



**RSF** REPORTRAR  
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# Green rebuilding of Ukraine

WEBINAR #6



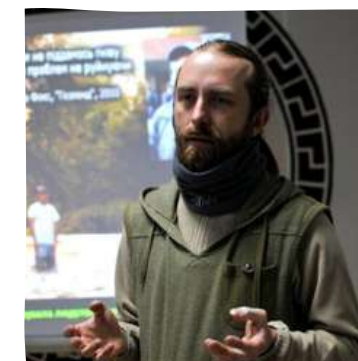


# War and the green recovery:

How to rebuild the economy without destroying the environment?  
How to restore the environment without limiting economic recovery?

**Oleksiy Vasyliuk**

UWEC Expert,  
Director Ukrainian Nature  
Conservation Group



*Combat during cleansing of Adriivka*

*Video: военная хроника III Отдельной штурмовой бригады*

## What changes require restoration?

- Territories are physically damaged (craters, destroyed cities, trenches, fires, and military maneuvers)
- Infrastructure destroyed
- Destruction of sites people and ecosystems depend on for life (e.g. Kakhovka Reservoir)
- Soil pollution
- Depopulation of an area
- Area covered with mines
- Inaccessible due to territories being occupied
- Restoration is delayed and destruction continues due to natural factors





# Changed landscapes in need of post-war restoration



*Destroyed forests (including in Chornobyl Biosphere Reserve)*



*Flooded areas after the Irpin River dam was destroyed*



*Completely burned forests and lands with military fortifications*





Map of Ukrainian agricultural landscapes in the context of Russian military aggression.  
The darker color indicates Ukrainian agricultural landscapes located in risky agriculture zones.





# What does “Green recovery” mean?



*Satellite image showing extensive revegetation along the front line.*

- Infrastructure reconstruction
- De-mining
- Land and vegetation remediation
- Supporting the recovery of ecosystems
- Spontaneous regeneration of natural ecosystems
- Economic regeneration throughout Ukraine that meets “green” standards

