
the culture
initiative

How do you
do ontological
shift?

like doing a
pre-enactment

matthias
von hartz
zürcher theater
spektakel



I can assure you
this name is also
unpronounceable in
German

from the
footprint
to the
headprint



we always
think
with our
minds
and
our bodies



probably not
all bike
travel



global tourism will be
up 40% in 10 years



andrew
holland
mercator
foundation



and
communi-
cation
problems.



holy shit
what's this
about?



and we won't stop
until it's done.
BE:EP

Watch all videos

DEEP NARRATIVES are
UNDERSTON

THOUGHT PROVOCATION

DR.
Kirsten
Dunlop
climate
kick



Artists shouldn't be asking
for funds for a
creative project,
they should have
a SEAT AT THE TABLE

So that the
future
stops being
an idea, and
becomes
a memory

Watch the full talk

TKF26 - the perfect match of fresh air for fresh thoughts

Dr. Frauke Fischer

Managing Founder, Agentur auf!

The Klosters Forum has sparked a wave of more ambitious and socially engaged ideas. For example, it inspired me the idea of organizing a tree festival involving local residents to remove concrete from the ground, allowing more trees to be planted in towns and cities. I am so grateful, thank you.

Saskia Edens, Artist

Have you ever considered using your career politically?

If we're calling the environment political, yes

Can you dismantle the master's house with the master's tools?

I suppose your videos are quite political.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF HUMOR!

Well, I don't like being on social media.. But without it, reaching hundreds of millions of people would be a lot harder.

let's start with at leisure: ~~buttlemon~~ mummelon

We rely less on fossil fuels and the fruit in the name is different



OLI FROST serious people

"I can't be one of those environment people"

Do you worry about being shadowbanned?

Never become too dependant on one platform

Are you an artist?

what do you send to your friend? A serious report or a funny video?



Yeah it would just generate more publicity

Do you think people don't see you because they can't bear to be seen as not having a sense of humor?

for every coal mine we plant - or fund - one tree

pay tax like a billionaire.



fix wings to your car & pay no duty on fuel, just like a private jet

interviewed by HANNAH MACINNES TKF podcast

Panel Discussions

Panel 1:

In tackling the ecological crisis, have we overlooked culture as a system-level lever for change?

Panelists:

- ◇ **Dr. Lewis Akenji** - Executive Director, Hot or Cool Institute
- ◇ **Lucy Stone** - Executive Director, Climate Spring
- ◇ **Ada Parris** - Futurist, Artist and Author / Founder, The Presence Lab™

Chaired by **Dr. Genevieve Guenther**, Founding Director, End Climate Silence

[Watch the full panel discussion](#)





Panel 2:

The Power of Awe and Wonder...And Then What?

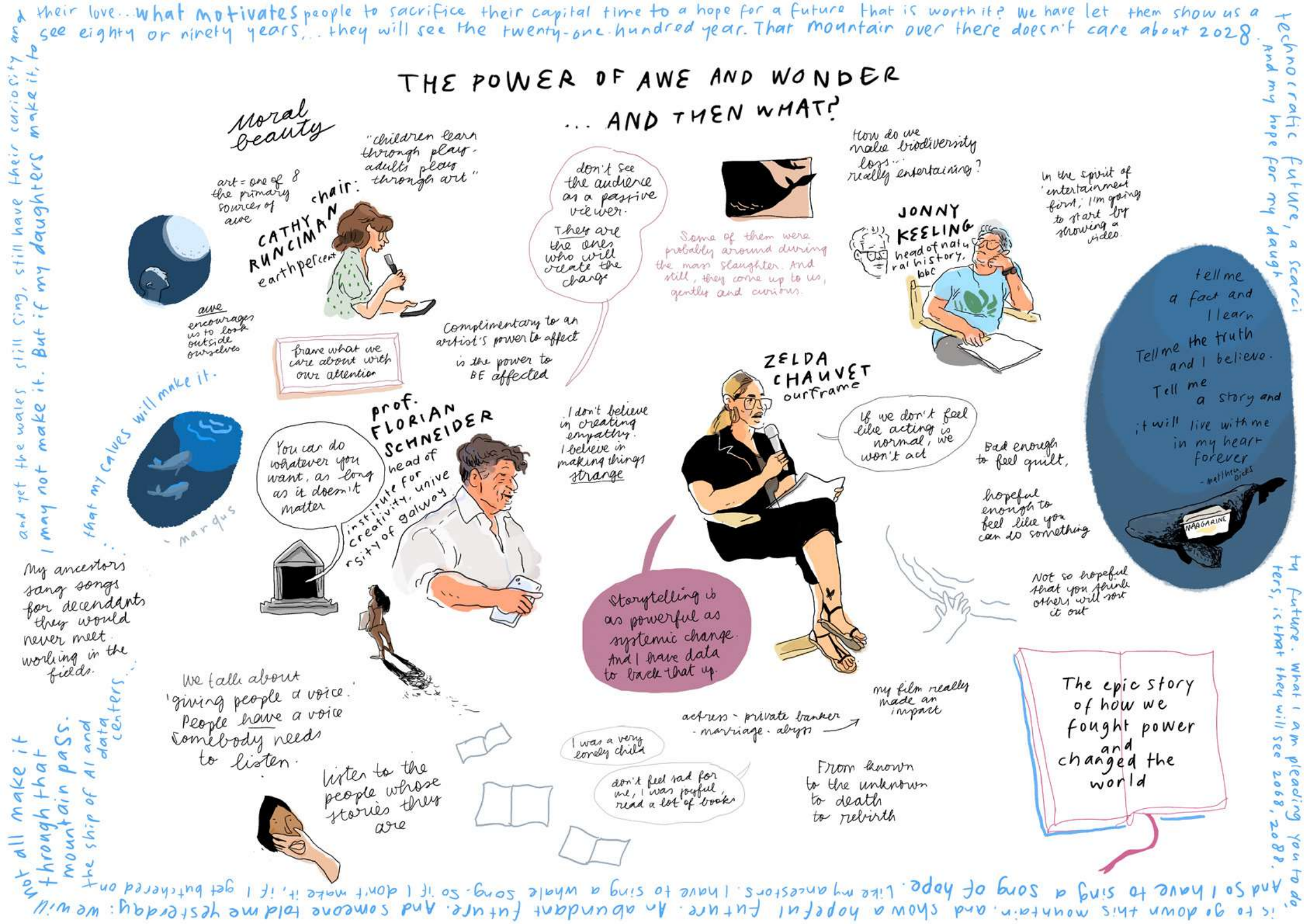
Panelists:

- ◇ **Prof. Florian Schneider** - Head of Institute for Creativity, University of Galway
- ◇ **Jonny Keeling** - Head of BBC Natural History Unit, BBC
- ◇ **Zelda Chauvet** - Co-founder and International Development Director, OurFrame

Chaired by **Cathy Runciman**, Co-Executive Director, EarthPercent

Watch the full panel discussion





Workshops

In a nutshell:

a) From Creative Practice to Sustainable Impact: Art and culture as catalysts for social-ecological change

Key Takeaways

Objective: Explore how arts/culture and climate/environment can combine their strengths for social-ecological change.

