



THE VALUES THAT UNITE US



1. We believe in social and environmental justice

We recognize the historical relationships between ecology and the dynamics of class, race, and gender oppression.

We understand that the exploitation perpetuated by the most developed economies, often in the name of a so-called “*development*”, has generated profound inequalities and inequities in the access and distribution of social, economic and ecological benefits at a global level.

We acknowledge that discrimination of communities and people based on race, gender and class further exposes them to environmental degradation, which increases their economic, social and political vulnerability.

Synaptica Project supports solutions that respond to problems and/or conflicts regarding access, use and disposal of ecological resources on behalf of the current human economy.

With regard to the relationship between economy and natural resources, the solutions implemented promote not only sustainable resource management cycles, but also social justice and the economic independence of the communities and partners with whom we work.

We acknowledge the ecological unity and interdependence of all species, and the right to an ethical, balanced and responsible use of the land and resources in a quest for a sustainable planet.

2. We cooperate horizontally with people, communities and non-human species

Synaptica works for and with other groups and individuals through solidarity and mutually cooperative relationships, rather than charity.

In this process groups and/or individuals express the socio-environmental problems by which they are affected and then participate, together with the Synaptica team, in the creation and development of innovative solutions.

Our work is carried out collaboratively, and it values the different skills and knowledge that all participants can contribute into the process.

We understand solidarity within people, movements and groups to be simply as important as solidarity within ecosystems, other species and our environment.

3. We are not saviors and we do not do charity

We redefine the concept of poverty and wealth. We reject the hegemonic narrative of development seen as a pre-established and unidirectional path towards dominant financial models and we also recognize the patterns of dependency and stagnation generated by assistentialism.

We believe that the notion of “*resource*” should not be intended exclusively in its economic sense. Accordingly, we believe that the notion of abundance should

include natural, social, psychological, spiritual, and cultural resources, as well as time and knowledge.

Thus, the concepts of wealth and poverty are geographically and socially re-contextualized: a person with financial resources in an economically stable country can still be very poor, and vice versa.

We apply a decolonized definition of scarcity and abundance to identify, strengthen and promote projects that adopt hybrid practices across different development models, and that contribute to the wellbeing of the community.

4. We respect and value cultural differences and individual expressions

Multiculturalism is the active promotion of social relationships that foster exchanges between people and groups from different cultures. Synaptica fully embraces multiculturalism. We respect the differences in ways of seeing, doing and feeling and recognize them as opportunities for growth.

Cultural diversity and bottom-up decision-making processes are key elements in Synaptica's commitment towards building a *“world where many worlds fit”*.

We work to build intercultural bridges between ideas and people that foster a balanced relationship between human society and nature.

5. We like solidarity, circular and regenerative economies

By circular economy, we refer to a type of economy that breaks the unsustainable linear system of material production based on extraction, transformation, distribution and waste.

We support a solidarity and regenerative type of economy that benefits communities and territories. In this economy, social metabolism not only recycles materials but also cares about the source and ecological externalities in each phase of its lifecycle.

The economy we want to see does not have endless, utopian and self-destructive growth as its only purpose. Instead, this is an economy that manages resources in a fair and sustainable way to generate multiple positive impacts.

6. We value creativity

Divergent thinking plays for us a central role in the search for answers and solutions to socio-ecological issues. Art is valued as an educational tool to create collective awareness but also as a tool to design concrete solutions to contemporary socio-ecological problems.

We create solutions collectively, through the collaboration between solution creators and the communities of the territories in which they are operating. We agree with Stephen Siperstein's idea that *“Science can tell us how we got into the Anthropocene era, but art is needed to teach us how to be human in the Anthropocene”*.





7. We respect gender diversity, equity and equality, and LGBTQ rights

Synaptica promotes gender equity and equality as fundamental human rights in all of its projects. We foster inclusiveness, and we fully support the claims and recognition of LGBTQ rights.

Synaptica does not establish relationships of any kind with potential collaborators, allies, donors or other stakeholders who express any kind of intolerance towards gender equality and/or sexual diversity.

8. We take financial transparency and ethical fundraising seriously

Synaptica adopts a code of ethics and a procedure for donors and partners' evaluation that comply with the criteria expressed in this manifesto and that are in line with international ethical fundraising standards.

We are committed to manage funds and donations efficiently and transparently, and to be accountable for public and private donors.

We design and implement internal and external monitoring and reporting processes in order to guarantee maximum transparency towards all stakeholders.

9. We are inspired by professionalism, balance, integrity and harmony

To achieve its mission in all work carried out, Synaptica promotes professionalism, productivity, transparency and efficiency while maintaining integrity, balance and respect for the needs of the human being and the rhythm of the communities with whom we work.

We recognize the importance of actively listening to oneself in order to be able to apply the same practice with the communities with whom we work and to the projects we develop.

We promote harmony

- with the product of your work
- with the activity and work itself
- with your human essence
- in relationship with others and the human society

Synaptica Project is above all an international community of active individuals globally united by values of solidarity, and inspired by social and environmental justice. We are a nomadic network of activist professionals, motivated to start building the better planet we want to live in.

