

Convivial Conservation

Convivial Conservation seeks to renew economic, political, and knowledge relations in the pursuit of establishing nourishing habitats in which to live well together. It investigates how the institutions of modernity must transform in order to produce planetary conditions that are conducive for multispecies wellbeing, and to enable alternative modes of inhabiting the Earth. This research line frames TBA21-Academy's long-standing commitments to Ocean biodiversity conservation and advocacy, as well as to place-based cultural practices promoting living and artistic heritage. It combines diverse forms of knowledge and expertise, and specializes in drawing together technical sciences with vernacular and place-based wisdoms, while promoting an ethics of inclusion within a post-capitalist society. The research line interrogates the systems of value and valuation which shape collecting, archiving, preserving, and protecting—asking what comes to be counted as worthwhile, and how it should be kept that way. It asks how modes of cultural and environmental management can resignify and reproduce vital nature-culture relations as generative of mutually sustaining transformation. Convivial Conservation is a movement and a vision that nurtures the web of life while celebrating human society and its diverse cultures as intrinsic to, not separate from, the unfolding emergence of meaning and materiality within this life-giving milieu.

Ecologies of Technologies

To understand technology within the complexity of all its interweaving dimensions would lead to conceiving of it not as an artifact but as a process, practice, medium, or system shaped by and shaping social and cultural agreements. This perspective serves as the basis for approaching the study of technology, paying attention to the direct relationships that can be traced between crises of civilization and technological urgencies. It proposes investigating the dependencies and infrastructures in which technologies are created, organized, and maintained as a means to question global governance systems. Approaching concepts and proposals for technological openness may enable speculation about alternative scenarios for plural coexistence within the paradigm of technodiversity. Change begins with openness to knowledge –open access– and transparency in decision-making –open source. The digital age tends to reproduce binary oppositions and radicalizations, but a path that stimulates interconnections, collaborations, and forms of coexistence is also present. This approach paves the way for the development of more sustainable, just, and diverse assemblies.

The Rights of the More-than-human

Organismo continues TBA21-Academy's experience developing practices that advocate for the so-called Rights of Nature (RoN), seeking to grant legal status to Nature at different levels, from more-than-humans to entire ecosystems or even the whole biosphere, as first introduced in the Ecuadorian constitution in 2008. Which legal mechanisms and forms of governance can encourage new, more inclusive and just ecological formulations of "Nature"? Practicing collective intelligence and working with interdisciplinary assemblies are foundational processes for incorporating sensitivities and entities that have historically been ignored in legal and government systems. The imagination and practice of possible forms of multispecies communication is crucial for this initiative, enabling different types of relationships and connections that can facilitate observation, listening, recognition, understanding, attention, and, consequently, protection and respect among different species. Re-framing the legal conception of Nature, and therefore the position of humans within it, can be one of the keys towards a future of peaceful co-existence.