



THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors

As COP draws to a close in Glasgow, we want to give you our impressions and takeaways...

Despite some lacklustre press reporting and despite some countries holding the global ambitions back, we must surely hail the outcomes as positive and heading in the right direction. We celebrate:

- the commitment to end **deforestation**
- the announcements on **cutting methane** (a greater evil in some ways even than carbon)
- the promise of a large number of countries to **quit coal** and stop funding fossil fuel projects
- the pressure on all countries to be more ambitious on **carbon emission reduction**
- the focus on change in the **agricultural, fashion and industrial** sectors and how tax breaks and subsidies need reversing to incentivize good behaviour
- the huge **financing commitments** coming from the financial and banking sector (involving at least 40% of global GDP being aligned with environmental targets)
- the increasing investment in **renewable energies**
- the focus on **adaptation** (what needs to be done to respond to the changing climate) as well as mitigation (what needs to be done to keep the change in check)
- the likely commitment to **“30 by 30”**: the protection of 30% of the land and 30% of the ocean by 2030
- the growth in the size of the funds coming in to the **carbon offset market** and increasing pressure to create an effective global carbon market
- the money being promised for poorer and **developing countries and small island nations** to help respond to the crisis and
- the power of the **younger generation** and activists. (Thomas Friedman of The New York Times commented that politicians are now more scared of the young than of the press.)

Two additional elements - which we want to highlight – really stand out...

Data and accountability: until now, emissions of particular countries and companies have often been under-reported. On top of that, there has been little ability to verify them. New satellite and AI technology is changing all that - from now, every fuel plant, every mine, every fishing trawler, every logging truck will be tracked. Every 6 hours, the data on emissions and effect of each of them will be made available publicly - to the UN, governments, investors, consumers, communities and activists. There will soon be nowhere for bad behaviour to hide.

Indigenous peoples: there has been a sea change in the inclusion of the indigenous voice here at COP. It is not that at last they are being given a voice: their voice has always been loud and strong. But now that voice is being increasingly heard, listened to and respected. The complexities of the climate and biodiversity crises can not be ignored but there seems now to be a broad

acceptance of the crucial link between culture and conservation and of the role of indigenous communities as guardians of our environment.

We come away from the conference exhausted but exhilarated and optimistic.

Much is still to be done but progress is being made and people are trying hard to find solutions. It is certainly not all “blah blah blah”.

For us, it has been an extraordinary experience. We have been honoured to give a talk (the link to it is at the bottom of this newsletter), to have an exhibition stand, to have our story told on the Google Arts and Culture platform and to have access to the negotiations as UN observers. We have learnt a lot and we have secured meetings with potential partners and funders that we have been trying to get in front of for some time. We feel great energy and momentum. Onwards!

