



HYDRO__
commons
MAP

HYDRO__ commons MAP

This map features a selection of initiatives, collectives, and communities that are actively involved in the care of different aquatic ecosystems across Latin America. This Hydrocommons Map compiles an index of actions that span research, activism, and dissemination strategies, with the aim of establishing parameters to track, connect, and contrast emerging and established projects in the region. Each project is presented as a downloadable, individual record. The categories of actions come directly from the projects included in this first edition of the map and offer an initial taxonomy designed to establish an unfolding directory of practices that cultivate forms of hydrocommons.

This Hydrocommons Map was conceived by *entre—ríos* for LA ESCUELA__ JOURNAL N°1: *Hydrocommons cultures: art, pedagogy and care practices in the Americas* (2024).

editors__ LISA BLACKMORE & ALEJANDRO PONCE DE LEÓN
design project__ TERESA MULET
map source__ AQUASTAT (FAO)

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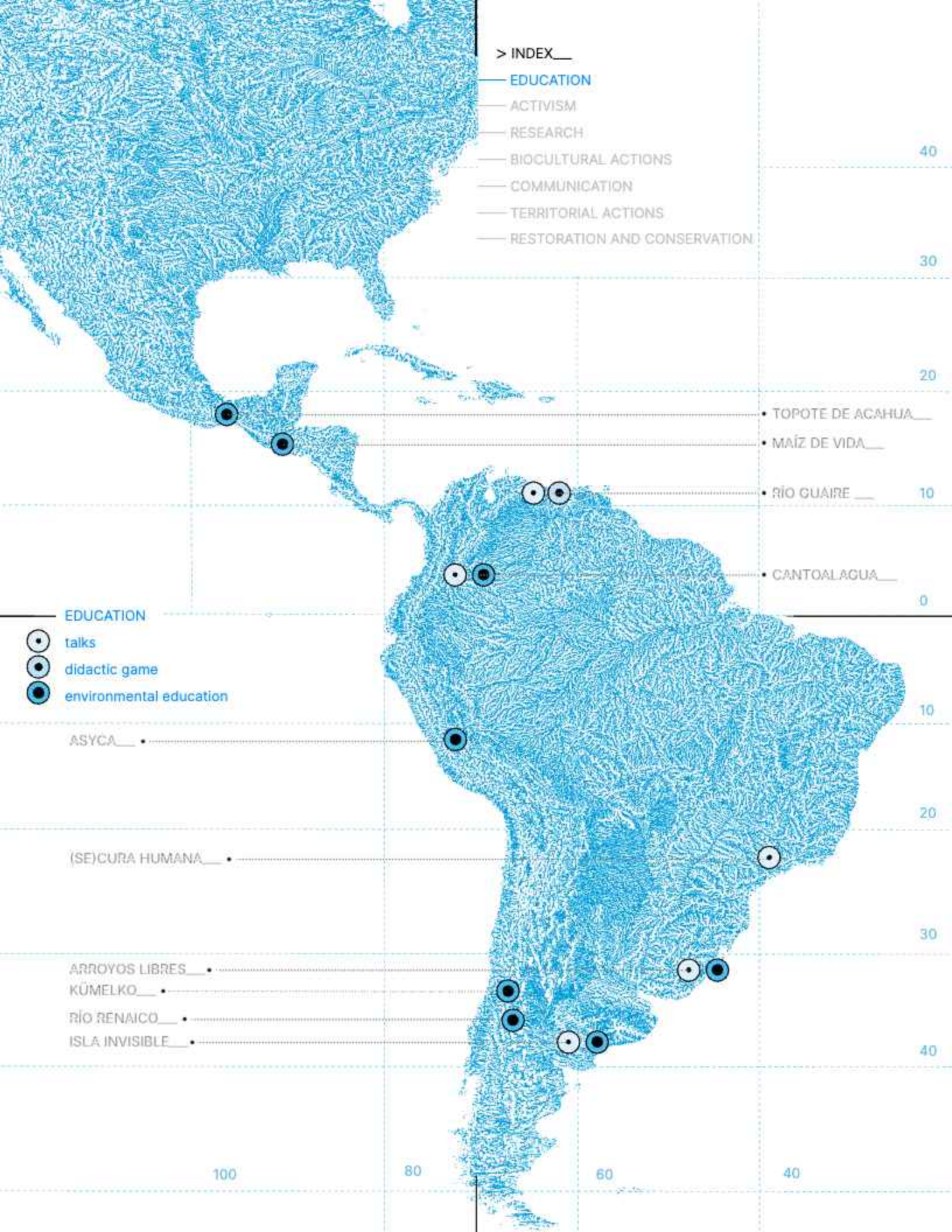
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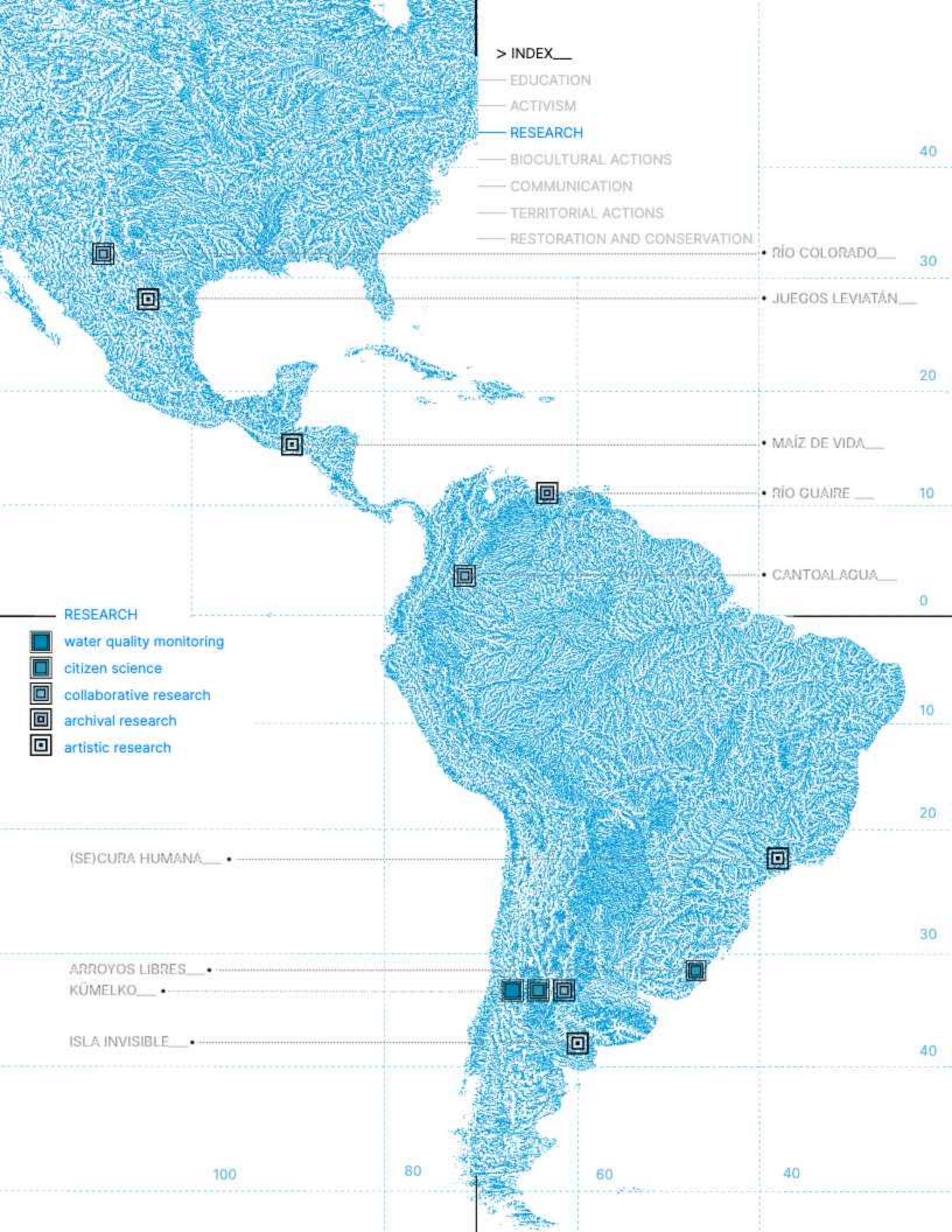
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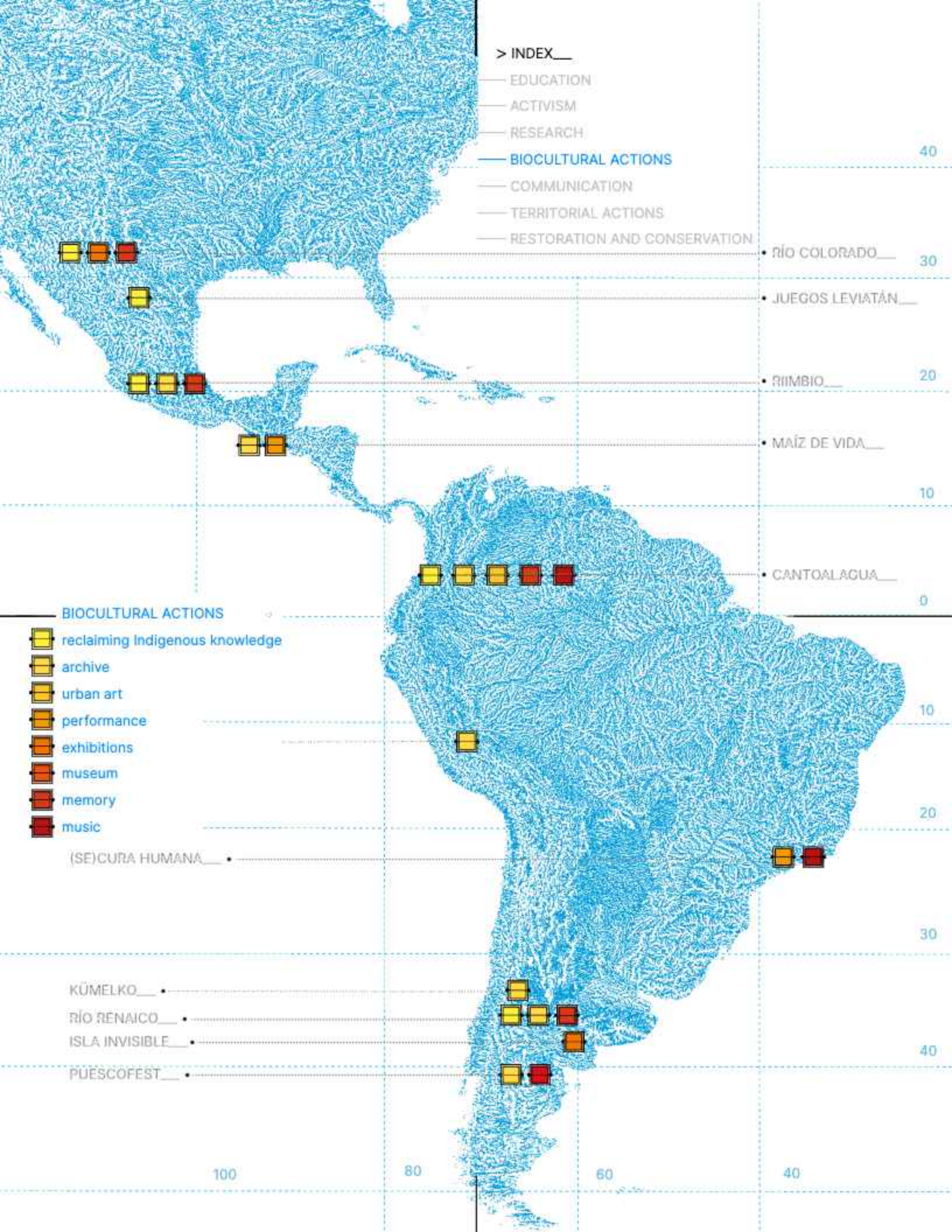
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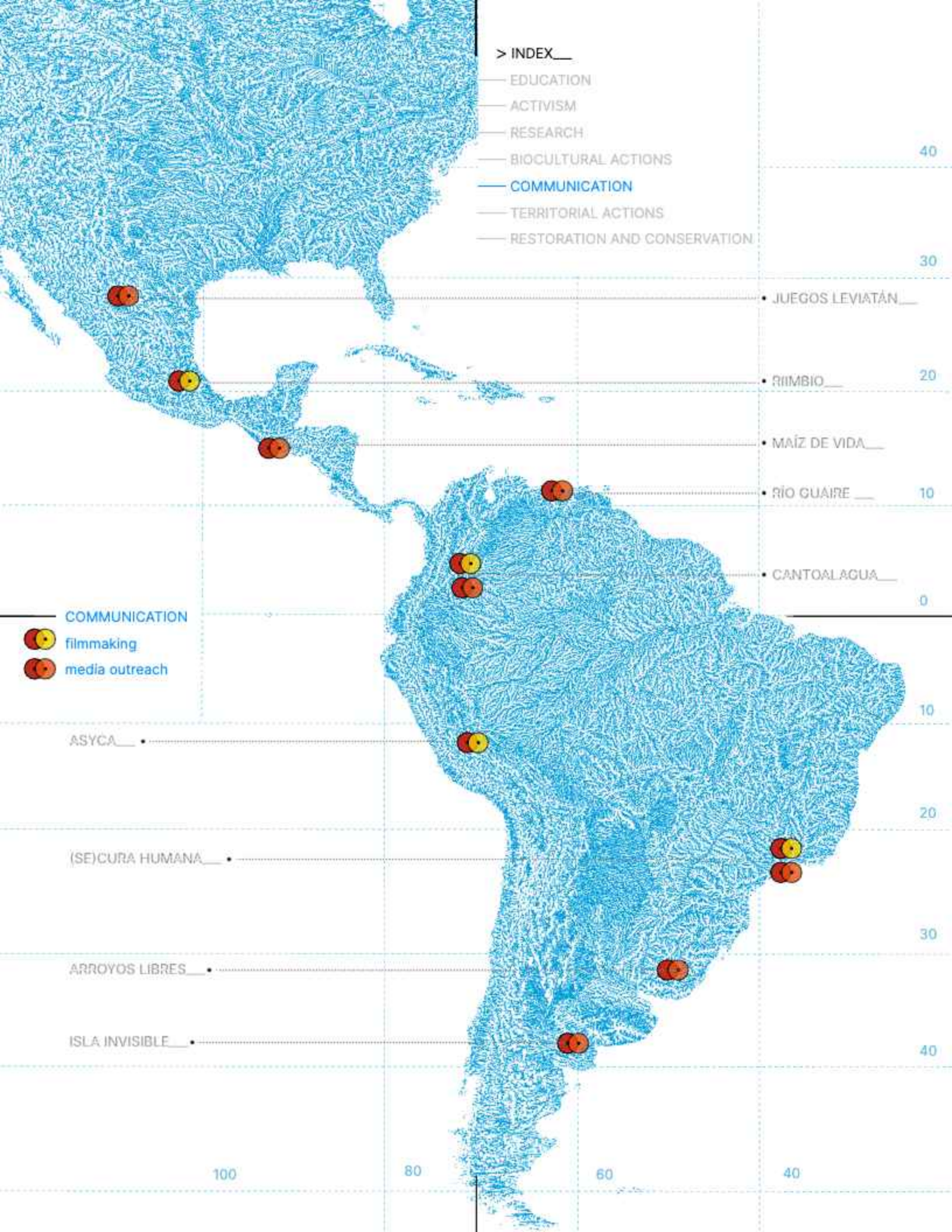
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ARROYOS LIBRES

