

## Beliefs about the World and Nature

<b>THREE COMMUNITIES GENERAL</b>			
<b>Question</b>	<b>Salasaka</b>	<b>Zuleta</b>	<b>Ugsha</b>
2.2 How do you see the physical landscape & nature, that is, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, the sea, the landscape, the plants, the animals, etc.? Do you see them as part of “whole”, or do you see them as separate things?	They are a part of everything. Part of a whole.** A part of my life, as with all these there is life. Part of a whole – Pachamama -; all these things give her her life. A whole, because life wouldn't exist without these. Part of a whole you live with; that gives you life. As separate, distinct things*. All one whole although they seem different. All different. As whole & interconnected through an essential 'essence'.	One world/whole**. They are part of a whole, & everything is inter-related. As separate/different things.** Each thing is specific.	Separate things. One wider whole**.
2.3 Do any of the elements like wind, water or the sun have the power to harm or heal?	The sun can harm you. Only God/Taita Dios has power.** Doesn't know*. All have power.* They have the power to harm & heal.*All can heal. Wind & water for life as well as sun; but not spiritual. Power for health, not harm. No.* As physical, not spiritual power. Heard the sun had power in the past, but otherwise doesn't know. Possibly.	Has never heard of this. All the elements have a specific power. Yes, the wind which is like a devil. The sun for life. Cold water associated with malviento & fright (susto). No. Power with water & wind. Yes, all heal/cure. Only physically*. Water has a spiritual power to strengthen the spirit, waterfalls power to heal. To support life, but no supernatural power. The waters & wind have a spiritual, energetic power.	Hot springs have the power to heal you, others harm you spiritually. Only physically*. All of them can harm you. All can heal you & keep you healthy. Water has curative power*, you feel well when you bathe. Doesn't know.*They can harm you. The sun can heal. The wind (hurricanes) can harm. Water can harm you.

<p>2.4 Do you believe in earth spirits, mountain spirits, good &amp; bad spirits?</p>	<p>Yes.* Yes, both good &amp; bad.** Yes, I experience them. Yes, believes in all of them.* No*. Yes, in good spirits that give fertility. Yes, in earth &amp; mountain spirits*. Only God knows what is good &amp; bad. There are all sorts, you need to know them. Yes, but not bad. Not understood. Doesn't know. Earth &amp; mountains have good &amp; bad spirits.</p>	<p>Yes**. . No**. Doesn't believe in them. Yes, in all kinds. Only in terrestrial &amp; water, not mountain spirits. Earth spirits*. Yes, both good &amp; bad spirits**. Yes, both earth &amp; mountain spirits. Yes, but he can't communicate with them, only more powerful curanderos can. There are spirits everywhere. In earth &amp; mountain spirits; he uses a sound to call them. Yes, such as <i>apus</i> (mountain spirits), only good though. Taita Imbabura &amp; Mama Cotocachi<sup>1</sup>. In good spirits.</p>	<p>Yes. No*. Yes, you can get malaire from the spirits in the mountains. Both good and bad*. Only Taita Dios. In earth spirits*. In mountain spirits*. Just good spirits**.</p>
<p>2.5 Do you believe in 'sacred places' in the landscape &amp; the importance of venerating them with offerings?</p>	<p>Yes.* Yes, bathing in the Vertiente (waterfall) Gualupe helps his pains. Yes, Pacha Pata*<sup>2</sup> &amp; Kinchi Urcu. Yes, especially in Kinchi Urcu<sup>3**</sup>. In Cruz Pamba (Chacana Pamba)*. Hills &amp; springs. No. In Kinlli Urcu &amp; Punta Rumi. Spring waters (vertientes). In Nitan Cruz*. Has heard from elders, but no personal experience.</p>	<p>No.* Yes*. Yes, they exist, such as springs etc. Local waterfalls have good energy, but doesn't give offerings to them. Yes, like springs &amp; waterfalls, which you leave offerings to. No. Yes, each have their own significance. Yes, some wells have the power to give you energy, but no offerings. In mountains &amp; springs. Springs &amp; cascades. Yes, mountains, springs &amp; tolas<sup>4</sup>. In the waterfall of Peguche.</p>	<p>Yes**. Yes, but through an offering made in church. No, doesn't believe in them**. Doesn't know.*</p>

<sup>1</sup> These are the two large regional volcanoes, here seen in their capacity as *apus* (mountain spirits).

<sup>2</sup> Pacha Pata is a local spring.

<sup>3</sup> Also written as Kinlli Urcu

<sup>4</sup> *Tolas* are large artificial mounds in archaeological settlement sites.