Approach: Participants explored the different methods of both fields and experimented with combining scientific and artistic approaches.

Key outcomes:

- ◇ Arts and culture are **agents of change**, not simply communication tools.
- ◇ Collaboration works best when **different strengths are respected and combined**.
- ◇ Together, science and culture can create **new narratives, ideas and approaches** that neither could develop alone.

b) What If Nature Had Creative Agency?

Key Takeaways

Objective: Explore what changes when nature is treated not as a cause or subject, but as a **creative collaborator with its own agency**.

Approach: Participants experienced this shift directly through film, reflection in nature and group work across four perspectives: Creators, Thinkers, Facilitators and Builders.

Key outcomes:

- ◇ Nature already has something to say; the challenge is creating the **conditions to listen**.
- ◇ Treating nature as a collaborator can reshape **creativity, language, decision-making and institutions**.
- ◇ Moving from a **subject-object to a subject-subject relationship** opens new ways of thinking and acting.

c) Who Am I, really?

Key Takeaways

Objective: Explore identity beyond roles and inherited narratives, and the connection between **inner and systemic change**.

Approach: Participants used meditation, breathwork, journaling, visualisation and dialogue to reflect on who they are, what matters to them and the stories they live by.

Key outcomes:

- ◇ Participants gained **greater clarity, grounding and connection** to their values and purpose.
- ◇ Personal narratives shape how we **lead, relate and create change**.
- ◇ Inner transformation can strengthen our capacity to contribute to **wider societal and ecological change**.

d) Wealth in Equality: creative and embodied pathways towards ecological and social transformation

Key Takeaways

Objective: Broaden the understanding of wealth beyond money and explore how wealth inequality shapes opportunity and wellbeing.

Approach: Participants used movement, storytelling, reflection and dialogue to explore personal experiences of wealth, privilege and inequality.

Key outcomes:

- ◇ **Wealth includes relationships, community, knowledge, health, opportunity and connection to nature.**
- ◇ **Making visible the factors that shape opportunity can foster empathy and understanding.**
- ◇ **Greater equality can also be supported through mentoring, sharing knowledge, opening networks and creating opportunities.**



In-depth reflections of the TKF26 workshops can be found below.

a) From Creative Practice to Sustainable Impact: Art and culture as catalysts for social-ecological change

Moderators:

- ◇ Gesa Schöneberg, Senior Director, Allianz Foundation
- ◇ Lola Pfeiffer, Grants Manager Socially Engaged Arts, Allianz Foundation
- ◇ Love Ssega, Artist and Founding Director of Live & Breathe

Workshop Objective

The aim of the workshop was to explore the different perspectives and methods from the arts and culture sector, as well as the climate and environment sector, in order to highlight both the limitations and the significant potential of collaboration.

Participants gained insight into the different logics, languages, and working methods of the cultural field and the environmental/climate sector.

The workshop highlighted ways in which art and culture can contribute to the transformation towards sustainability by combining reflection, inspiration and practical collaboration. It reinforced the role of arts and culture not as decorative or purely communicative elements but instead as crucial agents in shaping societal narratives and enabling transformative change towards sustainability.

Workshop Description

The workshop explored how the arts and culture sector and the climate and environmental field can learn from one another and create stronger pathways for social and ecological transformation. The workshop had a three-part format that guided participants from

initial engagement to deeper reflection and hands-on collaboration. In its first phase, participants examined the different ways the two sectors approach change: While environmental actors often work from a science-based, impact-driven perspective shaped by urgency and systemic goals, artists and cultural practitioners frequently engage with complexity, ambiguity, emotion, and imagination. Through an introductory exercise, participants reflected on existing tensions, misunderstandings, and opportunities for collaboration, establishing a shared foundation for dialogue.

The workshop's second phase featured an artistic contribution by Love Ssega, whose work bridges artistic, political, and environmental concerns. Drawing on examples from his practice, he demonstrated how art can make complex issues such as air pollution more accessible and emotionally resonant, while fostering community engagement and amplifying diverse voices.

In the final phase, participants worked collaboratively to combine scientific and artistic approaches. Starting from a scientifically informed scenario for 2040, they used artistic speculation to challenge assumptions and imagine alternative futures. This process highlighted the complementary strengths of both fields and was the starting point to explore how their integration can generate innovative ideas, deeper engagement, and greater impact in addressing contemporary environmental challenges.



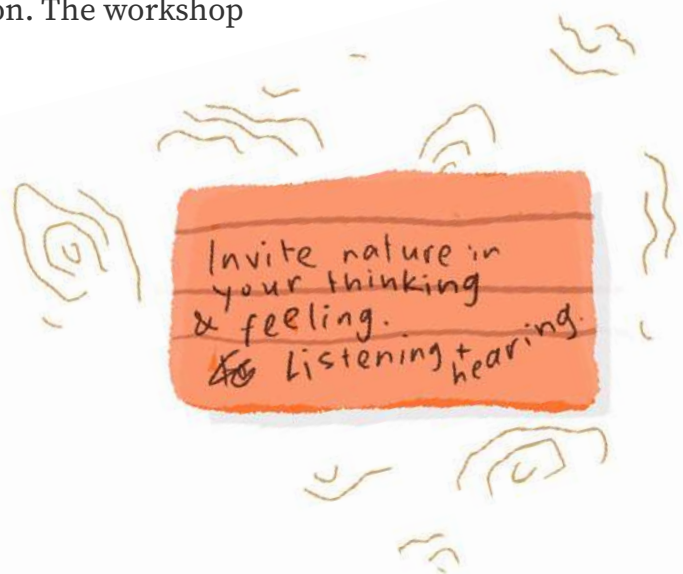
Key outcomes

The participants gained an understanding of both the challenges and the strong potential of cross-sector collaboration between the climate/environment and arts/culture fields. An important point was made concerning the tensions that evolve, for example, through different expectations around impact, where artistic approaches may be perceived as “too soft,” insufficient, or inapplicable, while artists may resist being reduced to tools for predefined objectives.

At the same time, through a hands-on group exercise that combined both approaches, participants learned about conditions under which collaboration can succeed. Cooperation was understood to become fragile when one field attempts to dominate or absorb the other or when differences are overlooked instead of openly negotiated. In contrast, it may become powerful when both sides maintain distinct but complementary roles and engage with each other on the basis of mutual respect rather than instrumentalization. It becomes transformative when these differences are actively leveraged to co-create new approaches, narratives, and practices that neither field could develop independently, ultimately and ideally influencing not only individual projects but also mindsets and systems as such.