[foundation 2020]

This outreach and dissemination project researches, analyzes, and reflects on the history, current situation, and future possibilities of urban streams and rivers, especially underground ones. The project monitors successful cases of river and stream renaturalization worldwide. It organizes educational walks and disseminates its research through social networks, digital media, books, articles, and talks. The organizers also create urban interventions to landmark the presence of underground streams.



Courtesy: Arroyos Libres.

Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

34.6037, 58.3816

@arroyoslibres

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ISLA INVISIBLE

[foundation 2017]

This platform for artistic research renders visible processes taking place at the Bahía Blanca estuary that are coordinated by Ferrowhite Museo Taller and the Islote de la Gaviota Cangrejera Natural Reserve. It generates local estuary experiences that foster narratives for a sensitive approach to an invisibilized territory. Currently, it operates as an artistic collective made up of creators at Bahía Blanca and the city of Buenos Aires. The project participates in exhibitions, provides educational talks, and coordinates a cycle of residencies.



Photo: Agustín Eduardo Rodríguez.

Bahía Blanca, Buenos Aires Province, ARGENTINA
-38.7176522, -62.2654871

[@islainvisible](#)

www.islainvisible.wordpress.com

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[foundation 2014]

Urban, aquatic, and artistic guerrilla movement that takes direct action towards promoting citizen access to water in public spaces. The collective builds pools in urban concrete, installs water parks on sidewalks, and brings hidden springs back to life. It works to question water management in the city of São Paulo, evoking memories of hidden and polluted rivers, and fostering reflections on the future of bodies of water through urban installations, films, performances, ephemeral artistic actions, and music.



Photo: Karen Menatti, Inteligencia Artificial de Flavio Barollo, 2017.

