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D3.1

REPORT ON BOSS-ZOOPS FOR PILOTS

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Executive Summary

This document outlines deliverable 'D3.1 Report on BoSS-Zoöps for Pilots', which is part of the 'Bauhaus of the Seas Sails - BoSS' (BoSS) project (project reference: 101079995) funded by Horizon Europe under the heading HORIZON-MISS-2021-NEB-01-01. It introduces the comprehensive concept and model of Zoöp, which is a development by Nieuwe Instituut (NI), but focuses on presenting the refined concept specifically tailored for the BoSS context, known as BoSS-Zoöp, along with the actions taken by NI and the BoSS Pilots to implement BoSS-Zoöps in the local contexts.



1. BoSS-Zoöp

1.1 What is a Zoöp?

Zoöp can be understood as a type of multispecies assembly, but its aim is not primarily to (politically) articulate the rights of other than human life, but rather establish a model in which human and other-than-human life can contribute and collaborate in decision making processes.

Zoöp is an organisation model that works with other-than-human life in such a manner that *“other-than-human life is treated as though it already has rights”*, and based on these rights, has legitimate interests. From where we stand, ‘Having rights’ is not enough. How rights are considered and implemented is the real issue. Zoöp constitutes a practical model to implement the intended effects of rights of other-than-human life in organisations. The Zoöp legal model was finalised and presented in September 2021, allowing the Nieuwe Instituut to become the first actual Zoöp in the world on April 22, 2022.

Zoöp is short for *zoöperation* – a combination of the words ‘cooperation’ and ‘zoë’, the Greek word for life. A Zoöp is an organisation in which human and other-than-human life collaborate. The Zoöp organisation model is focused on a transformational learning process. An organisation that becomes a Zoöp installs a person (a so-called Speaker for the Living) with the task to represent the interests of other-than human life in the operational sphere of the organisation. The Speaker joins certain chosen strategic and operational processes of the organisation, and makes sure that the interests of other-than-human life are taken into account in these processes.

Practically, the Speaker guides the organisation through a learning process: the zoöconomic annual cycle, through which the organisation learns how to contribute to ecological regeneration (see Annex B).

The Speaker for the Living is an independent advisor, who receives their assignment to take up the role of Speaker for the Living from the Zoöconomic Foundation. The sole (statutory) task of the Zoöconomic Foundation is to represent the interests of other-than-human life in the operational sphere



of Zoöps. This construction ensures the independence of the Speaker for the Living, and ensures that representation of the interests of other-than-human life is the only agenda for the Speaker for the Living.

An organisation becomes a Zoöp by signing the Zoöp Contract. With this contract, a Speaker for the Living is added to the organisation and the commitment to ecological regeneration is formally secured, and cannot be moved aside without losing the Zoöp status.

1.2 What is a BoSS-Zoöp?

A BoSS-Zoöp is a newly developed variant, specifically for the purposes of BoSS. It is a project-oriented variety of the proto-Zoöp. Proto-Zoöp organisations (or projects of organisations) work with the Zoöp model without signing the Zoöp-contract.

- A BoSS-Zoöp focuses on one or more BoSS projects that the pilot undertakes with its partners (and not on the organisation as a whole).
- A BoSS-Zoöp explicitly focuses on relations between the organisation / the project and their local water bodies, seas and marine ecosystems (and focuses less on land-based ecosystems).
- A BoSS-Zoöp can be implemented by an organisation on its own, but also in collaboration with other Sea Forum members that work together on BoSS projects.
- A BoSS-Zoöp is formed by agreeing among the collaborating partners on a Memorandum of Understanding (a so-called M.O.U.). This describes the nature and intentions of the collaboration as BoSS-Zoöp. In this M.O.U. also the role of the Speaker for the Living in the project is described. This M.O.U. is not a contract, but a document that describes the intentions and principles of a collaboration. It has no binding legal status, but does clearly articulate intentions of collaborators to each other.



2. Implementing BoSS-Zoöps

The procedure for implementing BoSS-Zoöp involves the subsequent steps:

Identification

- BoSS pilots identify the **organisation or BoSS project** that will allow for a rich learning experience for all participants when the Zoöp method is applied in it.
- BoSS pilots identify the **partners** that will form the BoSS-Zoöp around this project. This can be one organisation or several participating organisations from the pilot's Sea Forum.
- The BoSS pilot identifies a possible **Speaker for the Living** that will join the organisation or project development team to actively represent the interests of other-than-human life and to make sure these are taken into account in the project's development.

Introduction & Plan

- In one or more online meetings, the BoSS-Zoöp project, partners and Speaker for the Living are introduced to the **Zoöp team** of the Nieuwe Instituut.
- Together with the intended BoSS-Zoöp partners, the Zoöp team plans the **BoSS-Zoöp workshop**.
- The Zoöp team of the Nieuwe Instituut will draft the **M.O.U.** stating the intentions of the collaboration, and will finalise the text after receiving feedback by the BoSS-Zoöp partners. Preferably this is done before the Zoöp workshop takes place. This M.O.U. will also include a statement about the intentions of working with the Zoöp approach beyond the scope of the BoSS project (and is signed at the BoSS-Zoöp workshop)

Workshop

- A 2-day BoSS-Zoöp workshop is organised by the Zoöp team on the location of the pilot, involving the pilot's their Sea Forum partners, their Speakers for the Living and other invited guests.