Participants developed a shared vocabulary and a deeper understanding of the core tensions and different logics between the two fields. The exercises were meant as food for thought that extended beyond the session itself. The conversations and discussions that started in the workshop were carried on in subsequent conversations.

Participants – ideally – left with practical insights and concrete ideas for cross-sector collaboration. The workshop fostered new relationships and identified potential pathways for future projects that amplify cultural influence in the sustainability transition.





b) What If Nature Had Creative Agency?

Moderators:

- ◇ Lisa Merrick-Lawless,
Co-Founder and Director, Purpose Disruptors
- ◇ Cathy Runciman,
Co-Executive Director, EarthPercent

Workshop Objectives

To explore what changes occur when we stop treating nature as a cause to champion and start treating it as a genuine collaborator — a creative force with its own logic, personality and things to say.

Most environmental work, including most creative work about nature, still positions nature as subject matter: a backdrop, a victim, a cause to defend. The workshop set out to test a different starting point — nature as co-author — and to ask what becomes possible when we move from a subject-object relationship with the living world to a subject-subject one.

The session had three aims: to give a senior, cross-disciplinary room a direct felt experience of that shift rather than an argument for it; to gather practical provocations from four vantage points — those who make creative work, those who think and research, those who fund and commission, and those who build organisations and community; and to send participants back into their own fields with one reframe they could use. The underlying question was deliberately simple and, once you sit with it, quite radical: what if nature had creative agency?

Workshop Description

Forty-five people gathered on a Friday morning to sit with a question that sounds simple and turns out to be radical: what if nature wasn't the cause, but the collaborator?

The workshop opened with two short films. *Agency for Nature*, from Purpose Disruptors, shows what happens when the creative industries treat nature as a genuine partner across youth culture — gaming, football, Goth, drag — framing nature not as a backdrop but as a creative force with its own logic and personality. *Sounds Right*, from EarthPercent, extended the provocation into music, asking what it would mean to credit nature as an artist in its own right.

Then the room went outside. Participants spent ten minutes in silence with one element of the natural world and asked a single question: what does it say? People came back visibly moved — some to tears, some to calm and joy. The consensus afterwards was that this was one of the important moments of the forum, not because of what was said, but because of what was felt.

That shift carried into the group work. Participants self-organised into four groups, each bringing a different lens to the same question: Creators (those who make creative work), Thinkers (academics, scientists and thought leaders), Facilitators (funders, commissioners and cultural institutions) and Builders (those working on infrastructure, community and capacity). Each group worked the question from its own vantage point, then brought its provocations back to the room.

Nature already has something to say. The real question is whether we have built the conditions to hear it.

Key Outcomes

Across four groups and four different vantage points, the same thread kept surfacing: nature already has something to say, and the real question is whether we have built the conditions to hear it.

Creators. A photographer, a musician, a performer and a documentary filmmaker began by admitting that “collaboration”

didn't feel like the right word. Nature, they felt, is already inside all of their work, inviting them in and doing much of the storytelling — “nature is the best storyteller for all of us.” As one filmmaker put it, he sets out to film one thing, or is commissioned to make a particular show, and yet “nature ends up telling you a way more interesting story than the one you had in your pathetic imagination.” The group explored the move from a subject-object relationship to a subject-subject one, and the creative act as giving “voice to the voiceless.” They named the harder edges too: what it means to work in genuine partnership across that separation, the practice of “recommoning,” and the fact that nature is currently valued financially only once it is dead. Working with nature, one member noted, also means protecting the people who protect the land and soil — the whole entangled ecosystem, not just its image.

Nature ends up telling you a way more interesting story than the one you had in your pathetic imagination

Thinkers. The Thinkers went to language, on the grounds that our current language is “dead nature” — a product of thought rather than of life. They played with replacing dead abstractions with living ones: murmuration instead of leadership or collaboration; natural intelligence instead of artificial intelligence; integration instead of development, so that housing is imagined as something that keeps our existence “living and alive” rather than as building over land. They proposed the same swap in financial logic — the social return on nature (alive) against the financial return on nature (dead) — while warning each other to beware appropriation, noting how completely a word like “ecosystem” has already been absorbed by capitalist dynamics.

Working Group Quotes

“The social return on nature, alive, versus the financial return on nature, dead.”

— Thinkers group

“Institutions have a responsibility to foster containers, and to bring nature to the head of the council — through a channel of connection with nature, or through messengers trained to listen to nature and communicate back to the council.”

— Facilitators group

“We need context that provides for reciprocity and symbiosis in relationship with soil health and human health — matching soil biomes with gut biomes. We need to bring this to life in community gardens and city farms.”

— Builders group

“Nature ends up telling you a way more interesting story than the one you had in your pathetic imagination.”

— Creators group

“The abstraction of human nature should be replaced with an invocation of living nature. So instead of artificial intelligence — how about natural intelligence?”

— Thinkers group

Facilitators. The Facilitators turned to power and process: who actually speaks for nature in a boardroom or a funding decision? They proposed putting nature “at the head of the council” — through real channels of connection, and through messengers (artists, indigenous wisdom, or people trained to listen to nature) who can carry what they hear back to the institution. Decision-making, they argued, should be allowed to get muddy: more emotional, more exposed to the elements, more willing to take risks and speak “from the nature within us.” They pushed into structure too — institutions modelled on biomimicry and mycelial networks, and a regenerative finance built by listening to how nature itself organises. Live reference points surfaced here: Nature on the Board, the Earth Law Centre and Lawyers for Nature.

Builders. The Builders brought the body back in. Soil health and gut health are entangled; matching soil biomes with gut biomes in community gardens and city farms makes our co-dependency visible. They explored “degrees of wild,” from deep wilderness to an urban path, and the idea that every building on the planet could carry the soundscapes and smellscapes of living ecosystems — sensory environments that measurably change us. They were interested in wearables that help people notice their own anxiety or blood pressure shifting in nature, in the stress reduction immersion brings, and in one animating question: **what would it take to rewild our spirit — and what would the mountain need to live its best life?**



WHAT IF NATURE HAD CREATIVE AGENCY?

Nature outside
vs
Nature within.

mmm

Agency for NATURE

LISA
MERRICK-
LAWLESS
purpose
disruptors

CATHY
RUNCIMAN
earth
percent



We want to
trouble the
distinction
between
nature
and not nature



capitalism=
the demonic
cynicism
of the
dead
-oei

Language is
dead nature

There's
always this
ambiguity
being separate
from nature
but also part
of it

I'm being light
and bubbly here
but this made
me realize

I'm actually
holding more
tension than
I realized

Artificial intelligence?
How about Natural intelligence?



we did it as a
song...
but we didn't
want to give
the royalties
to nature, so
I'll just talk

~~collaboration~~
nature is inviting us
in and inspiring us

Don't
you mean
muse?