São Paulo, BRASIL
23.5558, 46.6396
[@securahumana](#)
[www.securahumana.com](#)

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KÜMELKO: LABORATORIO DE RESTAURACIÓN BIOCULTURAL

[foundation 2022]

This restoration lab is focused on affects and water, which was started by diverse groups in the Biobío river basin and the Nahuelbuta mountain range. Kümelko is a pilot for biocultural restoration in the Pangué micro-watershed, located at the foothills of the Nahuelbuta mountains. In this historically and biologically rich area, the project addresses socio-environmental issues like deforestation, intensive agriculture, forestry monocultures, and the Chilean state's usurpation of Mapuche lands.



Photo: Felipe Zanotti, Courtesy: Kümelko.

Pangué micro-basin, Nahuelbuta, Biobío, CHILE
-37.430863, -72.423928

@kumelko

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MUSEO COMUNITARIO DEL AGUA RÍO RENAICO

[foundation 2016]

This community museum is organized by the “Salvemos el río Renaico” [Let’s Save the Renaico River] Social Collective and artist Marcela Moraga. This community action declares the Renaico River biocultural heritage. The Museum holds a collection created by neighbors’ associations, youth collectives, local artists, and schools. It does not have a physical building, but unfolds through environmental schools for children and youth, beach cleaning actions, political activism, and more. The project tackles environmental conflicts such as the reduction of river flow caused by forestry companies’ extraction of water.



Photo: Marcela Moraga,

Renaico River, La Araucanía region, CHILE
-37.671709, -72.5832643
[@riorenaico](#)
www.riorenaico-mca.org

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PUESCOFEST

[foundation 2014]

This festival promotes the care of ancestral territory, combining sports, art, music, culture, and good living practices (*buen vivir*). It combines an international whitewater kayaking championship and a celebration of Mapuche culture. The festival includes art exhibitions, music, dance, workshops, crafts, and a food fair. The organizers offer training for local cultural managers, artists, athletes, and environmental agents. It also engages local communities in Villarrica and Pucón, who participate in cultural activities.



Photo: Matías Veras.

Whitewater Txankura leufü, Mallolahfken Lake, Púesco, Curarrehue, La Araucanía region, CHILE
-39.5336559, -71.5564709

@puescofest
www.puescofest.org

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CANTOALAGUA

[foundation 2010]

Cantoalagua is a global community that seeks to raise awareness about the importance of water, as a life-giving substance, through singing, art, and collective actions. Cantoalagua is held every year on March 22, International Water Day. On this day, people all over the world gather in seas, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands, to sing for the healing of the Earth's waters.



Courtesy: Cantoalagua.

Transnational project based in Bogotá, COLOMBIA

4.7110°, 74.0721°

www.cantoalagua.com

[@cantoalagua](https://twitter.com/cantoalagua)

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MAÍZ DE VIDA

[foundation 2017]

This multi-territorial association focuses on regenerating the web of life, visibilizing the culture and wisdom of the Q'eqchi' nation. It promotes care practices around water, forests, and rivers through research, cultural initiatives, and economic revitalization. *Maíz de Vida* collaborates with communities, local and ancestral authorities, artists, and spiritual leaders to strengthen ties between identity and territory, and to contest the reductive narrative of water as a mere resource.



Photo: Juan Esteban Calderón. Courtesy: Maíz de Vida.



Cahabón River, Tzunutz River, Salinas River, Negro River, Sebol River, San Simón River, Copones River. San Juan Alcalá neighborhood, Cobán, Alta Verapaz, GUATEMALA -90.3708300, 15.4708300

@maizdevida www.maizdevida.com

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ARCHIVO FAMILIAR DEL RÍO COLORADO

[foundation 2020]

This collaborative project explores the relationships between people, ecosystems, settlements, and water. It gathers documentary records—especially family archives—to study how memories are constructed in contingent relationships with waterbodies using collaborative and interdisciplinary methods. The project unfolds through art practices that explore territorial experiences through affects, fiction, and analysis; considering the asymmetric tensions that shape the Mexicali border at geopolitical, institutional, and bodily scales.



Courtesy: Archivo Familiar del Río Colorado.

Colorado River Delta, Mexicali, Baja California, MÉXICO
32.60268, -115.38879

@archivofamiliar_ricolorado

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LOS JUEGOS DEL LEVIATÁN

[foundation 2017]

This artistic research project began by reading poetry to the whales of El Vizcaino Bay and Desert. The organizers develop, experiment, and document interspecies performative practices based on an art-science research program. The project has produced an extensive catalog of historical and ethnographic information, aims at transforming narratives about the relationship between humans and gray whales and seeks to understand emerging interactions as part of an interspecies cultural system.