2.6 Do you believe that a supernal natural being is in charge of the health of your community & capable of curing people of any disease (as it was once believed that they were the wak'as)?	Yes.* Doesn't know*. Only Taita Dios.* Yes, in Pachamama, Taita Sol & the mountains. Taita Dios & Taita Chimborazo.* Also Mama Tunguhuara. No.	No.** Yes*. These are probably now replaced by Catholic saints. Only God.** Doesn't know. San Juan & the Virgin of Zulia are in charge of the well-being of the community. There used to be but they left as they weren't believed in. It is now Juan Baptista. In those that can help.	No**. Yes*. In the past it was the yachaks, now they just believe in God.* In Taita Dios. Doesn't know.*
2.7 Do you see the experiences of life as being good or bad, positive & negative? (duality)	Yes, because there are people who can do you evil. Yes, good/bad, positive/negative experiences exist.** Both good & bad things exist in life.** Yes, a little. Just one life.	Yes.* In good & bad.** Yes, you learn from bad experiences. Yes, there are, but more a fluctuating whole. More good than bad. In between the two. Yes, definitely. Only positive.* Nothing really bad, life is generally good. Good. Life is positive, but God gives us tests.	Both good & bad**/positive & negative*. Only good**/positive. As negatives.

\* frequent; \*\* very frequent.

### Selected quotes/responses

#### *Salasaka respondents:*

2.2 They are a part of one whole & they give me life

2.5 Yes, she believes in Kinlli Urcu “para poder hilar la loma para vistimenta ‘fime’(? ) me fue a poner una ofrenda pidiendo que de fuerza o sabiduria”. Ie for strength or wisdom she gives an offering to the hill. It could also suggest that to be able to spin (hilar) she gave offerings to the hill.

He believes in Kinlli Urcu because once his son went to leave an offering of a wooden toy/instrument asking that he wanted to be an artist, which turned out [as asked] an now he's out of the country [presumably working as an artist?]

Yes, he believes in sacred places, especially Cruz Pamba. Once when he was young he went to ask that it give strength or ability to learn to weave & dye woollens which was successful & because of this he has faith.

He believes in good earth spirits that give fertility etc. The mountains have spirits too, & they show their pleasure/displeasure as when they snow, cause earthquakes, erupt etc.

Yes, there are sacred places in the landscape & you have to venerate them with offerings like maize, potatoes etc.

Yes, Pacha Pata which is a local spring, it can heal you through bathing in its waters at 5am, & you return healed, with enthusiasm to work, etc

### *Zuleta respondents*

#### Community elder (16)

2.2 They are all part of a whole. All these are important elements. Important elements: Fire, water, all is articulated. Live in a space, all has sense, space etc

2.3 Thinks all elements have a specific power. Grandparents believed much in moon phases as critical for planning, but not specific that any one has specific power to harm or heal.

2.4 Yes. All on earth has a being; living beings, spirits have power, mountains & rivers have spirits. Urco – spirits to heal.

2.5 Yes. Sacred sites exist for the community. Like springs are sacred. Martin Pocyó is a sacred site locally. Go there to be healed of problems like cuichig. A yachak will prepare a healing bundle to offer to the sacred site.

2.6 Saints, San Juan Bautista, possibly comes from earlier beliefs in a pre-Columbian entity.

2.6 Yes, tradition of San Juan & the Virgin of Zuleta are in charge of the well-being of the community.

#### Shaman (17)

2.3 Yes, but power for life; to prepare medicine; air, which is fundamental for life. Water has a spiritual power to strengthen your spirit. Waterfalls have a specific power to heal.

2.5 Yes, Springs & cascades. Bridge of Angochagua. The Evangelists had a spring destroyed in La Rinconada

2.6 Yes. There were but not now. They left because they weren't believed in.

### *Ugsha respondents*

2.3 No; every morning prays to God to protect them.

They can harm you at times, although you don't always know.

