



THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors



Molbai, Champion eagle hunter, Ulgii Eagle Festival 2022, Mongolia

Well that was quite a year! 2022 saw exciting progress with all three of our current priority projects and significant developments in other areas too. We want to give you a quick update on all of this as well as to wish you all a happy and healthy 2023.

Mexico: In the town of Crescencio Morales which sits in the buffer zone to the Monarch Butterfly Reserve in the state of Michoacan, we are working with the local Mazahua community. The first spades went in in the autumn for engineering checks on the former convent which is to become our Mazahua community cultural center. Full renovation work begins in the Spring with a view to the center being open by the end of 2023. It will be a focal point for celebration of the endangered Mazahua culture and language as well as for conservation of the local forest.

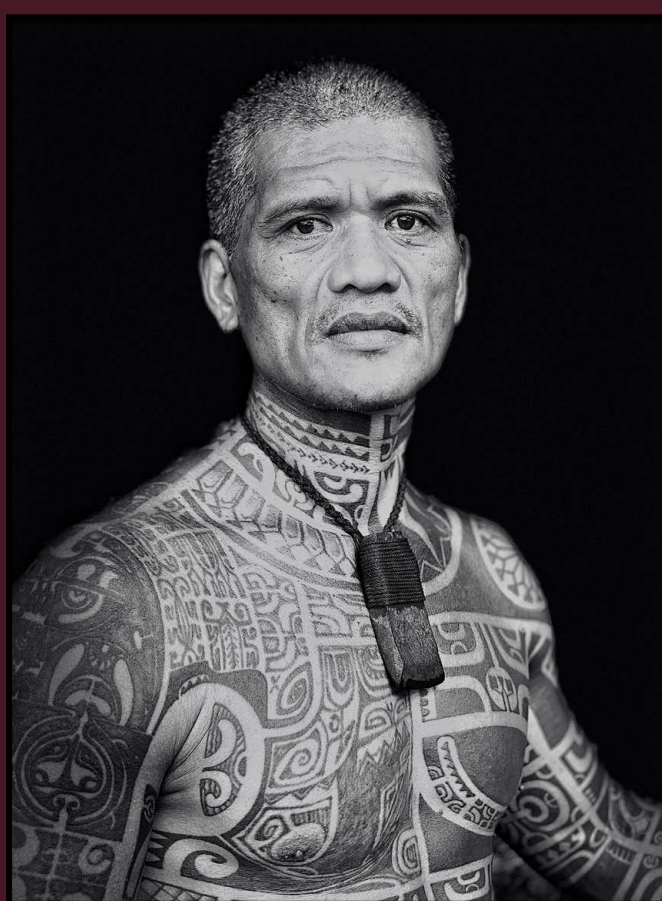
Mongolia: It was a treat to be able to go back to meet with the Kazakh eagle hunters and to attend the annual eagle festival in the town of Ulgii in October. Following very productive meetings with the State Governor and our project partner, The Kazakh Falconry Association, we are now working hard to secure the land for the eagle hunter community center. With a fair wind, the center will be up and running in time for the eagle festival in October 2023. Built in the form of a traditional ger, it will be a hub for falconry culture and traditions and for education about the 'upside-down rainforests' which are the local grasslands.

Marquesas: Every other year, the islanders of the six inhabited Marquesan islands in the North of French Polynesia gather for a Festival to celebrate the wonderful Marquesan culture, language and traditions. This year's Festival will be held in Nuku Hiva at the site of our planned Marquesan community center. We are working with our local partners to build traditional wood houses to represent each island and to ready the site for the Festival. Each of the islands has unique traditions but together the thread across the Marquesas is one of extraordinary cultural revitalisation against all the odds.

We are incredibly excited about each of these three projects. They each embody everything that our work at Cultural Sanctuaries is all about – protecting vital, endangered culture and language and protecting biodiversity in the fight against climate change and wildlife loss. It feels extra special that they represent three such important landscapes for carbon capture: forest, grasslands and ocean.



Local violinist, Crescencio Morales, Mexico



Tehautetua, master carver, Tahuata, Marquesas islands

Our work in other areas continues of course in parallel. While we are currently focused on fundraising for the Mexico, Mongolia and Marquesas community centers, we remain passionate about our projects in Ecuador, Brazil, New Guinea and elsewhere. We are looking forward to working with our partners on those projects to progress each of them during the course of this year. Also, with Bhutan now re-open, we are hoping to be able to report an uptick in visitors to our Olep community center in the beautiful Rukha valley. For anyone thinking about a trip to Bhutan, do let us know – we'd be delighted to help with ideas and connections.

Last but not least, THANK YOU. We could not do our work without our fantastic sponsors and supporters. Thank you to all who have donated to Cultural Sanctuaries in the last year or plan to do so in the coming year. Thank you too to our community and project partners – you inspire us and it is a pleasure to work on creating something so meaningful and important with you. We must protect the protectors.

CSF is a 501c3 in the US and a registered charity in the UK. Donations can be made via our website www.culturalsanctuaries.org.

Happy New Year!

The Cultural Sanctuaries team