# BRANDING REGENERATIVE BIOCULTURE

## Converging Identities for Community

#### This research-action proposal in the territory seeks to:

THE PROJECT

• Recover **biocultural culinary** heritage as an alternative source of livelihood for youth.

Cocina Calakmul is a transdisciplinary project initiated in 2022 at the Universidad

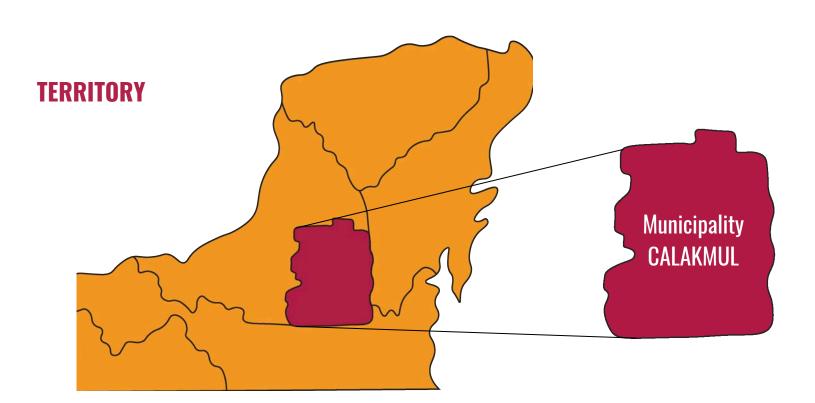
- Promote **gastronomic tourism** based on the common good.
- Generate local job opportunities for young people.
  - Apply design tools to **build identity, community, and belonging.**

**Iberoamericana, Mexico City,** through the Centrus research group.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE TERRITORY

Calakmul, a name in the Mayan language meaning "Two Adjacent Mounds", is a municipality located in southeastern Mexico, in the state of Campeche. This region is known for its natural and archaeological richness. Much of the territory is comprised of ejidos, where cooperative initiatives have emerged to establish microenterprises in order to generate local employment, especially for young people.

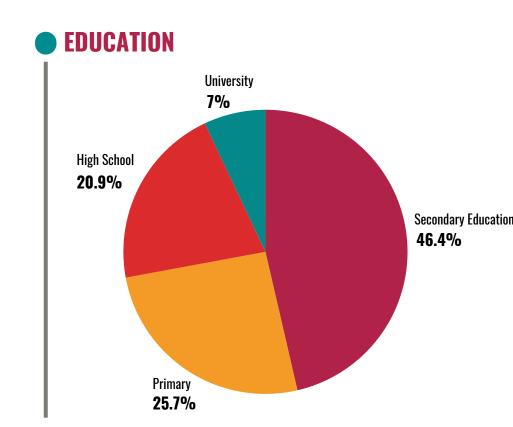
Its ecosystem is unique: a humid and sub-humid tropical forest (24-28 °C), 300 tree species and 1,500 animal species.



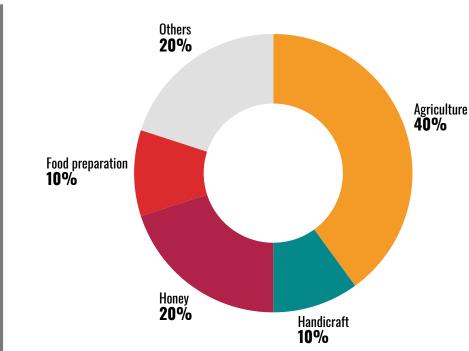
**POPULATION** 

55-59

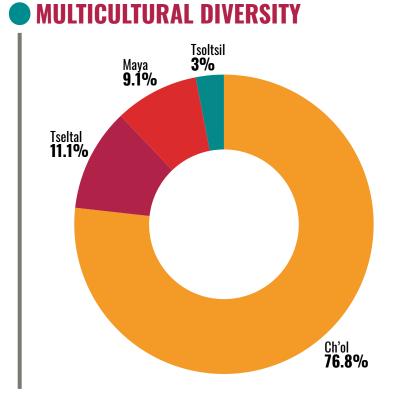
35-39



PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES



Calakmul is a territory of migration. Indigenous communities. Despite cultural differences, these communities have generated a visible syncretism in rituals and agricultural practices, with corn as a central symbol and food.



#### **Diagnosis and Challenges**

Despite its natural and cultural wealth, Calakmul faces several challenges:

- Structural poverty and lack of job opportunities, especially for youth.
- Youth migration to other states.
- Unregulated tourism and rising local prices.
- Fragmentation or lack of a shared cultural identity.

#### From a Design Perspective

Creating a sensory brand that represents Calakmul's gastronomic identity, aligned with a systemic vision that connects with the local community and strengthens its positioning as a tourist destination through an authentic, cultural, and culinary experience.

#### **Findings**

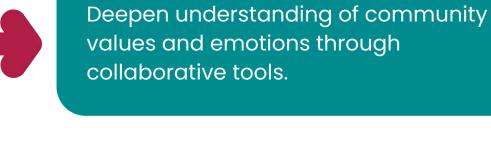
**Pluriculturalism** is common in the region but not tangibly manifested in shared spaces. A natural and respectful balance exists between people and nature.

#### Insight

- We are a community with many stories, but none yet written.
- Calakmul has more to offer than
- archaeological sites. • We must communicate the symbiosis between community and
- nature. Shared foods across cultures can be unifying symbols.

#### **01. Territory Exploration**

Empathetically understand the territory, its dynamics, stakeholders, and challenges.