But your
muse being
nature instead
of a
naked woman?

meeting
always
one chair
with a plant

maybe it should be
a really big tree!

and the mountain said:
you humans seem to
be very busy. why
don't you just
sit with me?

Exercise:
Just sit in
silence with
nature for
10 minutes



Rewilding
our
Spirit



Klosters was an illuminating experience with well curated speakers, thought provoking content and workshops and time to have deep conversations and make new connections. I found it very valuable and look forward to collaborating with people I met.

Lisa Merrick-Lawless, Co-Founder & Director, Purpose Disruptors

c) Who Am I, really?

Moderators

Dr. Susanne von der Becke - Founder and Author of Conscious Impact

Workshop Objective

The objective of this workshop was to create a reflective and experiential space in which participants could explore the question “Who am I, really?” beyond conventional roles, identities, and inherited narratives.

Within the broader context of the Forum, the workshop offered a complementary space beyond intellectual dialogue and analytical discussion, inviting participants to slow down, turn inward, and reconnect with a deeper inner knowing. Through contemplative and embodied practices, participants were encouraged to reflect on the stories they hold about themselves and to explore how these narratives shape the way they lead, relate, and create change in the world.

A further objective was to support participants in their leadership journeys by creating a space for integration, reflection, and inner processing. In times of profound ecological and societal change, leaders are often called to respond to increasing complexity, uncertainty, and urgency. The workshop therefore invited participants to reconnect with what truly matters to them, uncover the narratives that may no longer serve them, and strengthen their capacity to respond consciously rather than from automatic patterns and conditioning.

More broadly, the workshop sought to strengthen the inner dimension of systems change by exploring the relationship between personal transformation and collective transformation. The underlying premise was that **the stories we hold about ourselves influence not only our individual lives, but also the organizations, systems, and futures we collectively co-create.**

Workshop Description

The workshop combined contemplative inquiry, somatic practices, reflective journaling, guided visualization, and peer dialogue to create an experiential learning environment.

The session began with a short introduction exploring the question of identity and the limitations of defining ourselves solely through roles, achievements, or external markers of success. Through personal reflection and storytelling, participants were invited to consider how the stories they hold about themselves shape not only their individual lives, but also the organizations, systems, and futures they co-create.

Participants were then guided through a grounding meditation designed to cultivate presence and support the transition from intellectual discussion into a more reflective and embodied mode of inquiry.

A central element of the workshop was an activating breathwork practice, which invited participants to move beyond purely cognitive reflection and access embodied forms of knowing. This was followed by periods of silence and individual journaling around the questions:

“Who am I, really?”

“What truly matters to me?”

“What story do I notice myself living from?”



Participants subsequently shared reflections in small groups before engaging in a collective dialogue. The workshop concluded with a guided visualization inviting participants to reflect on the stories they may be ready to let go of and the stories they wish to live into going forward.

Throughout the workshop, emphasis was placed on curiosity, deep listening, and the recognition that personal narratives influence not only individual behaviour, but also the wider social, economic, and ecological systems we co-create.

The overall approach integrated mindfulness, embodiment, and systems thinking, offering participants an opportunity to explore the relationship between inner transformation and outer change.

Key Outcomes

The workshop created a highly engaged, reflective, and emotionally resonant space in which approximately 25 participants explored questions of identity, leadership, and change through contemplative and embodied practices.

A central outcome was that participants were able to move beyond purely intellectual reflection and engage with the workshop themes on a more embodied and experiential level. Several participants shared that the session helped them physically and viscerally process many of the themes and challenges discussed during the previous days of the conference. This integration of intellectual understanding with embodied experience was experienced as both meaningful and necessary.

Many participants reported experiencing significant insights regarding how they wish to show up as leaders and the contribution they want to make going forward. The inquiry into identity, values, and personal narratives led to numerous “aha moments” and renewed clarity about their purpose and role in creating change.





The stories we hold about ourselves influence not only our individual lives, but also the organizations, systems, and futures we collectively co-create.



Another important outcome was a deep reconnection with inner knowing. A number of participants described reconnecting with aspects of themselves that had become blurred, forgotten, or overshadowed by the demands and complexity of their professional and personal lives. Several participants expressed that they were leaving with a renewed sense of confidence, greater trust in themselves, and a clearer sense of direction.

The workshop also created space for emotional processing and release. Some participants experienced strong emotional responses, which they described as bringing important new insights and a deeper understanding of themselves. The atmosphere of psychological safety, mindfulness, and compassionate listening enabled participants to engage with these experiences in a supportive environment.

A further outcome was an increased sense of grounding and presence. Participants frequently described feeling more centered, calm, and connected by the end of the session. Many also expressed deep gratitude for having had the opportunity to slow down, reflect, and engage in authentic dialogue with others.

Finally, the workshop strengthened participants' awareness of the relationship between inner transformation and systemic change. Through both personal reflection and collective dialogue, participants explored how the stories they hold about themselves influence their leadership, relationships, and the broader systems they help shape. The session highlighted the importance of cultivating inner capacities alongside external strategies for ecological and societal transformation.

Overall, the workshop demonstrated the value of creating spaces where participants can reconnect with themselves, with one another, and with what truly matters, thereby strengthening their capacity to contribute to meaningful change from a place of greater presence, clarity, and authenticity.

d) Wealth in Equality: creative and embodied pathways towards ecological and social transformation

Moderators

- ◇ **Dr. Naveen Shamsudhin** - Head of Wealth Inequality Initiative, Julius Baer Foundation
- ◇ **Kathrin Benz** - Head of Communications and Engagement, Julius Baer Foundation
- ◇ **Laura Hemrika** - CEO, Julius Baer Foundation

Workshop Objective

The Wealth in Equality session was designed as an experiential and participatory workshop that invited participants to engage with wealth inequality through reflection, movement, storytelling, and dialogue. Rather than approaching wealth solely as an economic issue, the workshop sought to broaden understanding of wealth as a combination of material, social, emotional, cultural, and ecological resources.

The workshop aimed to:

1. **Create a space** for participants to slow down, reconnect with themselves and others, and cultivate presence through embodied and reflective practices.
2. **Explore personal relationships** with money, wealth, privilege, opportunity, and inequality through storytelling and lived experience.
3. **Increase awareness** of the visible and invisible factors that shape life trajectories, wellbeing, and access to opportunities.
4. **Foster empathy and shared understanding** by making diverse experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives visible within the group.