Ideally, this workshop spans two consecutive days onsite. Alternatively, it can be arranged as a one-day onsite session followed by a second day conducted online shortly thereafter.

Content

In a 2-day BoSS-Zoöp workshop, participants learn the following:

- All participants are familiarised with the practicalities of the BoSS-Zoöp. What do you do? How do you do it? What is the responsibility of the BoSS-Zoöp team? How do you work with a Speaker for the Living?
- The participants, guided by the Zoöp team, perform the baseline assessment of the ecological integrity of the project(s)(see the manual for the zoöconomic annual cycle included in Annex B).
- The Zoöp team is currently developing easy-to-use worksheets to assist BoSS-Zoöps in performing the baseline assessment and the documentation of the development of the projects after the baseline assessment.
- With the baseline assessment as reference, focus points are identified to which special attention will be given to increase the project's positive impact on marine ecosystems, on human-sea relations, and on awareness of general publics of the qualities and importance of human-sea relations. These are also the particular attention points for the advice of the Speaker for the Living.
- With these focus points established, the participation of the Speaker for the Living in the project development will be planned.

Deliverables

The following Deliverables will be produced in the context of the BoSS-Zoop development:

- 1) A baseline assessment of the ecological integrity of the BoSS project at hand produced collectively.
- 2) A list of focus points in the development of the project on which the Speaker for the Living will advise in order to increase the positive socio-ecological impact of the project.
- 3) A planning of the involvement of the Speaker for the Living in the project development.
- 4) A signed M.O.U, stating the intentions of the collaboration, describing the nature of the work with the Speaker for the Living, and including a statement about the



possible intentions of working with the Zoöp approach beyond the scope of the BoSS project.

Following the workshop, a separate (online) gathering of the people that will act as Speaker for the Living in the BoSS-Zoöps will be organised by the Zoöp team to answer questions and prepare the Speakers for their work.

Following this, the Zoöp team of Het Nieuwe Instituut will plan regular check-in moments with the BoSS-Zoöp Speakers the Living collectively to discuss questions and developments, and to facilitate mutual learning about the (BoSS-)Zoöp methods.

2.2 Challenges

Establishing a multispecies assembly was set in the BoSS project as a drop that all pilots had to develop. The main challenge with regards to the Zoöp drop in the BoSS project was that the participating organisations (with the exclusion of the Nieuwe Instituut) were not familiar with the actual requirements of being a Zoöp and only learned about these after the start of the project. The requirement to sign a contract turned out to be a challenge for all pilots, to a smaller or larger degree.

Next to this, it proved to be difficult for the pilots to identify a possible organisation that would adopt the Zoöp model, also apart from the contract requirement.

Lastly, with some pilots we also suffer from a language barrier which makes it hard to assess whether we are understanding each other sufficiently well.

2.3 Mitigation Strategies

The Zoöp challenges listed above moved the Zoöp team to design a special format for the BoSS-Zoöp. The format is designed to provide a learning experience for as many partners as possible, while aiming to keep as much logic of the Zoöp model in place, and at the time remove the main hurdles listed above.



2.4 Accomplishments

So far, the Zoöp team of NI delivered:

- a small presentation to the pilots at the kick-off of the BoSS project.
- one online lecture with more backgrounds and practicalities.
- an extensive (online) Zoöp Q&A (see Annex C).
- an expert development workshop as part of the BoSS conference in Oeiras, on reading ecological integrity of projects or processes.

Next to this, team Zoöp of the Nieuwe Instituut has had several one-on-one conversations with the separate pilots to talk through specific questions and possibilities with regards to applying the Zoöp model.

The Zoöp team of NI has produced the following:

- A 2 page brief description of all movings part of the Zoöp model (see Annex A).
- A template Zoöp Contract (now no longer to be applied in the BoSS project).
- A manual for working with the zoöconomic annual cycle (see Annex B).
- General profile for a Speaker for the Living (as part of presentation slides, included below).
- And we have developed the content of the 2-day BoSS Zoöp workshop.

The Zoöp team of NI is in the process of producing:

- Worksheets for performing the baseline assessment of BoSS-Zoöps. These are also intended to be included in the geo-spatial platform (Drop 8)
- A template text for the BoSS Zoöp M.O.U.
- A section in the zoop.earth website dedicated to the BoSS-Zoöps, with all specific BoSS related documentation.



3. BoSS-Zoöps in Pilots

3.1 Status

Lists of BoSS pilots, BoSS-Zoöp status so far, and upcoming steps.

