



THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors



We want to introduce you to the work of The Cultural Sanctuaries Foundation, a small, passionate and solution-orientated non-profit founded out of inspiration drawn from the Paris climate change conference in 2015.

Indigenous people are the best guardians of the land. 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity is on the land lived on by indigenous communities. It has protected them and they have protected it for tens of thousands of years. But indigenous communities can not be its guardians if they are forced by economic duress, wilderness destruction and climate change to move from their land to find work in cities or to sell their land and timber or if their land is taken from them. We are also passionate about the vital importance of culture, language and knowledge and how crucial it is that they are maintained and celebrated for future generations. We do not want cultures to disappear, languages to fade away or knowledge to be lost. Conservation and culture are intricately and inextricably linked.

Our Foundation helps indigenous communities to protect their culture and their land. We work in areas where both local culture and biodiversity are endangered. Each project involves four core elements:

- documentation of the local culture and biodiversity
- building of a community centre as a focal point for cultural celebration and revitalisation
- protection of the land and biodiversity in the most appropriate form
- creation of economic frameworks to support the community.

If a community can stop just one square mile of forest being burnt down, they offset the annual carbon footprint of 35,000 people or 30,000 cars.



Our current projects are in **Bhutan** – working with the Olep, the country's oldest indigenous people; **Kenya** – working with the Maasai of the Amboseli/Tsavo region in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro; **Mongolia** – working with the eagle hunters of the West and the reindeer herders, the Dukha, in the North; **Mexico** – working with the Mayan communities in the Yucatan peninsula; and **Brazil** – working with the Javari tribe in the Amazon. We also have projects in development in Patagonia in Chile and in Indonesia.

Connecting with you

If you are an indigenous community that might be interested in working with us, a NGO doing work similar or complementary to ours or a funder looking for new and innovative projects to invest in, we are eager to hear from you. Please contact us at info@culturalsanctuaries.org

For more information about us, visit www.culturalsanctuaries.org