5. **Challenge conventional narratives** of wealth by encouraging participants to recognize other forms of richness, including relationships, community, knowledge, health, creativity, and connection to nature.
6. **Support shifts** in perspective and meaning-making through transformative learning and creative engagement.
7. **Encourage participants** to consider their role in creating greater wealth equality through actions such as mentorship, networking, collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and community building.
8. **Demonstrate how** embodied and creative processes can contribute to broader social and ecological transformation by helping individuals reimagine their relationship to wealth, power, and collective wellbeing.

Workshop Description

The Wealth in Equality workshop was a 90-minute participatory experience that combined embodied learning, storytelling, reflection, and dialogue to explore the personal, relational, and systemic dimensions of wealth inequality. The workshop was informed by Donella Meadows' Leverage Points for Systems Change, Transformative Learning Theory, and embodied and socially engaged arts practices, with the intention of creating conditions for deeper awareness, perspective shifts, and meaningful dialogue on wealth and equality.

The session began with mindfulness, breathing, and movement exercises that encouraged participants to become present, reconnect with their bodies, and engage openly with others. Participants reflected on formative memories associated with money and wealth and shared these experiences through non-verbal movement and embodied storytelling. By engaging imagination, memory, emotion, and sensory awareness, the exercise invited participants to explore wealth beyond purely analytical or economic perspectives.

A central activity, Making the Invisible Visible, invited participants to step into a circle in response to prompts relating to identity,

family history, educational opportunity, privilege, hardship, debt, entrepreneurship, and personal experiences with wealth. This process surfaced the diversity of backgrounds and life experiences present within the group, fostering empathy, trust, and a deeper appreciation of the social and structural factors that shape opportunity and inequality.

The workshop then shifted toward reimagining wealth through a gratitude-based reflection exercise. Participants identified the people, relationships, communities, experiences, and environmental conditions that make them feel rich, before sharing reflections in small groups. The session concluded with a discussion on how individuals can contribute to greater wealth equality through mentoring, knowledge sharing, networking, collaboration, and creating opportunities for others. A closing emotional check-in encouraged participants to reflect on how their perspectives and feelings had evolved during the session.

Key Outcomes

The workshop created a reflective and participatory space in which participants explored wealth inequality through lived experience, emotional awareness, embodied engagement, and collective dialogue. By combining movement, storytelling, mindfulness, and facilitated reflection, the session enabled participants to engage with wealth not only as an economic issue but also as a social, cultural, emotional, and relational phenomenon.

Wealth was reframed from a concept primarily associated with money and assets to one that also encompasses relationships, community, knowledge, health, creativity, belonging, opportunity, and connection to the natural world.

A key outcome was the expansion of participants' understanding of wealth. Through the exercises and discussions, wealth was reframed from a concept primarily associated with money and assets to one that also encompasses relationships, community, knowledge, health, creativity, belonging, opportunity, and connection to the natural world. The gratitude exercise encouraged participants to recognize forms of richness that are often overlooked in conventional economic narratives.

The Making the Invisible Visible exercise increased awareness of the diverse experiences represented within the group. Participants reflected on differences and commonalities relating to geography, culture, education, family background, economic hardship, inherited privilege, debt, and entrepreneurship. By making these experiences visible, the activity fostered empathy, strengthened trust, and highlighted how social and structural conditions influence access to opportunities and shape individual relationships with wealth.



Another important outcome was the creation of a space where participants could engage authentically and vulnerably with one another. The embodied and non-verbal exercises enabled conversations that moved beyond abstract debate and encouraged deeper human connection, mutual understanding, and shared reflection. Participants were able to relate to wealth inequality through personal stories and lived experiences, creating a stronger sense of collective awareness and belonging.

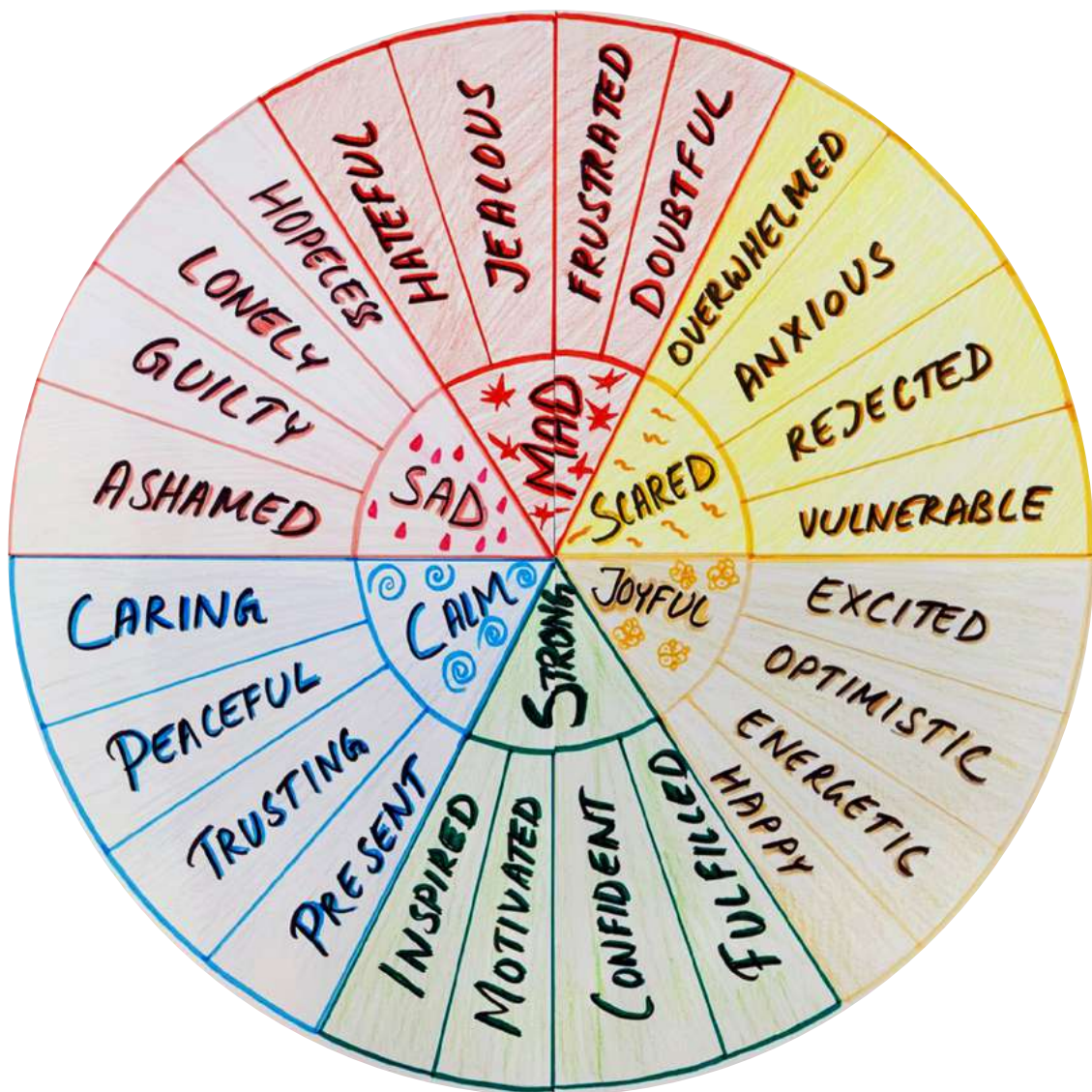
The session also demonstrated the potential of creative and embodied methods to support transformative learning. Consistent with Transformative Learning Theory, participants were invited to engage in novel experiences, reflect critically on assumptions, and exchange perspectives with others. These processes encouraged a reconsideration of dominant beliefs about wealth and inequality and opened space for new interpretations and possibilities for action. Similarly, the workshop reflected Donella Meadows' Leverage Points framework by focusing on shifts in mindsets, values, and worldviews—the deepest leverage points for systemic change.