2.6 Yes, she believes in Wak'as, giving the example of hunters coming back well after their experiences in the wild.

2.7 Life experiences are good, "porque las malas lo hacemos uno mismo" ie the bad one, we do ourselves.

## GALÁPAGOS RESPONDENTS

Question	Responses
<p>2.2 How do you see the physical landscape and nature, that is, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, the sea, the landscape, the plants, the animals, etc.? Do you see them as part of “whole”, or do you see them as separate things?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Nature is beauty, it's the creation of God. It's [all] part of one whole .</li> <li>2) I see them all as part of a single world, I see them dependent on each other and united.</li> <li>3) The landscape of nature is beauty and part of a whole. But the contamination of waste and sewage has damaged the ecosystem.</li> <li>4) Among the beings of nature there is dependence on one another. We are all part of a whole.</li> <li>5) All of nature is one whole.</li> <li>6) Nature is beauty for our eyes and all the elements of it are united and are one.</li> <li>7) Nature is diversity; it is beauty for our eyes. And everything is one, all are united.</li> <li>8) For me, nature represents beauty and the landscape is beautiful for our eyes. And there is a mutual dependence between man and nature.</li> <li>9) The diversity of the landscape is beauty for our sight. I consider that each element of nature makes a unique / separate world.</li> <li>10) For me, all the elements of nature form part of one whole, they are one.</li> <li>11) For me, nature (physical space) represents joy for our lives. There is a connection between all the beings of nature.</li> </ol>
<p>2.3 Do any of the elements like wind, water or the sun have the power to harm or heal?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Yes, it can harm or also heal, extremes can harm and the good elements can heal.</li> <li>2) Yes, it can cause us a lot of sun damage, for example, to people who are dedicated to agriculture too much sun produces drought and when you walk under a vast sun without protection, many times, it causes cancer to the skin. On the other hand, the elements of nature, such as medicinal plants, can cure diseases.</li> <li>3) The elements of nature have the power to heal and not to harm us. For example, medicinal plants help to cure diseases.</li> <li>4) They do not hurt us. On the contrary, man (the human being) is the one who harms nature when we do not care or do not protect it.</li> <li>5) Yes, nature can cause irreparable damage. For example, it's possible to have a tsunami from the sea here in the Galápagos, something which makes us live in fear.</li> <li>6) The elements of nature cannot cause us harm. For example, rain helps us in the field to grow plants, the sun serves to dry clothes and water gives us life and serves us to clean up.</li> <li>7) Yes, the elements of nature can cause us harm or also heal us. Example, a lot of sun (heat) or cold causes us diseases. Instead the air gives us life.</li> </ol>

	<p>8) Yes, nature, such as plants, can heal us and at the same time the excessive use of them can cause diseases. Or natural disasters such as excessive rain and drought can cause material damage and loss of human life.</p> <p>9) Too much sun burns your skin.</p> <p>10) The elements of nature cannot heal diseases. But they can cause damage, for example, a lot of rain can cause floods and a lot of sun droughts.</p> <p>11) Yes, the elements of nature can affect both positively and negatively. For example, when you walk on a very sunny day you [can] get the flu, fever and headache. On the other hand, plants can prevent us from some diseases, for example, oranges, so that we do not catch flu.</p>
<p>2.4 Do you believe in earth spirits, mountain spirits, good and bad spirits?</p>	<p>1) Yes I believe it, the elements of nature have [a]spirit.</p> <p>2) Yes I believe it. Nature has a life, soul and spirit.</p> <p>3) I do believe that the mountains and the earth itself have spirits.</p> <p>4) Yes, I believe that the mountains have power. So, it depends how we treat nature that gives us life and energy or can cause us something bad, there must always be reciprocity between living beings.</p> <p>5) I don't believe this.</p> <p>6) Yes, our land and our mountains have spirit and soul. All spirits are good.</p> <p>7) I don't believe it.</p> <p>8) Yes, I believe that the earth and its elements have spirits.</p> <p>9) Yes, our mountains have spirits.</p> <p>10) I don't believe that the natural elements have spirits.</p> <p>11) I could affirm that the beings of nature do not have spirits, but I would not sleep on a mountain because sleeping there one becomes crazy. Likewise, I would not sleep under large trees, near animals such as pigs and inside abandoned houses, because in these places there are evil spirits.</p>
<p>2.5 Do you believe in 'sacred places' in the landscape and the importance of venerating them with offerings?</p>	<p>1) No.</p> <p>2) Yes I believe in sacred locations, so it's important to venerate them to get positive energy.</p> <p>3) It is important to venerate them and take care of them because when we have faith in them they protect us and give us wisdom, energy and even cure us of diseases.</p> <p>4) Yes, I believe in sacred locations and it's good to venerate them. But it depends on each person.</p> <p>5) No, I don't believe it.</p> <p>6) I believe in sacred places so it is important to venerate them so that they protect us and give us wisdom. But it depends a lot on each person's faith.</p> <p>7) Yes, I believe it, you have to go and venerate them to live well.</p> <p>8) No.</p> <p>9) Yes, I believe in sacred places and that you must also venerate them.</p>