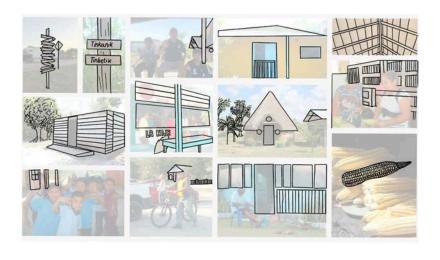
**02. Co-Creation and Analysis** 

#### 03. Ideation

Translate insights into brand concepts aligned with local systems.

#### 04. Design

Consolidate a systemic, sustainable brand with community validation.

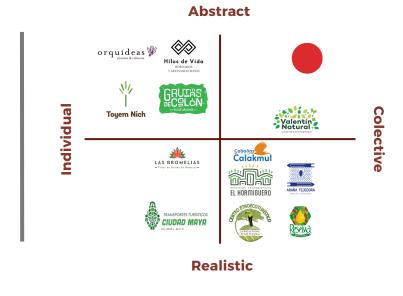








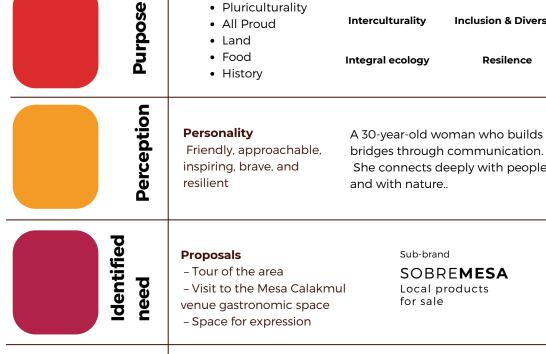
**Key Words** 



### **CREATIVE CONCEPT**

Interculturality is the community's identity. Create a shared story we can all be proud of, embracing the connection we have with our food and the land we inhabit.

#### **BRAND CONCEPT**



**VALUES** 

She connects deeply with people

Value Proposition A gastronomic space where cultures converge to celebrate the diversity of Calakmul. Through food, shared encounters, and connection with nature and tradition, we offer an experience that honors the local identity of those who inhabit this land.

#### **MANIFESTO**

We believe interculturality gives flavor to our identity, and solidarity blends differences with respect. Balance with nature keeps our community alive, and our strength lies in sharing stories that unite us. Our mission is to bring diverse elements together and cook a collective story that reflects who we are. We aim to share the true flavor of Calakmul through the respect and transmission of our traditions. We are committed to creating meaningful experiences that highlight Calakmul's cultural and natural richness, while helping build a strong local identity rooted in the diversity of the people who call this land home.

# Tangible Attributes

Gastronomic

Evoked emotions

**SOBREMESA** Local products Touch · Wood surfaces

• Natural surroundings • Leaves and palm fibers

· Organic textures

tableware

Ceramic and handmade

**MESA** ABIERTA Partnerships with cooperatives and cultural events

aromas

• A warm and

welcoming

**Tone and Voice** 

Casual, respectful

optimistic, and

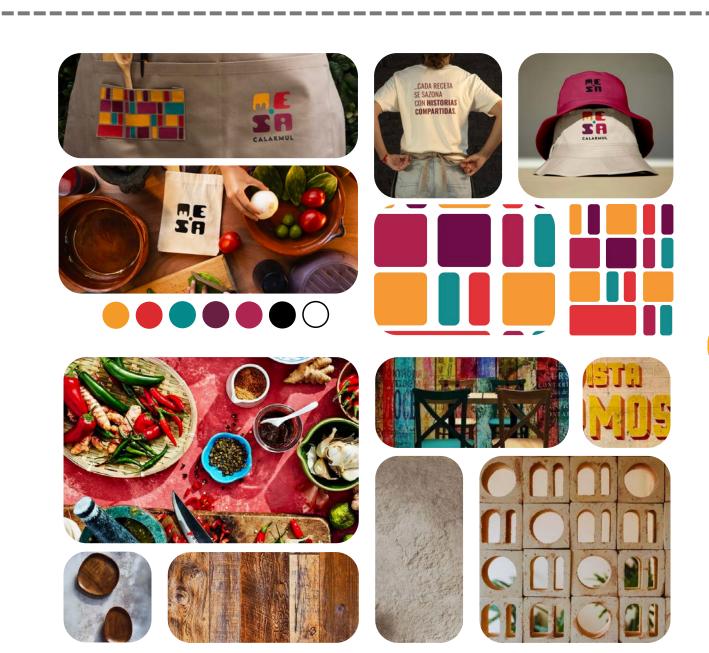
humorous.

Hearing Floral and sweet

 Local fauna • A sense of peace and tranquility

# CALAKMUL

**VISUAL IDENTITY SENSORIALITY** 



The Mesa Calakmul proposal creates a collaborative brand, agreed upon with key stakeholders. It is a flexible and dynamic brand system, capable of connecting with different audiences at different times, offering experiences, services, and products managed by the project itself according to its resources and timelines.

The process made visible the potential of design as a key tool to organize, communicate, visualize, and give identity in vulnerable contexts.



This project demonstrates the importance of regenerative design and its ability to foster fairer, more sustainable environments for all actors involved.

Cocina Calakmul aims to become a replicable model of cultural and ecological regeneration through social design. It proposes a living brand, co-created with the community, that unites diverse identities and strengthens territorial cohesion through gastronomy.