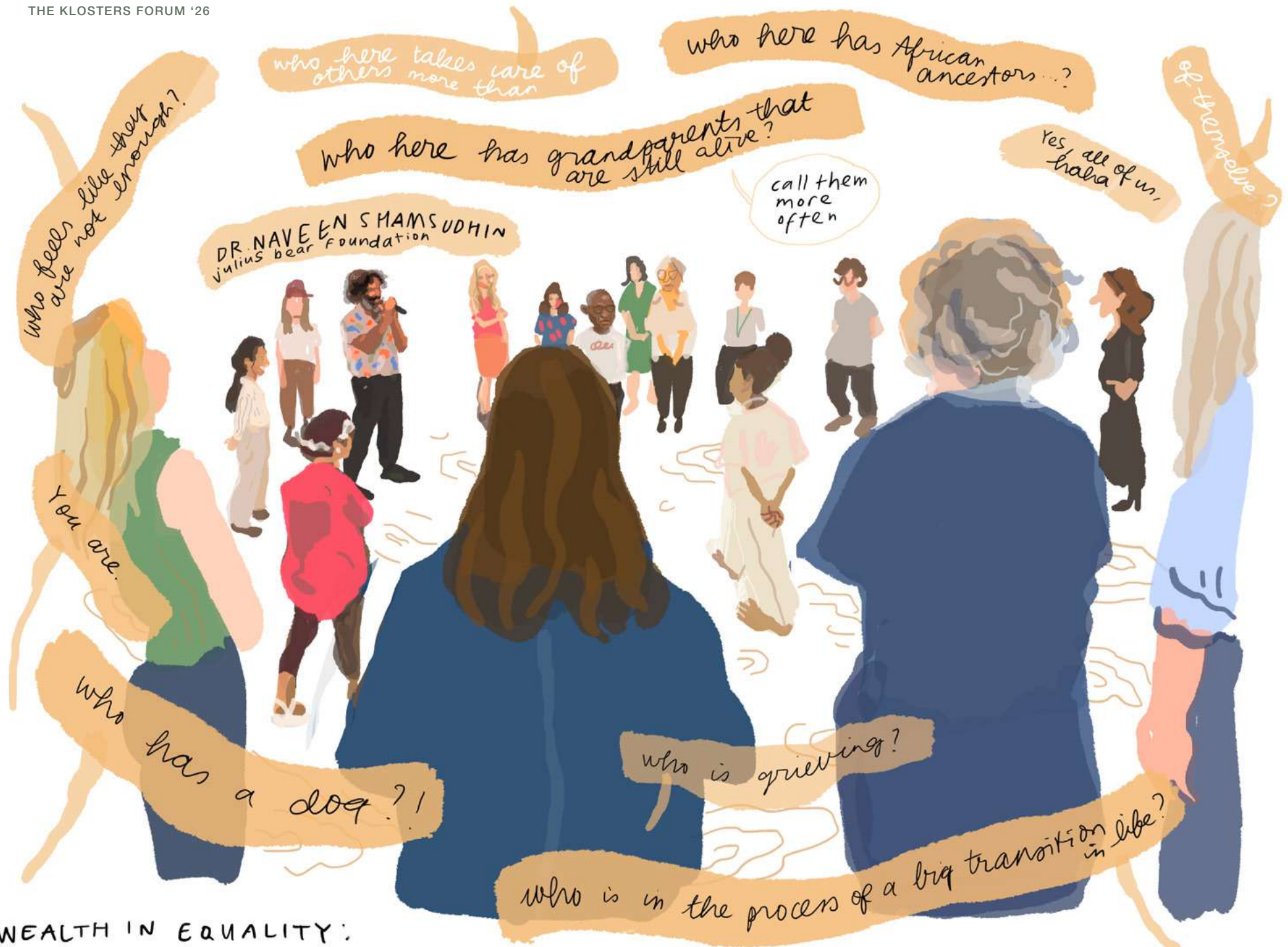
The observed learning processes align closely with the work of Shamsudhin and Saegesser (2024) on Decolonial Embodied Transformative Learning, which emphasizes the role of embodied, participatory, and reflective practices in supporting shifts in meaning, perspective, and action. Participants moved from personal reflection to collective sense-making and, ultimately, to considering how they might contribute to positive change.

Mentoring, sharing knowledge, opening networks, building capacity, fostering inclusion, and creating opportunities for others.

Finally, participants identified practical ways of creating greater equality beyond financial redistribution, including mentoring,

sharing knowledge, opening networks, building capacity, fostering inclusion, and creating opportunities for others. The closing emotional reflection suggested increased feelings of gratitude, connection, openness, and possibility. Overall, the workshop demonstrated how creative, embodied, and participatory approaches can deepen understanding of wealth inequality while fostering empathy, perspective change, and a stronger sense of personal agency in contributing to more equitable and sustainable futures.





WEALTH IN EQUALITY:

creative and embodied pathways towards ecological and social transformation

Additional Sessions

(a) Warm Data Lab TKF26

Workshop hosts

- ◇ **Joséphine von Mitschke-Collande**, Eco-sufficiency Lead at Mercator Foundation, Switzerland
- ◇ **Heiko Specking**, Founder of specking+partners, Switzerland & Collaborator with the International Bateson Institute, Sweden

Workshop objective

Providing and holding the space for participants to meet each other and to start a shared journey exploring the different relationships woven into the complex issues we are working on. An open question is reflected upon through the lenses of various contexts. Participants are encouraged to move around freely from context to context while speaking to the question in smaller circles.

