



INTEGRITY.EARTH

# A Whole-Systems Strategy for Large-Scale Regeneration

## Lake Atitlán Basin Guatemala



"In ceremony, water is an ever present power and so we seek to harmonize human consciousness with the consciousness of the Creator-Universe. Water cannot be reduced to hydrogen and oxygen bonds; it is intimately linked to organic life and astral phenomena. We speak to water, we have conversations with it, we caress it; we transmit our happiness and our sadness into it. Everyone knows that water thinks, feels, reflects, cries, and can be upset."



This is how Dr. Daniel Matul, president of the Guatemala Maya League, explains what water is in Mayan Cosmology.

Water is life, a gift that falls from the sky, that nourishes the fields and rivers, gives life to our harvests and to us. Nature is a totality. It is movement and action, it is the soil, mountains, trees, birds, clouds, fire, water, lakes, and, no more and no less, man, together in a single living system. Each part is sacred and fulfills a role. Water, air, sun, and earth are the elements that make up man himself and so it is so important to show them due respect.

### **Lake Atitlán Basin Guatemala**

Lake Atitlán is a sacred site in the Guatemalan Highlands of the Sierra Madre mountain range. It is Central America's deepest lake. It lies in a spectacular setting in the central highlands in the department of Sololá, at 1,563 metres above sea level and covers an area of 127.7 square km. The lake basin is volcanic in origin, filling an enormous caldera (enlarged form of the volcanic vent) formed by an eruption several thousand years ago.

The lake is renowned as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, and is Guatemala's most important national and international tourist attraction. The shores of the scenic lake

are flecked with indigenous villages. The main towns along the lake are popular with anthropologists and tourists.

For the indigenous Mayan ethnic groups living in the Greater Atitlán Basin, the lake symbolizes the "Grandmother of Water" (Atit: Grandmother and Tlan: Water). It describes an important ecosystem that is labelled as a biodiversity conservation area and provides the 380,000 inhabitants of the water catchment area of 548 km<sup>2</sup> with arable land, forest, drinking water, livelihoods, as well as an important cultural and spiritual symbol.

While around the lake tourism provides the principle source of income in the economy, most of the population in the Lake Atitlán Basin are subsistence farmers and live in extreme poverty, as does 46% of Guatemala's population. This number has been rising consistently in the last decades as farmers are pushed to exploit nature for survival. The soil, forest and aquatic ecosystems in the watershed and their respective biodiversity have come under enormous distress, as deforestation, agricultural production and overuse of agrochemicals, run-off of human waste and industrial dirty water into the lake has led to consequent degeneration and erosion of arable soil, failing agriculture, ecosystem collapse, and food and water insecurity.

„If governments won't solve the climate, hunger, health, and democracy crises, then the people will. Regenerative agriculture provides answers to the soil crisis, the food crisis, the health crisis, the climate crisis and the crisis of democracy.“ -

Dr. Vandana Shiva



Adding the strain of climate change, a high population growth, lack of opportunities and voice in governance, no equitable access to quality health care or integral education.

When farmers can no longer rely on their crops to make a living, they are usually forced to choose between underpaid labor in plantations, migration to crowded and unsafe urban areas, or risking their lives to emigrate in search of better opportunities.

The Mayan relationship with water is based on great respect to this essential life-giving element. In contrast to the indigenous cosmology, a materialistic worldview imposing an illusion of separation from nature, makes it profitable to exploit the natural assets we all collectively share.

“It is not possible to find a new way of living

that ends the current waste and pollution of water without understanding how the ancient cultures of Guatemala feel, perceive, and think. A new consciousness in the country, with respect to the universe and life, must make a change that is not just a change of actions, but also a change of paradigm that will mean a new way of organizing thought: To understand man is not to extract him from the universe, but to situate him inside of it.” - Dr. Daniel Eduardo Matul Morales

### **What Integrity.Earth enables**

Together with our partners, we sustain programs of regenerative development through community empowerment, focused on restoring ecological corridors and addressing the complex systemic failures that continue to disrupt earth’s key climate systems and self-regulatory capacity. We are pioneering a

whole-systems transdisciplinary approach that combines proven frameworks of best practices in ecological restoration in conjunction with meeting the socio-economic needs of communities.

