



THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors



We are excited and proud to tell you about the opening of our new Eagle Hunter Cultural Centre in Ulgii in Western Mongolia.

Its official launch last week featured speeches from the Governor of Bayan-Olgii province, the Chairman of the Kazakh Falconry Association, the Director of the Wildlife Science and Conservation Centre of Mongolia and the President of Nomadic Expeditions as well as from us as the founders and directors of The Cultural Sanctuaries Foundation. Traditional candy-throwing and a Kazakh musical performance then accompanied the official ribbon cutting before eagle hunters and their eagles entered the new building for the first time.

The Centre will be a gathering place for the eagle hunting community, a hub for cultural revitalisation and conservation and a living museum for local people, schoolkids and intrepid tourists to learn about the local traditions and landscape.

We work at the crossroads of culture and conservation and this project could not be a better example of that vital connection. The centuries-old eagle hunting tradition had almost completely died out before efforts were made to start to revive it in the late '90s. An annual eagle festival celebrates its renaissance and the Centre will complement the Festival by being a cultural hub all-year round. Meanwhile, the Mongolian grasslands are crucial in the fight against climate change - they are known by conservationists as 'upside-down rainforests' for their capacity to sequester carbon dioxide. The Centre will serve to teach all who visit it

about the importance of the grasslands and the dangers of desertification and over-grazing. As always, culture and conservation go hand in hand.

For our part, while we continue to work with our Mongolian partners and the eagle hunting community to ensure that the new Centre is successful and well-used, we are also focused on our other priority projects. These include the creation of a cultural and conservation centre in Michoacan in Mexico (working with the Mazahua community who live in the area to which the endangered Monarch butterflies migrate each winter) and a language revitalization programme working with the Kwakwaka'wakw community in British Columbia in Canada. Our other projects involve initiatives to protect endangered culture and biodiversity in each of Peru, Ecuador, Papua New Guinea and Kenya.

Donations to support our work can be made via culturalsanctuaries.org/donate

For now, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our generous supporters and donors without whom the Eagle Hunter Cultural Centre would not have been possible. You have helped us to create a lasting and transformational legacy to support and protect the eagle hunting community and the Mongolian grasslands into the future. Thank you.