Workshop overview

A Warm Data Lab (designed by Nora Bateson), is a group practice that highlights interdependency and generates an understanding of systemic patterns for people with no previous exposure to systems theory. It is a play for revealing relationships that are integral and woven into the complex fabric of the issues we are working on. The Warm Data Lab process allows participants to see new patterns and causations, as well as to respond to them with a broader comprehension. In this way, the movements within a Warm Data Lab enable new responses to complex challenges. It also allows for mutual learning and the building of new relationships.

Participating in a Warm Data Lab is like the best after-dinner conversations you have ever had, with people you may have never met. Participants share their stories and observations about a common question, moving between small groups to explore the day's topic from different viewpoints, such as family, health, ecology, identity, art, and more. What is possible when people meet people as people, not as roles, titles, or experts, to discuss the changes we're living through together?

After two short introductory stories were shared to open the space, the question asked for the Warm Data Lab at TKF26 was: **"What is music in a changing world?"**

Key outcomes

The Warm Data Lab process isn't designed for outcomes. Rather, as an experiment, an explorative roam. The session encourages a different way of noticing what happened during the conversations and how individual perceptions of telling one's stories change when moving through different contexts and meeting different people and their stories.

These experiences were described as a "kaleidoscope of conversation", packed with enriching stories, laughter, and insight. They nourish the soul, transform the way we approach work, life, and our communities, and ultimately, create space for new relationships to flourish.

During the final sharing, observations were exchanged. People realised that their perspectives had changed during the process. “I was surprised how deeply I trusted the people when I shared my very personal story”. “I realised that when I changed contexts, I took parts of a previous context into a new one.” From experience, this can lead to a more reflective approach in formulating concept notes as well as to anticipating a broader range of possibilities in meeting some of our daily challenges.



(b) Needs & Leads Session

Facilitated by **Reto von der Becke**, Chairman and CEO, VDB Group

At TKF26, the “Needs & Leads” session once again proved to be a highly effective format for catalysing meaningful collaboration within the TKF community. Designed to match concrete project needs with actionable support, the session provided a structured yet open forum for peer-to-peer exchange.

Over 30 participants presented their “needs” in rapid-fire two-minute pitches, outlining specific requests ranging from funding and strategic partnerships to talent acquisition, product feedback, and policy influence. These were met with real-time “leads” from the audience—offers of introductions, ideas, platforms, or solutions.

The session was underpinned by TKF’s unique culture of trust, reciprocity, and shared purpose, enabling participants to speak candidly and receive targeted support. Attendees were encouraged to follow up on leads, ensuring that connections made during the session could translate into tangible next steps.

More than just an exchange of business cards or ideas, the session exemplified TKF’s commitment to actionable progress. It created direct pathways for collaboration among people committed to systems change and innovation. Participants left the Forum not only inspired, but also equipped with specific contacts and commitments to accelerate their work.

“Having the space to creatively free range with aligned collaborators expanded my scope of cultural work in the climate sphere, sharpening my understanding of the stakes--and the strengths in community that we already have in hand”.

J. English Cook Co-Founder & Artistic Director, The Climate Film Festival NYC







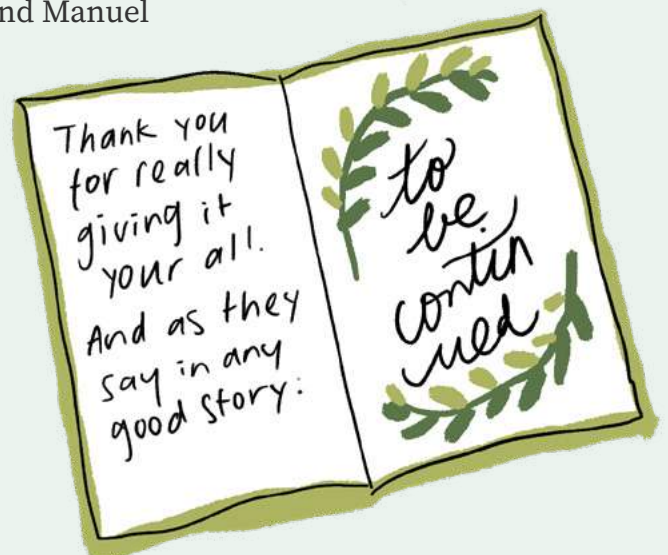
Thank You

TKF26 would not have been possible without the help of our partners, supporters, advisors, TKF Patrons and Friends, moderators, curatorial committee and volunteers. **A BIG THANK YOU to you all!**

TKF26's Carbon Footprint is being calculated. You will be able to find a copy of the report on our website.

We were thrilled to once again welcome Menah Wellen as our illustrator, Magnus Arrevad as our photographer and also our filmmakers Marie Alice Wolfszahn and Manuel

Biedermann. Thank you also to Saskia Edens for her performance of La Délégation de la Forêt and Gudrun Turner for sharing her knowledge of the local fauna & flora.



“The beautifully curated programme promotes collaboration and sharing between an impressive group of people in an exquisite setting. Blown away by the generosity and kindness of the group. The organisation is slick and thoughtful”

Kevin Campbell Davidson Associate Lecturer,
Goldsmiths College





Klosters

A Place Shaped by Nature, Culture and Community

Nestled in the Swiss Alps, Klosters has long been a place where landscape, culture and community are deeply intertwined. Originally settled by the Walser people in the 13th century, the village developed through mountain farming, forestry, trade and a strong tradition of craftsmanship before becoming one of Switzerland's most cherished alpine destinations. While internationally renowned for its spectacular scenery and warm hospitality, Klosters has preserved a remarkable sense of authenticity, reflected in its traditional wooden architecture, enduring alpine customs and living traditions such as the horse-drawn carriages that continue to travel through the valley today. Together, these elements create a unique atmosphere where heritage is not simply remembered but continues to be lived.

Surrounded by forests, alpine meadows and mountain peaks, the village reminds us that culture does not exist apart from nature, but is shaped by it. As we explored *The Cultural Turn* at TKF26, there could hardly have been a more fitting place to gather.

