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(CO)RAISING BLUE NATURESOCIETIES: TRANSCULTURAL SOURCE-TO-SEA APPROACHES TOWARDS REGENERATIVE COASTAL URBAN ECOSYSTEMS

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This study examines the urgent need for alternative urban planning and policy-making strategies in urban ecosystems located in coastal shorelines and near river mouths in the UK, as these areas become increasingly vulnerable to flooding, loss of housing, permanent inundation and uninhabitability, conditions accentuated by the climate crisis forcing communities to consider the potential need for relocation. Through a transcultural lens aiming to enable epistemological bridges between western and non-western knowledge-structures and modes-of-relationality, the study engages with knowledge and practices from the Quechua and Aymara populations currently mainly located in the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes, focusing on the integrated source-to-sea socionatural perspectives embodied in the “Systems of Sowing and Harvesting of Water” by the Quechua people, and the Aymara concept of “Uywanya”, which poses a hybrid understanding of a shared enaction of co-raising between humans and non-humans for the upbringing of regenerative societies and biodiversity (i.e. naturesocieties). The results of this study shed light over the significant impact these alter-native forms of knowledge could have if interlaced with modern and western understandings of nature-society relations informing decision-making processes involving water, biodiversity, urbanisation and risk through planning, management and monitoring infrastructures.