Delta

- The BoSS-Zoöp is to be formed around the (development process of) the new visitors centre of the Grenspark Groot Saeftinghe
- The project team consists of representatives of Hulst municipality, Foundation Zeeuwse Landschap, and the province of Zeeland. The coordinator of Grenspark Groot Saeftinghe is participating in the project team on behalf of the province of Zeeland. The network of Grenspark Groot Saeftinghe includes several interesting and qualified candidates for possible Speakers for the Living.
- A date for the 2-day BoSS-Zoöp workshop will be planned when the project team is coming together in mid january.

Hamburg

- BoSS-Zoöp: Deichtorhallen will adopt the Zoöp model.
- Intended Speaker for the Living: Hannes Höhne, member of the Sea Forum, a regenerative farmer, with a PhD in ecosystem engineering.
- BoSS-Zoöp Workshop is aimed to take place in mid April 2024.
- Zoöp Diechtorhalle intends to continue beyond the scope of the BoSS project.

Malmö

- BoSS-Zoöp will be formed by Sea Forum members together, collaboratively working on the BoSS projects.
- Possible Speakers for the Living: person connected to Västra Hamnen, an NGO that recently joined the Sea forum, or someone from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, or someone recommended by the Marine Education Center
- BoSS-Zoöp workshop is aimed to take place in late April 2024.



Genova

- The BoSS-Zoöp is aimed to be formed by the development team of the interactive storytelling project.
- A possible Speaker for the Living is identified and approached by the pilot team, but not yet confirmed.
- We expect confirmation of the candidate Speaker for the Living early January, after which we can plan the next practicalities, including BoSS-Zoöp Baseline workshop.

Venice

- The BoSS -Zoöp is aimed to be formed by the development team of the BoSS projects that is described in Venice's executive plan. The BoSS-Zoöp will be engaging with all Venice's BoSS-projects (Blue Seniors, Tidal Architectures and the Regenerativie Menu) in an integrated manner
- The confirmed candidate Speaker for the Living is the Director of the Natural History Museum of Venice.
- Planning of the practicalities, including the BoSS-Zoöp Baseline workshop will take place in January.

Lisboa

- The BoSS-Zoöp projectteam is still to be identified more specifically, but will include the BoSS pilot team of the Gulbenkian museum.
- Possible Speaker for the Living have been identified, but not yet confirmed.
- Further conversation on particular questions, possible scenarios and possible Speakers for the Living in Lisboa will take place in January 2024. Planning the further practicalities will follow this conversation.

Oeiras

- The BoSS-Zoöp project team is still to be identified more specifically, but will include the BoSS pilot team of the Oeiras pilot.
- Possible Speakers for the Living have been identified, but not yet confirmed.
- Further conversation on particular questions, possible scenarios and possible Speakers for the Living in Oeiras will take place in January 2024. Planning the further practicalities will follow this conversation.



3.2 Conclusions and Future Work

The newly developed form of the BoSS Zoöp is closely connected to the actual scope of the BoSS projects themselves. This means the conditions of continuation of the Zoöp beyond the scope of BoSS are reduced, when compared to full Zoöp. If participating organisations choose to implement the BoSS-Zoöp model on their own operation, (instead of only on the BoSS project development team) it is relatively straightforward to see how the Zoöp could continue.

With the now established BoSS-Zoöp format, we can more easily include collaboration partners and thereby increase the impact of the learning experience and the drops' ripple effect in the longer run.

The Zoöp team is interested in supporting pilots who want to establish a complete Zoöp, which includes signing the Zoöp Contract and thereby formally embedding a Speaker for the Living and including this person in selected processes. Several of the pilots are working on adopting the Zoöp approach in such a way that continuation organisationally is not complicated. It is important to note that after the end of the BoSS project, the organisations will have to provide the Zoöp contribution themselves, which is now covered by the BoSS budget.

Important to note is that it is not within the responsibility nor within the capacity of the Nieuwe Instituut to ensure that these fully-fledged Zoöps are established. The pilots have to decide if they are interested and able to do so, but if they are, we will be ready to support them.

The solution presented in this document is a commitment to include the voices and interests of the environment in decision making processes, testing this to a local level. The scaling of these processes will be encouraged (as it is already taking place in some of the institutions). This represents a major challenge within the BoSS project, and also one of its most innovative features.



Annex A

Zoöp-in-a-nutshell

This two-page document presents the concept and model of Zoöp. Developed prior to the start of the project by Nieuwe Instituut, it was sent to BoSS pilots during the first months of the project as supporting documentation.

Access the following [Link](#) for the concept and model of Zoöp.

Annex B

The zoöconomic annual cycle

This manual reflects the structured learning process that Zoöps go through in order to function symbiotically in the ecosystems it participates in. Once established and trained, the Speaker for the Living will guide the organisation through this learning process.

Access the following [Link](#) for further information.

Annex C

Zoöp Q&A Presentation slides

This presentation visually explains elements of the Zoöp concept and model, including why Zoöps should be established, the current differences between economy and ecology, and what regenerative approaches mean. It was presented to pilots during the Zoöp Q&A session in July as a reminder of key aspects that BoSS pilots should take into consideration to establish a Zoöp in their localities.

Access the following [Link](#) for the materials.