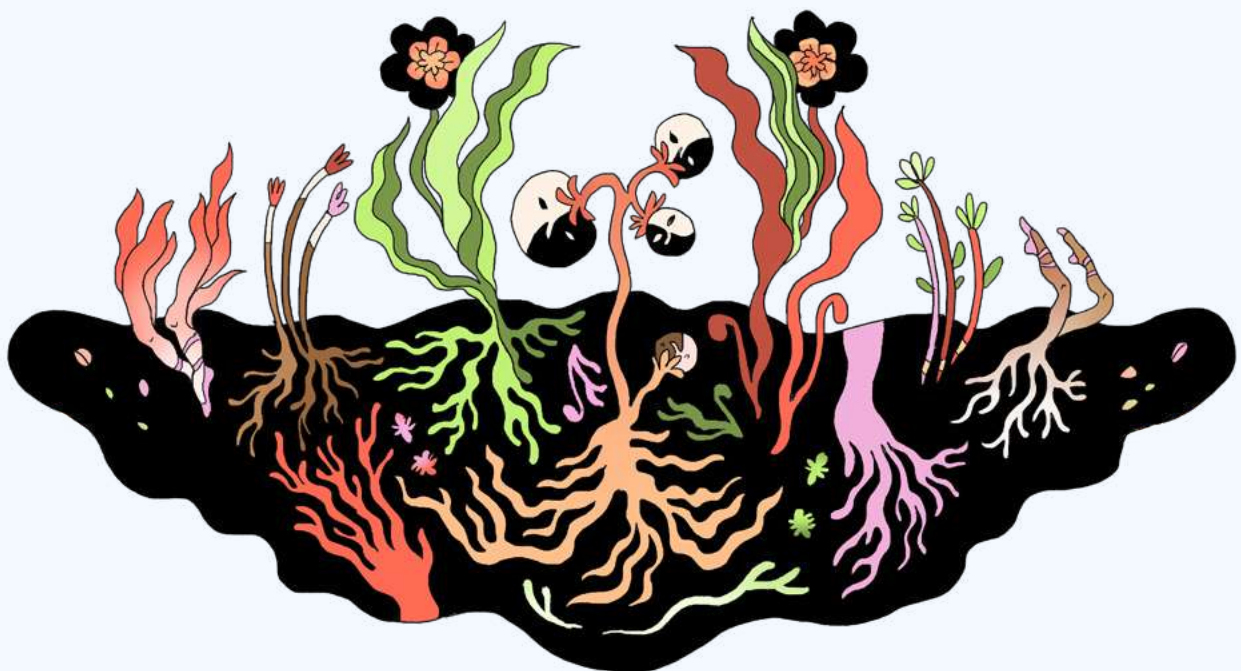
The Klosters Forum is deeply grateful to the local community, whose generosity and partnership have helped shape the Forum since its beginnings. We take particular pride in the long-standing collaborations we have built with many local partners, including Marianne Flütsch and her horses, Chesa Grischuna, Piz Buin, Madrisa Hof, Armandos and many others who contribute their expertise, hospitality and friendship year after year. We also extend our sincere thanks to the newly elected Mayor of Klosters, Christian Kindschi, whose warm welcome and opening remarks at TKF26 reflected the village's commitment to fostering dialogue, collaboration and innovation in service of a more regenerative future.



TKF27

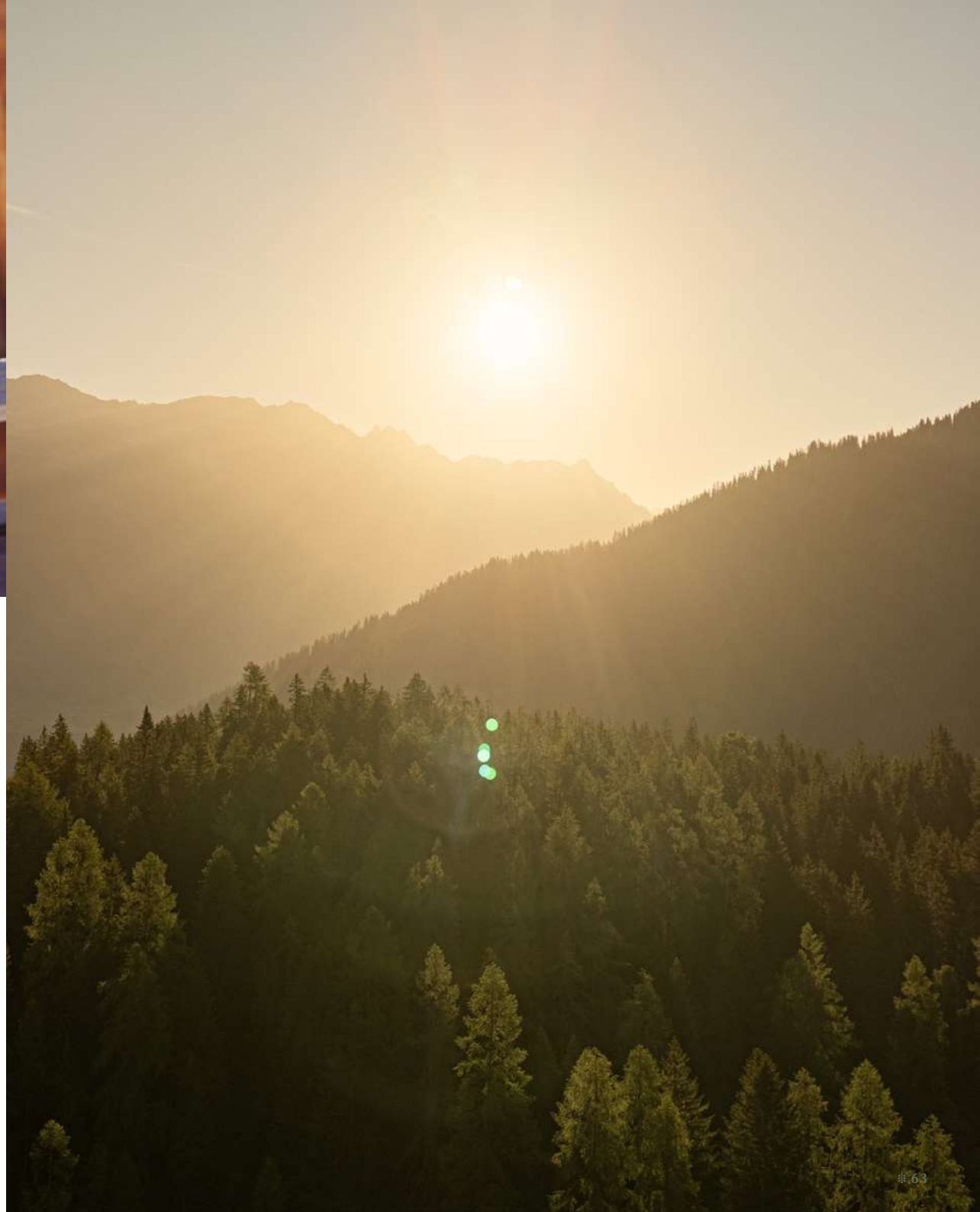
TKF27 will take place on
16-18 June 2027.

During TKF27 we will again convene a selected group of key stakeholders to continue to *explore how creative processes, and new collaborations between the environmental and cultural sectors can help us navigate current ecological challenges.*





We continue to maintain and promote the TKF Community of the previous topics after they cease to be the biannual focus topic through a number of channels, including the TKF Talks, TKF Podcast Series, supporting participant meet-ups, facilitating topic WhatsApp groups and hosting online “check-in” sessions for TKF participants to share updates and to present on projects that they need assistance with.





TKF27
16-18 June 2027
To be continued...