Regenerating the Lake Atitlán Basin is the pilot project of the 5-year-plan to Solving the Central American Migration Crisis through Regenerative Development\*.

### **SEEDS as a Vehicle for Whole-Scale Regeneration**

The real promise of the digital age is to restore the integrity of the values and modalities eroded through the takeover of centralized currency and a misunderstanding in what poli-

tics, finance, and economics could be. Instead of building our entire economy on debt-based money that promotes a mono-culture of induced scarcity and separation, imposing over all other forms of diversity, both cultural as well as biological, we now have the tools and technological capacity to empower and scale our innate human ability to cooperate and exchange with one another, enabling convergence around bio-regional economies of unprecedented abundance.

Invisibly connected in a shared attempt to bring about a more sustainable future, a plethora of initiatives, movements, new forms of enterprise, and lifestyle experiments encompassing all aspects of life continue to emerge. We now have a unique opportunity

\*This partnership will catalyze the emergence of bioregional economies of abundance and will be instrumental to the five year plan to [Solving the Migration Crisis in Central America through Regenerative Development](#).



Cyanobacterial bloom 2009 in Lake Atitlán, Guatemala



to transcend fragmentation and integrate these impulses into a unified effort adequate to the scale of the increasingly complex systemic failure we find ourselves challenged with.

SEEDS serves as a fully decentralized organizational governance and financial ecosystem that redefines what currency can do for society. Inspired by the mycelial networks that sustain complex ecosystems, SEEDS connects people and organizations in ways that regenerate and distribute value more effectively, benefiting the long-term well-being of the whole system.

In this pivotal moment of our collective history, restoring the earth's key climate systems and its self-regulating capacity to sustain life, is a survival imperative. The shift needed to fix the earth's carbon cycle requires a majority of global citizens to take full responsibility in order to rapidly transition from fossil-fuel based dependence, towards a biodiversity-based civilization. A vehicle that allows people to find unity in diversity and catalyze cooperative efforts towards a shared vision of change where everyone can thrive, is a game changer. In order to transmute the shortfalls of "trickle-down economics", which shape our current paradigm, SEEDS implements a decentralized monetary policy which equitably distributes value generated from a robust circulatory flow

of currency directly into the accounts of people and organizations contributing towards a healthy systemic growth, supporting and accelerating the adoption of regenerative practices which otherwise would be lost in market failure. Mimicking nature's holistic qualities for exchanging value, it enables a co-creative, grassroots, and fully-scalable effort that aligns radical empowerment of purpose with finance to harmonize people into right relationship with community and place.

While debt-based currencies of today continue to depreciate in value at staggering rates, we now have at our disposal a uniquely stable currency that benefits its users as they contribute to the expansion of a well-being economy that gives voice and value to a shared vision of change. Synergistically unlocking creativity and cooperation at scale is fertile ground for abundance to flourish. These qualities represent our most effective tools to resolve the global systemic failure we now collectively face.

Applying a living-systems understanding of what makes networks healthy, positive feedback loops and transparent protocols allow us to channel our shared purpose to sustain effective development programs that enable the rapid systemic transformation that life on this planet requires.

„The present convergence of crises - in money, energy, education, health, water, soil, climate, politics, the environment, and more - is a birth crisis, expelling us from the old world into a new.“ - Charles Eisenstein



Utilizing SEEDS\* as a vehicle to align finance with purpose, we can deliver effective campaigns aimed to accomplish the following, for example:

- Co-creating regenerative economies inclusive of all stakeholders through multidisciplinary approaches that build resilience at the local level
- Enhancing community building and participation, especially the capacity of youth, through empowerment, education, and financial inclusion.
- Empowering entrepreneurs, social business, cooperatives, and small enterprises, inclusive to women and youth, establishing value chains for sustainable market opportunities.
- Developing and sustaining biodiversity-based agricultural practices that optimize food production through land-use-planning, recover local agro-biodiversity, build soil health, sequester large amounts of carbon, reverse the trend toward desertification and preserve local ancestral knowledge.
- Developing regenerative tourism models and frameworks designed to build local resilience.
- Large-scale restoration of ecosystems to safeguard and sustain biodiversity levels and build resilience to climate change.

