

GAIA

A Nature-Backed Monetary System

Executive Summary

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If you believe the planet will heal and we will survive - Gaia will make you wealthy

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The Problem in One Sentence

The current monetary system was designed in an era when nature was assumed to be infinite and free. A standing forest is worth zero dollars. Cut it down — now it has value. This is not a policy failure. It is an architectural flaw at the foundation of how money works.

Why Symptoms Don't Work

Fifty years of carbon taxes, recycling campaigns, green bonds, and climate summits have not reversed ecological collapse. They have slowed it in places. They are all, without exception, symptom responses. None of them touches the underlying machine that keeps generating destruction faster than it can be treated. You cannot fix the output without fixing the incentive that produces it.

The Gaia Principle

Money is created when the planet gets healthier. Money is destroyed when it is damaged. The monetary incentive IS the ecological incentive — not as a policy overlay, but as the foundational architecture of the currency itself.

How It Works

Money Creation — 3 Sources Only

- Verified ecological restoration — reforestation, soil regeneration, reef rebuilding, wetland recovery
- Care work — raising children, teaching, healing, community building
- Clean energy production — verified displacement of fossil fuel generation

Money Destruction

- Deforestation, soil depletion, ocean dumping, aquifer extraction
- CO₂ emissions beyond defined per-capita baseline
- Plastic production, toxic discharge, biodiversity destruction

Anti-Hoarding (Demurrage)

Gaia loses 3–5% of value per year if held. This makes hoarding irrational, long-term ecological investment rational, and wealth concentration structurally impossible — not through regulation, but through the monetary mechanism itself.

What It Changes

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Today's System	Gaia System
GDP grows when forests are cut	Money grows when forests expand
Restoration is a cost	Restoration is the most profitable profession
DAC costs \$400–1,000/tonne	DAC creates money per tonne removed
War is economically productive	War destroys money automatically
Care work is unpaid	Care work creates currency
Hoarding compounds wealth	Hoarding erodes wealth

Transition

Phase 1 (Years 1–10): Parallel currency alongside existing money. Phase 2 (Years 10–25): Legal tender in pioneer nations (Costa Rica, Nordic countries, New Zealand). Phase 3 (Years 25–50): Refuge currency as legacy systems face ecological stress. The technology exists today — satellite verification, distributed ledgers, liquid democracy.

Protection for the Vulnerable

Every person receives a Universal Ecological Dividend — a baseline Gaia allocation by right of existence. The poorest billion, with the smallest footprints, are net beneficiaries from day one. Industrial workers transition through a decade-long parallel phase, with retraining itself a money-creating activity. Resource-dependent nations discover their restoration assets are worth more than their extractive ones.

Next Steps

- Read the full manifesto (available in English, German, Spanish)
- Connect with the ReFi and ecological economics community
- Explore co-founding, research partnership, or impact investment

For the full manifesto or to explore partnership: gaia-economy.org