	<p>10) Yes I believe a little. Many people believe in sacred locations and go to venerate them. I believe more in God, he has power.</p> <p>11) Yes, I believe in sacred places and the existence of them. Because when someone is [performing a] healing [ritual], we hear and see strong lightning. Also when a person dies because of an evil work (witchcraft) the mountains make a very loud sound. For these and other reasons you have to venerate the mountains so they are not angry.</p>
<p>2.6 Do you believe that a supernatural being is in charge of the health of your community and capable of curing people of any disease (as it was once believed that they were the <i>wak'as</i>)?</p>	<p>1) No.</p> <p>2) I believe in nature but I don't believe that anything supernatural is looking after it [or us]. Only God looks after us.</p> <p>3) Yes, I believe that something supernatural is looking after us.</p> <p>4) Yes, I believe that something supernatural is looking after us. This, yes, depends much on the faith of the person. For example, medicinal plants protect us from illnesses.</p> <p>5) No, I don't think it's so.</p> <p>6) Yes, the spirits of nature look after us.</p> <p>7) I don't believe it.</p> <p>8) Our God is the one who looks after us.</p> <p>9) No.</p> <p>10) I don't believe this; God looks after us.</p> <p>11) There aren't any. There's only God who looks after us.</p>
<p>2.7 Do you see the experiences of life and life as good or bad, positive and negative? (duality)</p>	<p>1) Yes, people have both positive and negative experiences.</p> <p>2) In life people have positive and negative experiences, always duality.</p> <p>3) In my life I have had both bad and good life experiences, in duality.</p> <p>4) In life I have had good as well as bad experiences. Everyone lives in duality.</p> <p>5) In my life I have had good and bad experiences, [I believe] in duality.</p> <p>6) All families have lived both bad and good, always in duality.</p> <p>7) We all live with both good and bad, in duality.</p> <p>8) Each person has positive and negative experiences, that's life, the two go together, in a dual way.</p> <p>9) I live both good and bad in my life, in duality.</p> <p>10) For myself and my family we have had negative and positive life experiences, in duality.</p> <p>11) People have bad and good experiences. Sometimes we are sad and sometimes we are happy.</p>

**SALASAKA – RECORDED INTERVIEWS**

Question	Response
<p>2.2 How do you see the physical landscape and nature, that is, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, the sea, the landscape, the plants, the animals, etc.? Do you see them as part of “whole”, or do you see them as separate things?</p>	<p>12) The natural landscape is a beauty for us, something beautiful for our life. Seeing all the splendor we can imagine the creation of the world by our God. What I can say is that there is a need for each other, that is why rain and sun need both human beings and nature. The rain useful for plants to grow, oxygen to breathe and the sun allows us to bathe and dry the clothes we wash. In this way we make a single world the beings of nature and humanity.</p> <p>Likewise, when we get sick with something - it can be malaire or fever, caused by going out to make water (pass water ie urinate?) in the early hours, we clean ourselves with matitas de matico and guanto. We also make infusions with garlic and lard. Also with strong nettles and with the plants of santa maria we clean ourselves not to be ‘decaido’ ie ill. If we do not improve, we clean ourselves with chili which is a stronger cleaning element. My mother told us to clean with chili so that the devil does not kick because if he kicks us we are left without energy, nor do we have the will to walk or appetite to eat. And after the cleaning [ritual] the [negative energy]is thrown far away on the road.</p> <p><b>Where do you throw away the plants that were used in the cleansing, anywhere or any specific place on the road?</b></p> <p>Sometimes you throw them on the cross roads or also in the sequia or river. You throw them at the cross roads so that they go away with the wind. or so that the evil follows the first person who crosses that place. Because of this, many people who know about the cleansing and see that they have thrown the remains of it just in the place where they were crossing, go whipping with a branch so that it does not follow them; those who do not know about it we pass without doing anything.</p> <p>13) Nature transmits happiness and gives life to be a human being. Everthing exists in inter-relation and inter-dependency.</p> <p>14) I consider that we live together with nature. For example, of plants, we eat trees, fruits; houeses serve to protect us, mountains to get water from. People and nature make one world, one life because we obtain the fruits of nature and from her the air that we breathe.</p> <p>15) I climb Mama Teligote, I see how the plants purify the air and produce rain and water. I go to the river, I see how it gives life to plants and other human beings. Therefore, nature is one and each being that makes up [forms] nature has their own life and spirit.</p>
<p>2.3 Do any of the elements like wind, water or the sun have the power to harm or heal?</p>	<p>12) Yes I believe this, for example when we go to bathe in the springs around here with medicinal plants it makes us feel well and refreshed.</p> <p>13) Don’t know.</p>

