



THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

P r o t e c t i n g t h e P r o t e c t o r s



Clockwise from middle, our centers in Bhutan, Mexico, Papua New Guinea (design), Mongolia and the Marquesas

Each of our last few newsletters have focused on a single project or a particular development to share with you. This summer's edition, instead, gives you a quick update on each of our most active current and pipeline projects so that you can get an overall sense of what we are busy working on.

Olep Cultural Center, Bhutan: This was our first completed project. The center is well-used, popular and effective. The indigenous Ole language, spoken by just three members of the community when we first arrived in the valley, is now being taught to all the local children, the Olep are also now working on the creation of a local ecopark and our project is being replicated by the Bhutanese Government in 21 other areas of the country.

Marquesan Cultural Center, Marquesas Islands: We completed the first phase of our cultural and language center in the beautiful Marquesan islands of French Polynesia two years ago. The second (and final) phase awaits the completion by the French and Polynesian governments of an archaeological survey on our center's site which we hope will get underway in the coming months.

Eagle Hunter Cultural Center, Mongolia: This center opened in October and is getting ever busier as high tourism season in Mongolia gets underway. No doubt helped by being featured on the front cover of TIME Magazine in March, it is a huge draw for the local eagle hunting community, schoolchildren from across the region and visitors from near and far keen to learn all about the local culture, traditions and conservation.

Kwakwaka'wakw Language Studio, Canada: The Kwakwala language is highly endangered. We worked with the community in Alert Bay in British Columbia to create a language recording studio for the language revitalization team at the wonderful U'mista Center to work in with the remaining fluent Kwakwala speakers to be able to record and teach the language and its stories. The studio opened earlier this year and is fully operational.

Mazahua Cultural Center, Mexico: We have been working for four years with the indigenous Mazahua community living near to the winter home of Monarch butterflies and are incredibly excited that the new Casa de Cultura Mazahua will open this summer. Complete with a botanical and medicinal garden in the shape of a butterfly and beautiful wall murals depicting the local culture, it will be a fabulous and much-needed cultural museum, teaching space and gathering place for the community.

Quechuan Culture and Textiles Project, Peru: This is an exciting new project focused on protecting and revitalizing the Quechuan and pre-Columbian weaving and dying techniques that lie at the heart of the culture in these high Andean peaks. We are partnering with 500 Quechuan families and the team at Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco to record and teach these endangered traditions for future generations.

Chachi Cultural Project, Ecuador: Here, we are working with the indigenous Chachi community to help protect and celebrate their endangered culture and language. At the greatest threat of disappearing are local music, song, dance and textiles so we are prioritizing these elements and creating a comprehensive programme to make traditional instruments and costumes and to hire dance and music masters to teach their fading arts and crafts to the younger generation.

Madang Cultural Center, Papua New Guinea: We are partnering with one of PNG's leading conservation groups to create a cultural, language and conservation center for the tribes that live in the area around Madang. Some 250 distinct languages and cultures are at risk here. The new Center, to be designed in the style of a traditional long house and due to open next year, will help to protect them.

Kawesqar Cultural Center, Patagonia: This project is in the early stages of discussion with the fantastic team at Rewilding Chile, a legacy organization of Tompkins Conservation. The proposal is to work with the local Kawesqar community to create a cultural center attached to the Cape Froward National Park currently being created in this incredible landscape.

Fundraising: We are incredibly proud of what we have been able to achieve in the few years since we founded Cultural Sanctuaries but none of this would have been possible without the amazing and generous support of our donors and benefactors. We are grateful to every single one of them. If you would like to join their ranks, we are currently fundraising for US\$150,000 to support our work. Donations can be made via the Cultural Sanctuaries website or direct to the Foundation's US bank account. Please do contact us for further information.

Thank YOU!
The Cultural Sanctuaries Foundation team