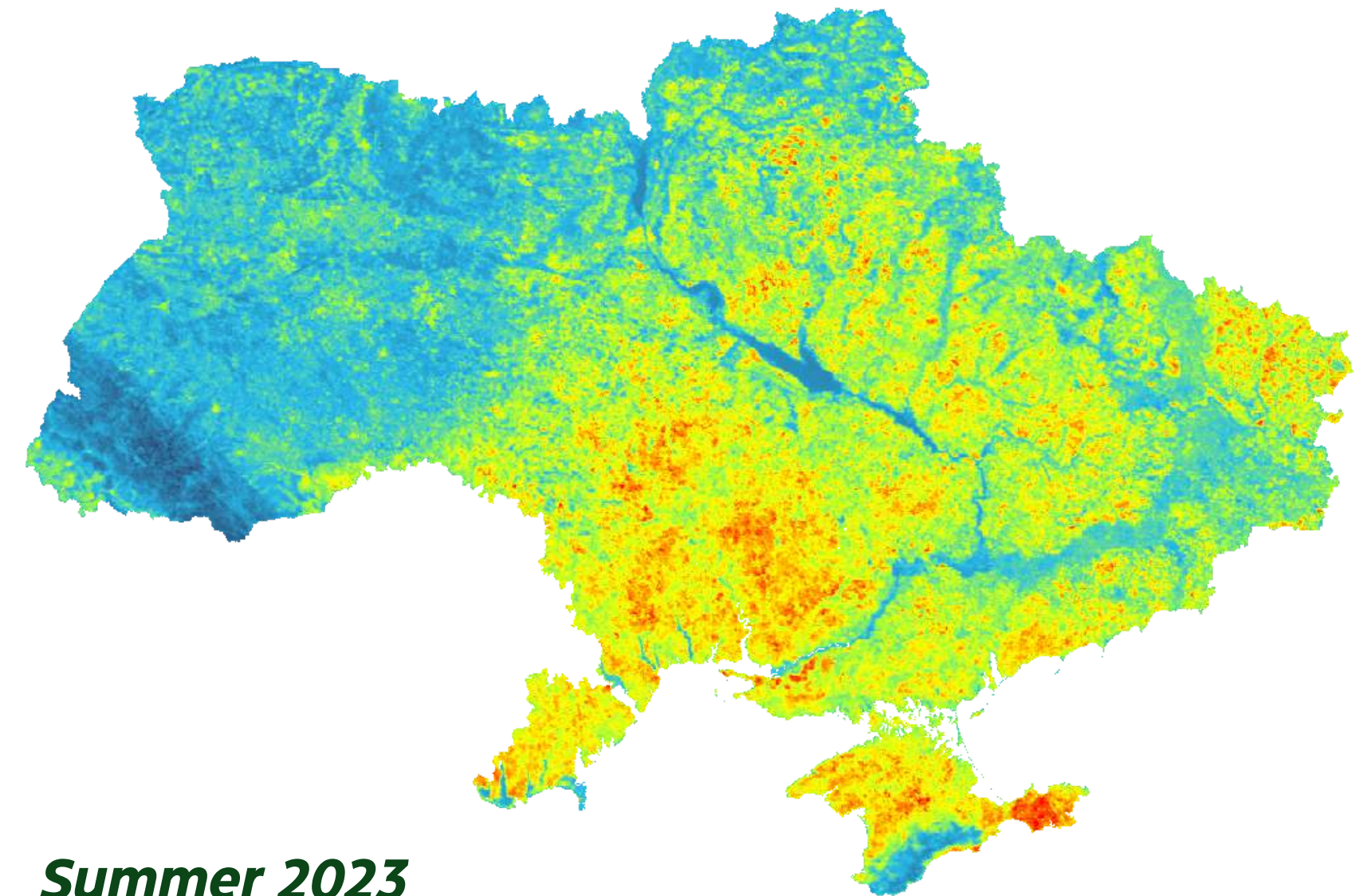
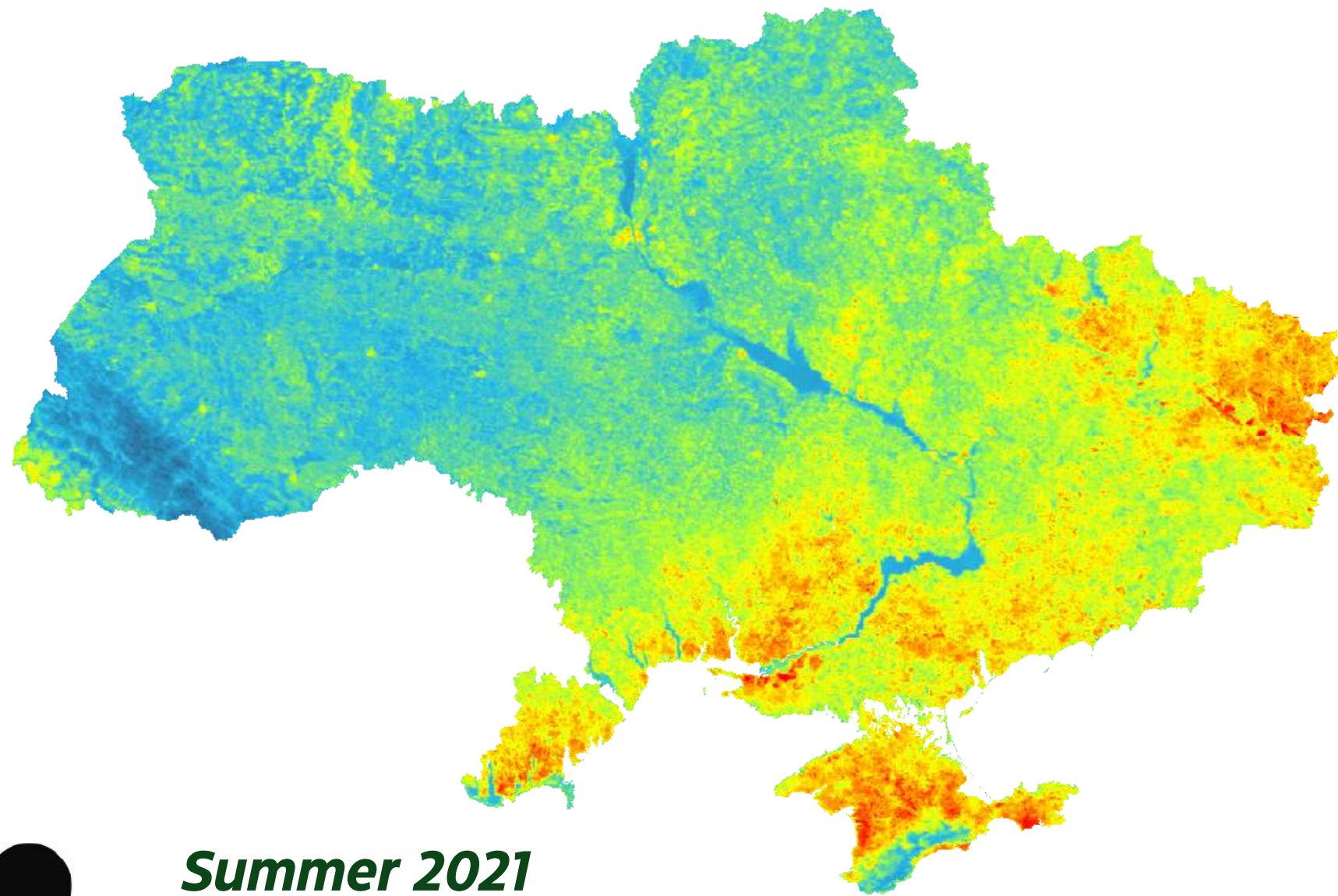