\*[SEEDS White Deck](#)



## Campaigns

Using seeds as a vehicle we can generate effective campaigns to seed integral economies, linking conscious consumers to conscious producers in a participatory learning relationship. As the regenerative marketplace grows organically, empowered through community collaboration, genuine abundance can be unlocked.

Examples of campaigns which can be launched to incentivize and subsidize regenerative practices in the Lake Atitlán Basin:

#PlantSeedsGetSeeds - participating in reforestation, food forests, and gardens and get seeds.

#ProofofFood - Show us you are part of the local food system and you receive seeds

#GoodDeedsGetSeeds - Do a good deed, let us know and receive seeds

#AlignedCommunity - airdrop tokens to aligned communities and projects

## Timeline

### Phase 1:

Phase name: Structuring the Network  
Duration: 9 months  
Description: This phase includes establishing a work plan, identifying existing and emerging regenerative initiatives, deepening community relationships, undertaking multi-stakeholder mapping and scenario planning, and coordinating implementation and learning across sites in the bioregion of the Lake Atitlán Basin.

### Phase 2:

Phase name: Guided Development for Regeneration  
Duration: 12 months  
Description: This phase includes dedicated funding for place-based impact investments for the area, supporting implementation of community designed projects to regenerate the selected catchment in ways that support long-term community health. These projects will be in the areas of regenerative agriculture, renewable energy, clean water, community health and ecotourism.

### Phase 3:

Phase name: Codify and Expand Solutions  
Duration: 4 months  
Description: This phase includes gathering of lessons learned, creation of blueprint for bioregions regeneration, exchange and adaptation to further bioregions. The DAC/governance platform allows for the tracking of value creation and capital flows across bioregions and throughout the entire region in service to community resilience and ecological health, consolidating them in a circular economy of well-being.

**For the detailed budget in phases, see Appendix I.**



### **Total Resource Requirements**

Bringing a regenerative economic development model to scale in the region will ultimately require multiple sectors to collaborate and pool resources. We anticipate this pilot-and-expansion phase to attract a 10-to-1 investment return for the region - the initial investment of \$10 million seeding the birth of this new model.

We have ongoing collaborations with multiple global networks to catalyze additional funding as this project takes off. Included among them are Commonland Foundation, Savory Institute, SDG Transformations Forum, Well-Being Economy Alliance, Common Earth (Commonwealth Secretariat initiative), Global Ecovillage Network, and the Club of Rome.

### **Consideration**

We are proposing a far-reaching, long-term solution that consolidates existing and emerging efforts in the region towards the effective restoration of key biological corridors essential for systemic well-being that open-up a pathway for effective replication and scale. The intended impact of our multi-stakeholder ap-

proach has a long-term durability in its design and is conceived to increase local resilience as time goes on, enabling a transition towards well-being economies that sustain life.

This effort will deliver a functional framework and deliver empirical evidence resulting from the implementation of a vehicle for large-scale regeneration, showcasing the transformative power of a whole-systems approach to development.

The nature of blockchain enables us to balance the demand and supply of SEEDS currency in circulation to secure stability in the value of currency throughout the growth stages while fiat currencies worldwide are failing to maintain value. SEEDS aims to be an ideal currency for people and planet by providing more voice and value to both. By providing direct and equitable access to previously disenfranchised communities on a stable, non-usury based currency, we foresee the value of the digital currency to grow organically and advance rapidly in the ranks of the crypto-currencies worldwide. In this context we put forth a compelling financial tool to attract both



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small- and large-scale funding that rewards both protectors and investors seeking a more stable currency in a sustainable ecosystem.

