

Land Selection Framework

What we're building

A shared data infrastructure to help people find land for regenerative community settlements built to flourish over 50–100 years. The premise: choosing where to settle is too important to leave to gut-feel and real-estate listings. Climate trajectory, soil resilience, water security, geopolitical sovereignty, the density of existing regenerative networks — these decide whether a project survives its first generation. But they sit scattered across hundreds of public datasets, in incompatible formats, and are almost impossible to combine without serious effort.

The output is a transparent, open-source, open-data tool that surfaces these dimensions in one place, with full source / vintage / method transparency, and no hidden scoring that pretends one place is better than another. The user decides what matters; the tool shows the data honestly.

V1 is data ingestion — clean, documented public datasets exportable to Jupyter and QGIS. No search interface, no scoring. **V2** adds a query and weighting layer, and red-line filtering for hard disqualifiers. **V3** extends to on-site data (soil kits, sensors, walking observations) and cosmological data governance. V1 is what's being worked on now.

How collaboration works

The project is structured as a **passed-around document package**. Three markdown files — Overview, Specifications, Implementation Strategy — travel together as a single versioned plan. They are the source of truth. Everything else (this doc, chat threads, the original criteria sheet in Drive) is derivative.

Two counters track state:

- **vN — implementation version.** Currently v1. Increments when the scope of what we're building changes substantially.
- **rN — collaboration round.** Currently r3. Increments each time the documents are passed to a new contributor.

Each round works like this:

1. A contributor receives the package along with a **Handoff Request** — a short note describing what's being asked of them in this round.
2. They read the documents with an AI assistant guiding the session.
3. They contribute their perspective — revising sections, adding commentary, answering open questions, surfacing what their experience sees that isn't there.
4. Decisions already tagged **[COMMITTED]** are not overwritten — commentary is added below them, attributed.

5. They update the **Collaboration Log**: one row in the Contribution History table with their name, role, and what they added.
6. They prepare the next Handoff Request (open, or directed to a specific person).
7. The documents pass on.

Why this shape. It keeps the documents coherent (one editor at a time), preserves attribution, and makes the project's evolution legible. Anyone reading the Collaboration Log can see how each idea got there and who put it there.

Parallel work is welcome. The document protocol covers formal contributions to the docs themselves. Plenty of useful work happens off the rounds — practitioner interviews, framework reading, data-source scouting, dataset access checks — and folds into a future round. Nobody needs to wait their turn to start contributing.

Sync points sit on top of the rounds. The Implementation Strategy defines five moments where the whole group weighs in rather than a single contributor: locking the criteria list, locking the data-source priority list, locking V1 scope after the coverage report, declaring V1 shipped, and the V1 → V2 transition. These are group decisions, not individual ones.

Where we are right now. r3 was Deca's synthesis on 28 April. r4 is open. The next contributor has not yet been chosen.

What's in the docs (rounds so far)

- **r1** — **Adam** sketched the GIS architecture and named several non-negotiables that the project keeps: no hidden composite scores, every value carries source and vintage, the interface must never imply more precision than the underlying data has.
- **r2** — **Askja** wrote the substantive land-selection framework — twelve metrics covering geopolitical resilience, climate, regenerative networks, water, ecology, energy autonomy, accessibility, biodiversity, economic and legal context. Named data sources for most of them, introduced the **state + trajectory** scoring model, and the **red lines** concept for absolute disqualifiers.
- **r3** — **Deca** synthesised both into a coherent V1 plan with framing decisions and reasoning, a clean scope (V1 = data ingestion only; no querying or scoring), and an 11-step implementation sequence. Documented the V2/V3 design questions where Adam and Askja's framings disagree, so neither is lost.

The three documents that travel together are `Overview.md` (framing), `Specifications.md` (what V1 produces), and `Implementation Strategy.md` (sequencing).

Working group

Person	Role	Status
Adam	GIS architect	Contributed r1
Askja	Originator, regenerative land practitioner	Contributed r2
Deca	Synthesiser	Contributed r3
Gustaf	Practitioner reality-check, embedded in eco-villages	Holding the r4 seat
Monty	Regenerative academic research	Named contributor, not yet engaged
Alaska	Data engineering	Named contributor, status to confirm

The “named contributor” rows reflect the Expected Contributors table in the Overview — people the package is meant to reach but who haven’t yet had their round.

Possible roles to take

These are categories of contribution, not formal positions. Anyone can hold more than one, and the list is descriptive — propose a role that isn’t here if it fits what you’d bring.

- **Practitioner.** You’ve done a land hunt yourself, or with others, and have field-tested knowledge of what actually mattered. Reality-checks on the framework, stories, friction points the docs don’t see.
- **Researcher.** Depth in one of the dimensions — climate projection, soil resilience, civilizational stability, geopolitical risk, ecological recovery, agroecology. You keep the framework from being naive in your area.
- **Cartographer.** GIS, spatial data, the craft of making landscapes legible. Architecture, data formats, map design.
- **Scout.** Frameworks, datasets, sources others miss. Obscure papers, regional registries, maintained open-data portals.
- **Interviewer.** 30-minute conversations with land-seekers, capturing patterns. High-leverage: brings the field’s lived experience into the framework without requiring practitioners to read markdown.
- **Storyteller.** Articulates the project in language that travels. Keeps the why intact as the work gets technical.
- **Bridge-builder.** Sits between this and other regenerative networks, funders, partners, allied projects. Locates the work in the wider field, finds collaborators.

- **Steward.** Holds rhythm and continuity. Keeps the group moving, the documents alive, contributions from getting lost between sessions.
- **Builder.** When V1 ingestion needs pipeline code written, you write it. Probably not the first hands needed.

How to plug in

1. Read the three documents (`Overview.md` , `Specifications.md` , `Implementation Strategy.md` — ~45 min total).
2. Name the role(s) you'd take.
3. Coordinate with the current active contributor about taking a future round, or starting parallel work that feeds in.

The pace is async. Contributions can be single-round or sustained. Stepping back after one round is normal — the protocol is designed for asymmetric participation.

Project state

Open-source, open-data, low-cost, non-commercial. Working group, not an organisation. The documents are the structure; everything else is conversation around them.