

Almanac of the Future

STORIES OF SUCCESS

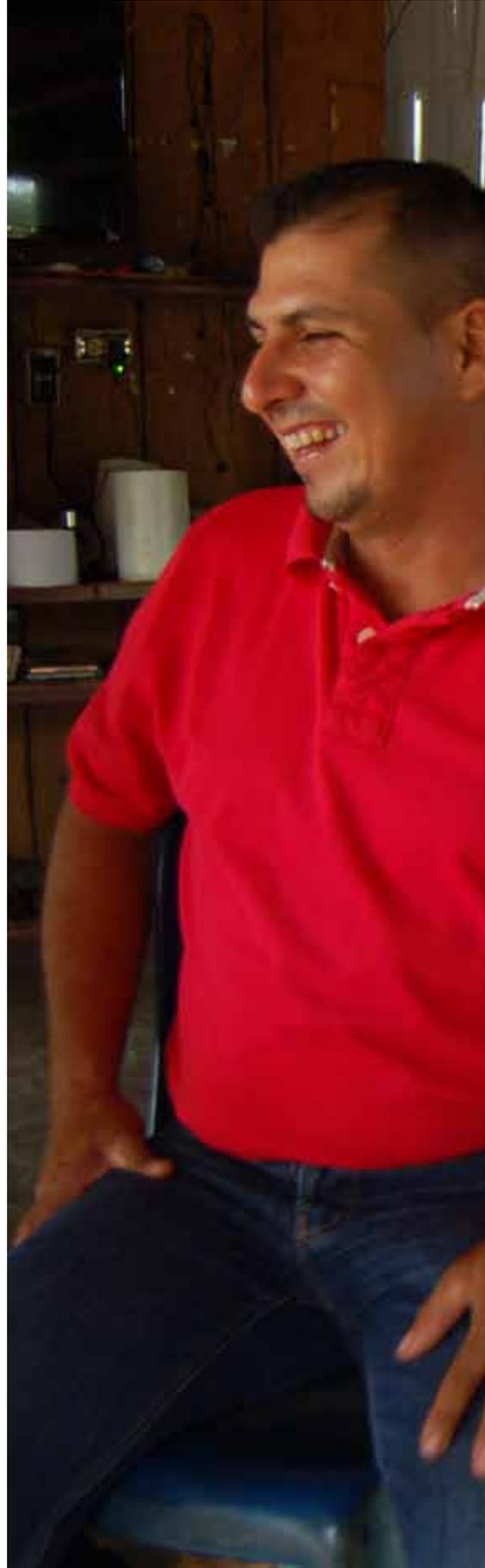


Starting point

The permanent crises on the planet create a threatening contrast with the consequences of our development model: climate change combined with increasing extreme weather conditions, the growth of economic and social inequalities, the destruction of the environment, the extractive economy combined with a logic of accumulation, all that in the name of progress and growth. In fact, it is an advance for a few, but this is at the expense of the majority and our planet. Debates on the alternatives to the dominant development model are currently flourishing (Degrowth, Post-Extractivism, Buen Vivir). These are reflections and approaches that, although not offering solution to all, show new horizons towards the common good, inclusion and sustainability.

¿Where does it all go?

The increasingly discouraging panorama and the not much better sounding forecasts, make it hard to imagine a shift; basic skepticism and unwillingness prevail over the alternatives that come to light. Many, some because of particular interests, and others because of disorientation, insist on following the model. Perhaps it is wrong to expect a paradigm shift in development to take place in the high political and economic spheres of global governance. A look at the history teaches us that the upcoming course change will not come from there. Structural changes in our civilization model have emerged from the social base, by changing the routine of the common people in order to gradually penetrate into the civilization model. Our conditioning through these paradigms is generally not questioned. It is time to begin. It is a deconstruction of conventional nuances and





logics, approaching more authentic identities and local horizons.

In the face of a complex and worrying situation, with an uncertain future for humanity, the risk of people feeling impotent is big, having no reference points and guidance in everyday life that evidence the viability of concrete life alternatives in terms of economy, productivity, of human mobility, and in terms of responsible consumption. It is in this context that the idea arises to identify, document and visualize local motivational experiences that demonstrate that other forms of collective progress and well-being are possible. These are alternatives, built from the initiative of individuals and small groups, who do not necessarily have external resources.

¿What is intended with the Almanac of the Future?

The almanac of the future, as a motivating communication channel, is not a new idea because there are movements and networks (FuturePerfect Foundation or TransiciónTowns), who, with remarkable success, already use this instrument. The launch of an almanac of the future for the Andean region of Latin America is born from spontaneous surveys in different contexts in the region, finding hopeful alternative experiences that contribute to the motivation of others to take development into their own hands.

The guiding idea of the almanac of the future focuses on generating visibility and providing basic information about experiences at the local level that show alternative paths to conventional development and predetermined logics.

Very often the examples for a different local development, constructed and made possible by the initiative of women and men, whether individually or collectively, are unknown. In general, these processes of social construction rely on resources locally available. With this they become replicable by simply awakening the motivation among others. The almanac seeks to close a gap between the existence of these experiences and the limited accessibility of motivating information about them.

Instead of making exhaustive documentation that is often tedious to read, short and situational narratives are expected to briefly explain the experience, complemented by some reflections on the "messages to the future" of the experiences and even the difficulties they have encountered and how they have faced them, as contri-



butions to new inclusive, sustainable, and friendly approaches of well-being, prioritizing the common good. The documentation of each experience in the form of a chronicle is the result of an analysis in combination with the people directly involved. The texts of the almanac cases are short, offering as much as possible contact information and access to the people who lead the experiences.

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