Redirecting our collective consciousness into a joint effort that gives value to regeneration, results in restoration of ecological systems, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, preservation of biodiversity, and the preservation of ancestral knowledge, all while providing a fair and sustainable living to local communities.

Our societies are built on top of human exchanges - when we alter the medium of these exchanges, we can fundamentally alter the structure of our societies.

What now counts is that each global citizen takes personal responsibility for the shift we are collectively part of, uniting all of these impulses into a breakthrough towards genuine sustainability, freedom, and peace.



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### Integrity.Earth

Together with our partners around the world, we sustain co-creative programs of regenerative development through community empowerment, geared towards restoring ecological corridors, uniting existing and emerging regenerative efforts into an integrative impulse towards genuine transformation.



### SEEDS - A Conscious Currency

HYPHA/SEEDS is a Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO) pioneering a financial ecosystem and digital currency designed to consolidate the various movements, organizations and platforms striving towards empowering humanity & regenerating the earth's biosphere.



### University for International Cooperation

We create innovative opportunities in education, research and cooperation for the development of societies based on universal ethics. UCI is an international leader in promoting knowledge in regenerative development.



### Capital Institute

Together with our collaborative network, we are searching for a new narrative that will illuminate how our economy and financial system can operate to promote a more just, regenerative, and thus sustainable way of living on this earth.



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## Appendix I: Detailed Budget

### Phase 1:

Overall project coordination and administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a work plan</li> <li>Identifying existing and emerging regenerative initiatives</li> <li>Deepening community relationships</li> </ul>	\$200,000
Acquisition of a HUB for training, meetings, hosting collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition of a HUB for training, meetings, hosting collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site to showcase regenerative best-practices</li> <li>Capacity building in regenerative best practices</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$500,000
Bioregional collaborative Lake Atitlán Basin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-create campaigns for large-scale restoration of ecosystems</li> <li>Adaptation of SEEDS ecosystem into local context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Translation to Spanish and local Mayan languages</li> <li>Customize and onboard a selected first group of community leaders into DAC App/governance platform</li> <li>Empower local ambassadors/community leaders</li> </ul> </li> <li>Multi-stakeholder mapping: Consolidate cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary partnerships</li> <li>Coordinate implementation and learning across sites in the bioregion of the Lake Atitlán Basin</li> </ul>	\$1,300,000
Accommodation for disabilities	\$50,000
Monitoring, evaluation, and learning	\$100,000
Contingency	\$100,000

### Phase 2:

Overall project coordination and administration	\$500,000
Bioregional collaborative Lake Atitlán Basin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch "Regenerating Lake Atitlán Basin" campaign</li> <li>Support implementation of community designed projects to regenerate the selected catchment area</li> <li>Establish value chains for sustainable market opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Onboard existing and emerging regenerative businesses: hotels, restaurants, local business into SEEDS economy/cooperative economy</li> <li>Forming integral marketplace uniting conscious consumers with conscious producers</li> <li>Subsidize regenerative agriculture in local context</li> </ul> </li> <li>Onboard communities into DAC / Governance of the collaborative economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outreach to women and youth</li> <li>Enhance community building and participation</li> <li>Empower entrepreneurs</li> </ul> </li> <li>Use town festivals, events, and gatherings as a vehicle to introduce cultural best practices: waste management, water management, introduction of cooperative economy through celebration</li> </ul>	\$5,000,000
Accommodation for disabilities	\$100,000
Monitoring, evaluation, and learning	\$300,000
Contingency	\$100,000

### Phase 3:

Overall project coordination and administration	\$150,000
Bioregional collaborative Lake Atitlán Basin	\$1,350,000
Accommodation for disabilities	\$50,000
Monitoring, evaluation, and learning	\$100,000
Contingency	\$100,000

### Total Costs

Phase 1	\$2,250,000
Phase 2	\$6,000,000
Phase 3	\$1,750,000

The vast majority of funds will pass through directly to the Lake Atitlán Basin bioregional collaborative. These funds will continue to be carefully monitored by the overall project team, but will be allocated directly by locally staffed collaboratives drawing on community design and facilitation processes.