	<p>14) I think that nature, yes, has power, as much good as bad. Water is life (a power), without water we cannot live. Even the mountains have power since they give me the strength I need. They are for me as if it were the achievement of a goal, every day I give myself the example that I must reach the top of the mountain. In reality nature, or the earth never harms us, on the contrary, we harm them, not knowing how to care for them.</p> <p>15) All the elements of nature have a spirit, therefore, to be able to heal people and other human beings and pos[sibly?], also to damage depending on the situation. So, I am grateful to Taita Chimborazo for giving us water to take care of our lands. It is necessary to know that when Mama Teligote (Mama Awela) gets angry she sends us ash and even fire.</p>
<p>2.4 Do you believe in earth spirits, mountain spirits, good and bad spirits?</p>	<p>12) Yes, the mountains have spirits and other people have told me this too. Our ancestors, even when they didn't know about the existence of God, lived worshipping the mountains. There could be good and bad spirits, yes, this depends upon a person's faith. Because if someone has evil wishes about someone, it could be the same spirit that causes bad effects, but if one doesn't have evil wishes about anyone, they only have good spirits.</p> <p>13) Yes, I have heard that bad spirits (devils) exist in abandoned or old houses. I haven't seen them but other indigenous people say that they have even met the devil in person. Listening to these conversations we say that there are evil spirits.</p> <p>14) Yes I believe that the earth and the mountains have spirits. People are the ones who have bad and good spirits so, nature only reacts to the actions of man. I think that nature has good spirits and we do not take advantage of it.</p> <p>15) Yes, the mountains have spirits. They are good, for example, when girl children can't spin or want to spin better, to learn how to embroider we go with an offering to the sacred site called Mama Kinll (Kinlli Urku; the sacred mountain) In the same way, when a boy has malaire, you go to the sacred site Mama Kinlli to do a cleansing. Furthermore, there we have Taita Kinlli, Taita Cruz Loma y Taita Punta Rumi [Wak'as].</p>
<p>2.5 Do you believe in 'sacred places' in the landscape and the importance of venerating them with offerings?</p>	<p>12) People who really have faith go to the mountains (or other sacred places) to pray upon their knees and to offer money and candles to effect good or bad, upon the other person, or on themselves. For them it is very important to worship sacred places.</p> <p>13) I don't believe this, I only believe in God. My parents didn't teach me to believe this either.</p> <p>14) It's very important to look after them; they are our gods.</p> <p>15) When I do a ceremony I invoke Mama Kinlli, Taita Chimbo, Taita Cotopaxi, Taita Inti (sun), Mama Awela (Tungurahua / Teligote), Mama Yaku (water) and Pachamama (goddess of the Earth). When we have faith they can relieve us of some evil.</p>

<p>2.6 ¿ Do you believe that a supernatural being is in charge of the health of your community and capable of curing people of any disease (as it was once believed that they were the wak'as)?</p>	<p>12) Many people believe that yes, there is a place or a spirit to venerate and be blessed by and receive her protection. It is because of this that there was a big discussion here in Salasaka when a tractor destroyed the sacred site of Kinlli Urku because for many believers this site was for prayer and to leave offerings to the spirits. Furthermore, I have heard it said by many people that when you pray and worship with much faith with all your heart, the animals grow healthy and strong and the harvest is good.</p> <p>13) I don't believe it.</p> <p>14) I do believe it is taking care of us. Moreover, people who believe in the spirits of the mountains are healthier in body and healthy. It is so, when you want to share and talk about it, you do not want to know, that is why you live in ignorance and vulnerable to diseases. They sign that when they get sick it is God's punishment, it is not divine punishment, diseases are a consequence of our actions.</p> <p>15) The spirits of nature look after us, they help us and even give us life, so, we should live grateful and take care of them.</p>
<p>2.7 Do you see the experiences of life as good or bad, positive and negative? (duality)</p>	<p>12) Until now I have lived well, as I haven't done any harm to anyone I could say I am fine. Sometimes I have been ill.</p> <p>13) Yes I have lived a good life. I live working the land and happy being able to be active.</p> <p>14) My life has been full of positive experiences that are negative [poorly transcribed?]. But I must admit that yes, I have had negative experiences.</p> <p>15) Up until now I have lived well, and my children are also well. Only that sometimes [redacted] makes me sad ... In spite of it, I feel that I am well.</p>