Photo: "Los Juegos del Leviatán: Meyjibén" (2021)
©Stultifera Navis Institutom.

Ojo de Liebre Lagoon, Baja California Sur, MÉXICO
27.8484872, -114.24202
www.stultiferanavis.institute/los-juegos-del-leviatan

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(RIIMBIO) RED DE INVESTIGACIÓN E INCIDENCIA DE LA MEMORIA BIOCULTURAL DEL VALLE DE TEOTIHUACÁN

[foundation 2022]

This research and advocacy network for biocultural memory gathers academic, grassroots and community-based organizations, civil society, and local authorities. It confronts the silencing of biocultural memory and the omission of practices, knowledge, and worldviews of communities linked to the San Juan River. The project organizers hold community ethnocartographic mapping workshops, collective interviews, knowledge sharing, river *dérives*, and flora and fauna identification. Its digital platform will host an archive of audiovisual material, texts, photographs, audios, and collaborative cartographies of collective memories.



Photo: Red de Juventudes Teotihuacanas.

Valley of Teotihuacán, State of Mexico, MÉXICO

19.4990468, -99.0410752

@red_juteo

www.urdimbrecomunal.blogspot.com

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TOPOTE DE ACAHUAL | VIVERO DE TEBANCA

[foundation 1998]

This reforestation project and plant nursery recovers springs and works to repurpose lands to make them productive. It unfolds together with *ejidatarios* (communities engaged in use of common lands), farmers, plant nursery workers, forestry engineers, artists, teachers, and self-taught individuals who are learning to care for the rainforest. The project implements educational programs in the plant nursery, based on narratives that link the forest and society, the countryside and the city. It also trains plant nursery workers in filmmaking, as cultural managers, and offers courses on reforestation, land conversion, creative writing, self-publishing, embroidery, music, forest visual culture, and plant labeling.



Photo: Dan Sánchez D. Vil.

Lake Catemaco, ejido of Tebanca, Catemaco,
Los Tuxtlas Veracruz, MÉXICO
19.33333, -96.66667
www.viverodetebanca.com
[@vivero.de.tebanca](https://twitter.com/vivero.de.tebanca)

EDUCATION

talks
didactic game
environmental education

ACTIVISM

political and organizational actions
land defense
biocultural rights

RESEARCH

water quality monitoring
citizen science
collaborative research
archival research
artistic research

BIOCULTURAL ACTIONS

reclaiming Indigenous knowledge
archive
urban art
performance
exhibitions
museum
memory
music

COMMUNICATION

filmmaking
media outreach

TERRITORIAL ACTIONS

water sports
mapping
walks
urban interventions

RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

ecological restoration
restoring bodies of water
reforestation
water management

BODIES OF WATER

rainwater
groundwater

springs

qochas
urban springs

whitewater
ravines

streams

waterfalls

micro-basins

rivers

forest rivers

urban rivers

jagüeyes

balsas

surface waters

lakes

lagoons

bofedales

wetlands

marine wetlands

estuaries

coastal lagoon

sea

ASOCIACIÓN DE SIEMBRA Y COSECHA DE AGUA (ASYCA)

[foundation 2021]

The association is a territorial planning project that weaves ancestral and current forms of knowledge to promote good practices in water management, community living and food sovereignty. It advocates for “water sowing” and harvesting through local practices that retain water for use during droughts. The project aims to strengthen hydrosocial identity through environmental education, connecting young people with ancestral water knowledge. It organizes field actions with peasant communities and local schools to map important places and histories in ancestral water culture.





Photo: Vered Engelhard.

Farming community of San Pedro de Casta, Huarochirí, Lima, PERÚ
-12.05806282, -77.05467175
[@asociacion.aysca](https://www.instagram.com/asociacion.aysca)

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RÍO GUAIRE

[foundation 2020]

This multidisciplinary initiative seeks to rehabilitate and highlight the importance of the Guaire River in Caracas. The project organizes walks to rediscover the river, as well as lectures to connect collective conservation efforts across the hemisphere. By implementing pedagogical actions, Río Guaire develops strategies for helping children understand how they can contribute to river conservation through everyday practices. The initiative also houses an online archive that documents how the river features in literature, art, and historical records.



Photo: Elisa Silva.

Capital District and Miranda State. Caracas, VENEZUELA
10.497616, -66.891456

@enlace_arq

www.rioguaire.org www.ciudilab.com

EDUCATION



talks



didactic game

environmental education

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political and organizational actions

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