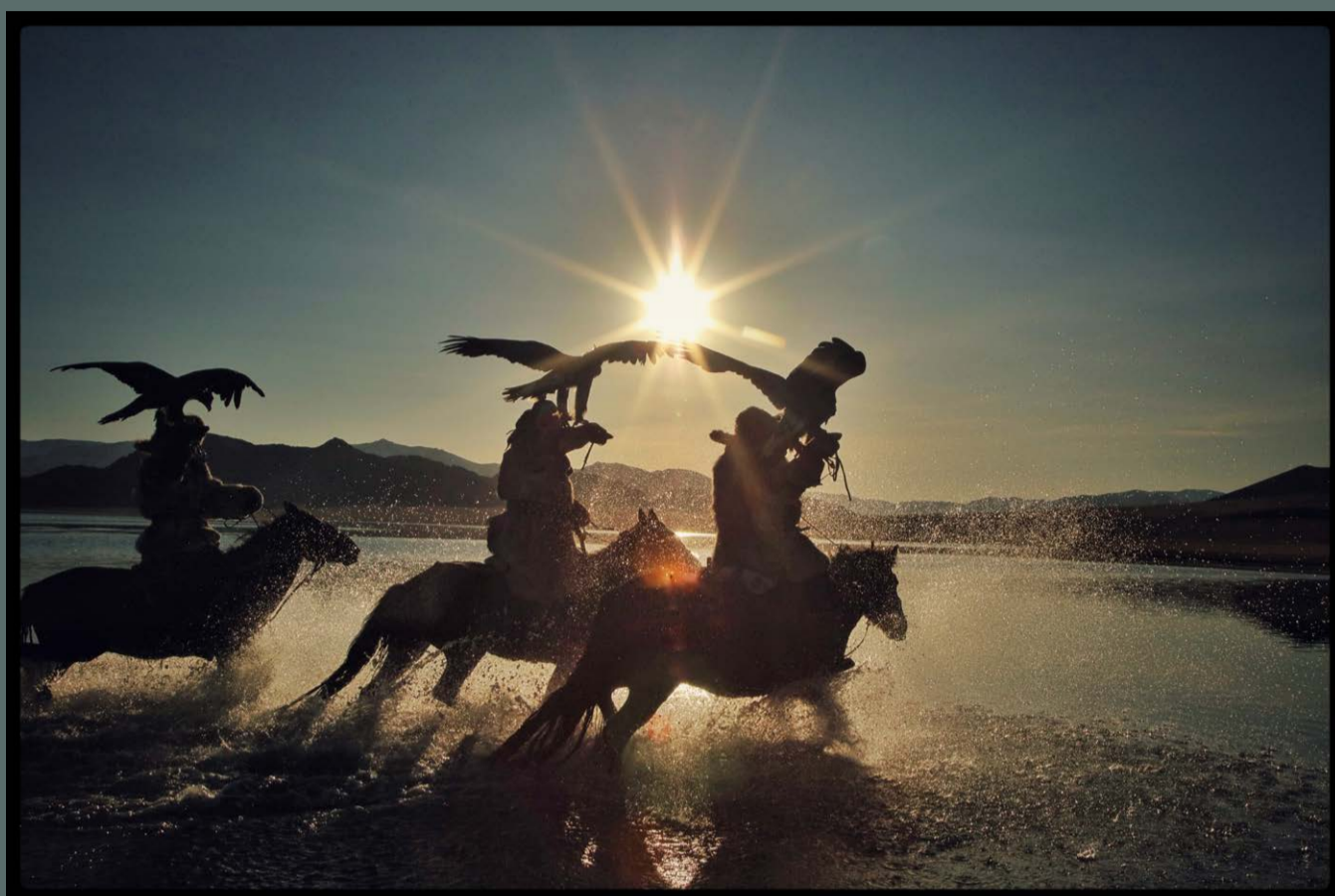




THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors



Eagle hunters Dalaikhan, Bigtas and Shaimarat race with their golden eagles.

Happy Spring! We have four items of news to report in this quarter's newsletter.

Mongolia: Let's start with the very best news. We are over the moon to tell you that we have completed the fundraising for the Mongolia project. We are busy finalising the design before the foundations are laid for the first ever Eagle Hunter Community Center in Ulgii, Mongolia. The perimeter fencing will be put in, a well dug and trees planted shortly and the Center will be up and running by the time of this year's annual Golden Eagle Festival in early October. We'll update you in the coming months as construction progresses. We owe a huge thank you to the donors and supporters who have made this possible.

Bhutan: We have completed a written report on our flagship project working with the Olep community and our partners at Tarayana Foundation in Bhutan, its latest developments and its impact. If anyone would like to see a copy of the report or is interested in tips on visiting this exceptional and beautiful country, please do let us know.

Mexico: We continue to fundraise for our project working with the Mazahua community in Michoacan in Mexico. Here we have bad and good news to share. The somber news is that the Monarch butterflies have had a very bad winter. Experts report up to a 60% drop in the overwintering population and cite a reduction in forest protection and a scarcity in food supplies as the primary reasons for the decline. The Monarch migration is one of Nature's marvels – the butterflies fly South for thousands of miles to the same forest each winter, arriving almost to the day. It seems heartbreaking that after this remarkable achievement, they then struggle to survive the winter. It makes our work in supporting the community that live in the

buffer zone to the Monarch reserve feel ever more urgent. The connection between Nature and Culture is clear – and the more we can support the community to avoid logging and clear cutting, the better off the butterflies will be. (Dr. Jane Goodall turned 90 this week – it was when she first realised the enormity of this connection in the 1980s that her advocacy work began. Discussing the destruction of the forests around Gombe where she worked, she said: "If we don't help people to find ways of making a living without destroying their environment, we can't save chimps, forests, or anything else.") The positive Cultural Sanctuaries news is that even without having yet completed our fundraising for the new Mazahua Community Center that we are creating in Michoacan, exciting developments are afoot. Thanks to generous donations from our supporters, Mazahua language classes have now started for the first time in the village of Crescencio Morales, with 45 students signed up for the lessons twice a week. Also workshops for the area's artisans, in particular designed to promote productivity, marketing and sales, will begin shortly. For more details on this amazing project and how you can help get us to the next stage, please email us.

The Foundation's advisory committee:

Our wonderful advisory committee is about to become even more impressive. We could not be happier that no less than four new advisors have agreed to come on board. They are Chime Paden Wangdi from Bhutan, Debora and Aniata Kimitete from the Marquesas and Jalsa Urubshurow representing Mongolia. Welcome to all! We know that we will benefit enormously from their insights and wisdom.

Thank you.

The Cultural Sanctuaries Foundation team