



# THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors



Eagle hunters gathering for the annual Eagle Festival

## There is a lot going on at Cultural Sanctuaries and we have five pieces of exciting news to share with you...

**The Earthshot Prize** – we are honoured to have been nominated for this year’s Earthshot Prize. We will not know until later in the year whether we have made it into the list of selected finalists but just to be nominated is pretty terrific and we hope that we will stand out to His Highness The Prince of Wales, Sir David Attenborough and the other judges as doing something unique and powerful in the fight against climate change. To be chosen as a finalist would be truly transformational for our work.

**Mongolia Eagle Hunter Community Center** – with the wonderful help of our project partner The Kazakh Falconry Association, we have now secured land for the community cultural center. A huge thank you to the Land Management Office and the Governor of Ulgii Province for believing in and supporting the project. With the land grant in place, we can now move forward to plan the construction of the center and hope to have it up and running in time for the annual Eagle Festival this coming autumn. On a related note, if anyone is interested in going to the Festival and visiting the Eagle Hunters, do let us know! It is a truly remarkable experience.

**Marquesas Community Center** – we have now completed in full our fundraising for Phase 1 of our community center project in Nuku Hiva in the Marquesas islands. Enormous thanks to those who have donated so very generously. The renovation of the sacred site at Koueva is already underway and by the time of the biennial Marquesan Festival in December, together with our local partners, we will have built

six traditional structures each to represent the six inhabited islands of the Marquesas and, with each, their unique culture and local ocean conservation. Next year, we will expand the project into Phase 2 with a large central community and conservation center, artisanal workshop areas and a botanical garden.

**Mazahua Community Center** – working with our friends in Crescencio Morales in Michoacan in Mexico, this project (in the buffer zone of the famous Monarch butterfly reserve) proceeds apace. Engineering checks are now complete on the former convent which the community has kindly donated to the project and which will soon be converted into a cultural center for the 40,000-strong Mazahua community. We are finalising the plans with our selected construction company and, as soon as we have raised sufficient funds, the renovation work will begin. We hope to complete it by the end of this year or early next.

**Bhutan Olep Community Center** – the latest update from our local project partner, The Tarayana Foundation, reports that our community center in Rukha is proving to be a great success. It is bringing revenue to the Olep community, is well used for community meetings and by visitors and is the venue for teaching of the Ole language. (Ole was spoken by just three people when we first visited Rukha but is now being taught to all the local children using the first ever Ole dictionary, that we created as part of this project). Please let us know if you would like any guidance as to how to visit Rukha and/or any tips on visiting Bhutan in general.

**Donations and further information** – please do let us know if you would like any further information about any of these three projects or about our other projects that are in development. If you would like to donate to any of them or to Cultural Sanctuaries in general, you can do so by getting in touch direct or through our website: [www.culturalsanctuaries.org](http://www.culturalsanctuaries.org)

Thank you as ever!

The Cultural Sanctuaries team



The village shaman in Rukha