ENCLOSURE MAP

Follow one piece of knowledge from the community that made, cared for, or shared it - through enclosure, and back towards the commons. Write in any language, or draw if that's easier. You don't need to share anything sacred or restricted with the group - you can still think and reflect; whatever works for you.

HOW TO USE THE ENCLOSURE MAP

1. Choose one piece of knowledge, practice, or culture that matters to you or a community you know.
2. Trace it through the five stages below. Work in pairs or trios. One person can write or draw while another reflects; swap roles as you go, so you all get a chance to map your own contribution and reflection. Use other paper or post-it notes to write or draw notes for yourself and/or to share.
3. Choose one act of resistance or solidarity that might help move things towards care, return, or shared governance.

There are no right answers. You can leave a question open, disagree with the framing, or map something that doesn't fit neatly. Go on tangents. Use the map as a tool to discuss, reflect, and sense what emerges.

START HERE

Choose one piece of knowledge, practice, or culture that matters to you or a community you know. It could be a seed saving technique or farming practice, recipe or medicine, song, language or dialect, craft, game, prayer, piece of hardware, open-source software, your own photos, data, writing online...The list is endless.

The thing we are mapping: Whose hands did it come through and who has asserted power to control it?

1. THE COMMONS

Where did it come from? Who made it, cared for it, and passed it on?

Where does it live - in a place, body, season, sound, story, shared online space, tool, community archive...?

2. THE ENCLOSURE

Where was it taken, enclosed, or turned into something ownable, controlled for profit and power, or devalued, diminished, or homogenised? By whom?

How did this happen - through law, money, technology, force, or by other means?

3. THE POWER

Who controls it now? How is power asserted over it? Who profits, benefits, or pays?

Who gets to decide what happens to it? Whose work, knowledge, creativity, care, skill, or contribution is recognised - and whose is overlooked?

4. THE RESISTANCE

Who has pushed back, even if it was small or didn't succeed?

Where could resistance begin or become possible?

5. THE REWILDING

What could stewardship, return, or repair look like in practice?

Who should care for it and govern it? What would need to change, and what support would be needed?

BACK TOWARDS THE COMMONS

Draw an arrow, make a connection, or write what would need to happen for this knowledge to be shared, cared for, returned, repaired, reignited, rewilded, or governed differently.

ONE ACT OF RESISTANCE OR SOLIDARITY

What is one thing you could do, with others, to help make that change possible?

A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Knowledge is often held collectively, even if ownership is claimed by an individual or organisation.
- Enclosure can happen through law, markets, technology, extraction, force, or other means.
- Resistance can be quiet, collective, ongoing, non-linear, or unsuccessful.
- Rewilding asks what care, accountability, and collective governance could look like now.
- If something is sacred or restricted, you can name it without revealing its details.

A WORKED EXAMPLE: A SEED

1. Farmers saved and shared seeds of an Indigenous rice variety for generations.
2. A company patented it.
3. The company owns it, and farmers pay every season (often resulting in debt and over-reliance).
4. Community seed banks keep the old varieties alive, and focus on biodiversity and conservation..
5. Seed held in trust by the farmers who grow it and know the Indigenous varieties and soil well.

KEEP THE MAP ALIVE

This is a working tool, intended to be iterated. Scan the QR code or use **womenintheloop.io/map** to:

- Download the Enclosure Map tool - *Free to copy, adapt, and translate, with credit, under the same licence: Enclosure Map v1.0 (30 Oct 2026) © Sophie Housley, Women In The Loop. Licensed CC BY-SA 4.0: creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0.*
- Explore the session resources and examples.
- Share feedback or suggest changes.
- Find out how the map is developing.
- Sign up for Women In The Loop (WITL) updates.

The Enclosure Map was inspired by the work of Navdanya, Pollicy, Coding Rights, Digital Futures Lab and others. The reflection practice used in the MozFest session is drawn from Theory U (Otto Scharmer, Presencing Institute).

☐ I'm happy for a photo of this map to be taken and used in the project.

You can leave this unticked and still take part. Please don't include names or sensitive details you don't want photographed.

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