



## **WORLD BUFO ALVARIUS CONGRESS (WBAC ) 2018**

8/10/18

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The first *World Bufo Alvarius Congress* was held in Mexico City this July 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and we are pleased to announce that it was a rousing success on every level.

Our intention in convening the Congress was to gather together the many disparate elements of the global Bufo Alvarius tribe, from the indigenous Sonoran communities, Mexican and Western practitioners, scientists, anthropologists, academics, psychonauts and everyday people that have been touched by the power and sacredness of the Bufo Alvarius medicine.

We are honored to have featured speakers in Track 1 (in chronological order: Mario Garnier, Raymundo Barnett, Samuel Amistron, Victoria Ochoa, Leonardo Bondani, Corbis, Kirra Swinerton, Tom Mendola, Issac, Dave Solomon, Rak Razam, Pit Prieto, Flor Bollini, Tricia Eastman, Hari Har Fink, Octavio Rettig, James Oroc, Martin Ball, Hal Lucius Nation, Filip Zaruba, Dr. Michael Villanueva, Dr. Jack Alloca, Dr. Juan Acosta, Dr. Josphe Barsuglia, Rita Kočárová, Dean Jefferys, Sergio Sanz Navarro, Joël Brierre, Sebastian Job, Yannina Thomassiny, Hope Latimer, Chad Charles, Beto Basilo, David Gallegos, Tanja Phoenix, and more integration specialists who supported Track 2 concurrently to Track 1.

Moreover, our Community Forum on the Sunday dedicated almost four hours to the community to have its say on the pressing issues of toad conservation, ethics, best practices, integration, new practitioners, sustainable alternatives and more. It was a much needed gathering to discuss the power and responsibility of using this unique compound, and to find ways in which we can grow as an educated and unified community. Working groups were created on each of these issues and will continue to be nurtured under the WBAC brand to best represent the community (see below).

At WBAC 2018 we met in person, acknowledging our differences of approach and diversity, and the commonality of our experience in the heart of the medicine. Much of the ego and division that is present on online social media was counteracted by the emotional and human experience of meeting each other with respect and civility, and we encourage all of us that were present at WBAC 2018 to be ambassadors for the cohesion and community we have felt and anchored at this historic event.

For we believe that WBAC is more than a conference, and what we have initiated has just begun. A Congress is a meeting of the people, and that meeting will continue online and off, and we hope that WBAC as a brand and a platform can represent we, the people in the global Bufo Alvarius community. As such we ask that people stay in contact through the WBAC platforms. Our social media page is on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldBufoAlvariusCongress> and you can share photos, stories and belonging there. We will be creating working groups on issues like sustainability, ethics etc. that will fork off from the main page, and encourage all those interested to join. Our main website: [www.wbac.info](http://www.wbac.info) will soon start hosting the video presentations of our speakers to share their wisdom as well. We rely on your engagement and support to do the work ahead and give voice to our community.

To best know and represent your interests we have created two surveys to continue the evolution which can be found at: <https://www.wbac.info/surveys> . One is a logistics survey helping us understand you and your experience at WBAC 2018 and how we can improve for next year. The second is about moving forward with the issues discussed at WBAC and gathering consensus on how to proceed. Please take some time to answer these surveys and help us to create the structure for our community to grow.

WBAC is anchoring as a public platform for community engagement around the toad and its medicine, and is part of an evolving and interconnected network of organizations being created. One is the recently formed Mexcian *Asociación de Terapeutas del Bufo Alvarius* (<http://terapeutasbufoalvarius.com>), all of whom agree to the Best Practices standards recently released by the Conclave (<http://awareproject.org/5meodmt-health-and-safety>). Another is the proposed *Toad Bank*, a co-operative model for ethical collectors of the Bufo medicine that will unite indigenous tribes and other Mexican collectors to ensure fair trade principles and sustainability.

The issues embedded in collecting, practicing and all aspects of medicine work are ongoing dialogues in which hope to work together as a community to find agreement. We encourage the same openness and discussion, respect for diversity, civility and transparency that our 2018 Congress established. WBAC 2018 was indeed a historic moment—the beginning of something, not the end, and we ask you join us in this ongoing work.

Together we are stronger than the sum of our parts.

All is One.

With love and respect,

**WBAC**