So far, conversations about green recovery have not included ecosystem restoration. Other nations will experience it as consequences of the war.





# Daytime surface temperatures



*Maps: Evhenia Drozdova & Andriy Herasim*



Andriivka, Donetsk region during liberation in August 2023 and in September 2023.

*In summer, no visible vegetation or even small tree branches are visible.*

*After a few weeks, massive growth of invasive plant species are easily spotted.*



Photo: Военная хроника III Отдельной Штурмовой бригады







Photo: Vinsent Mundi



Photo: Vinsent Mundi

Irpın River valley, 3 months after the Irpin dam's destruction

**Plans to rebuild Ukraine shaped by solutions for Irpin >>>** 🔍



Photo: Vinsent Mundi





*Is it time to restore Velykyi Luh? >>>*



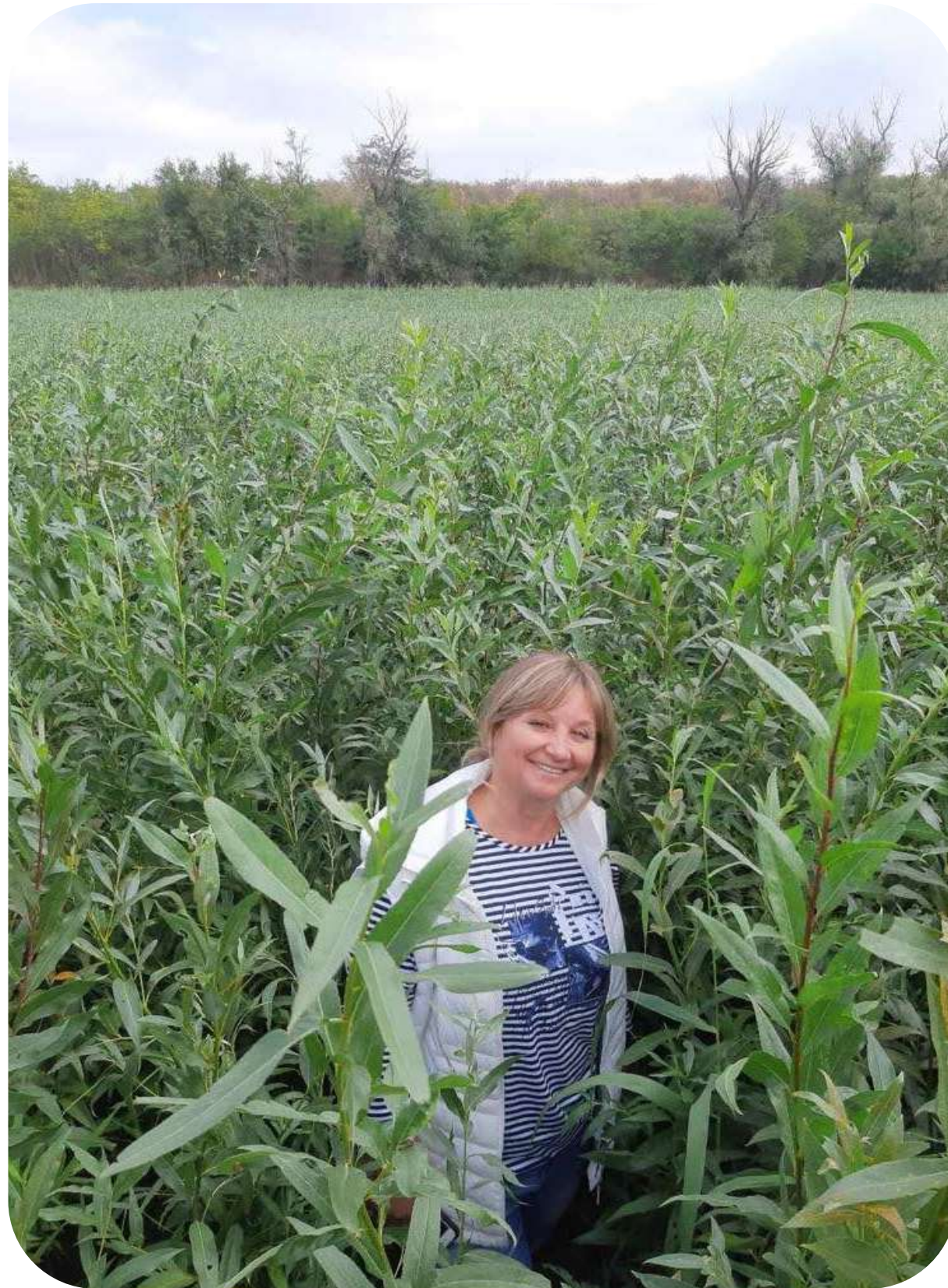
**Photo: Khodosovtsiv O.E.**



**UW  
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Ukraine War  
Environmental  
Consequences  
Work Group



*September 2023  
NGO Environment-  
People-Law  
expedition*



*Photo: NGO Environment-People-Law*







Most common introduced plants that are the first to invade damaged and abandoned areas in Ukraine:

- a) Canadian horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*)
- b) Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
- c) Common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*)







***Photo: Ivan Moysiienko***



## Conclusions about damaged areas

Subsequent fate of damaged areas after de-occupation should be considered through the lenses of:

- Economic utility of de-mining and environmental safety
- Potential to use lands to realize European goals in the fight against climate change and for biodiversity conservation



Photo: Nikopolnews

## Scenarios:

- De-mining non-polluted areas and return them to usefulness
- De-mining polluted lands for use in mining and building materials
- De-mining and/or including land in expanded nature conservation areas
- Create “red zones”



# Conclusions about restoration processes

Any recovery for Ukraine will require significant funding but also demand large quantities of building materials (sand, stone and gravel, lumber) – these are all sourced in ecosystems.

Standards should be implemented to guarantee every restoration donor or investor that:



Natural resources will not be destroyed during building material extraction



Emerald Network areas will not be damaged by mining or restoration work



Recovery and extraction projects will meet EU standards



[Restoring Ukraine's nature post-war: Hopes and risks >>>](#)



Photo: Associated Press





**Torsten Wöllert**

Ukraine Support Group at the  
European Commission

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## European Union support for Ukraine's green recovery



Photo: Weiming



# Thank you for your attention!



<https://uwecworkgroup.info/>

**We love to hear from you.**



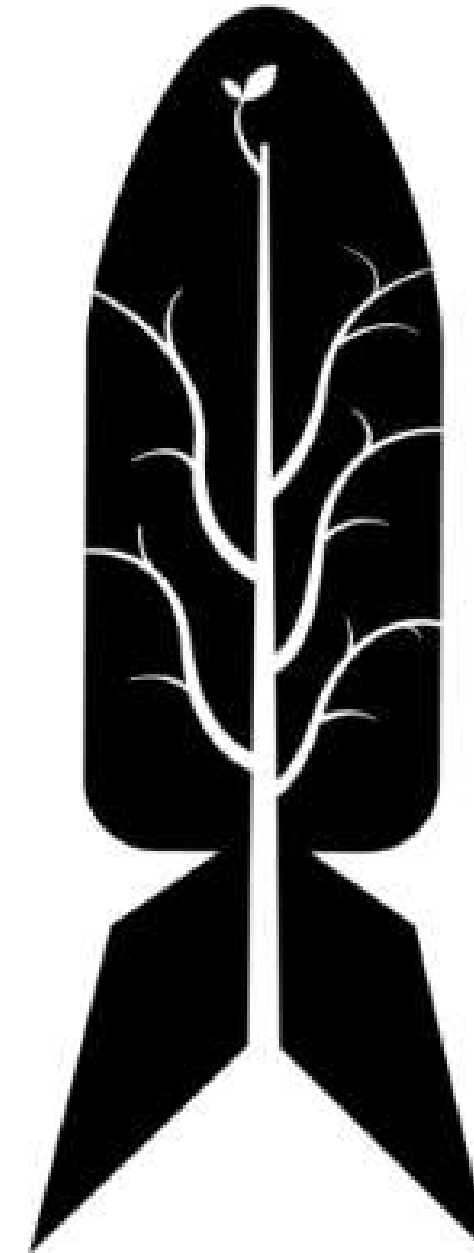
[\*editor@uwecworkgroup.info\*](mailto:editor@uwecworkgroup.info)



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