



THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors



Marquesan kids



Dalaikhan, Mongolia



Mazahua elder

As summer drifts away, it is time to update you on developments at Cultural Sanctuaries and, in this September newsletter, we want to highlight three priority projects. They are, respectively, to create cultural community centers in three remarkable parts of the world: in the forests of Michoacan in Mexico, in the islands of Marquesas and Moorea in French Polynesia and in the Western grasslands of Mongolia.

Michoacan in Mexico

Each winter, the people of Michoacan in Mexico experience a phenomenon. Monarch butterflies migrate South from the US and Canada and head for the oyamel fir and pine trees of the warmer mountains. The Monarchs winter here in a protected UNESCO reserve but with the impacts of climate change and deforestation in surrounding buffer zone, they are under great duress. The Mazahua people who live here are also under threat – their culture and language are endangered and young people tend to leave to find jobs elsewhere. We are working with the Mazahua community in the town of Crescencio Morales and the wonderful team at ECOLIFE to build a cultural community center and to help protect Mazahua culture and language and to promote local reforestation.

Marquesas and Moorea

The Marquesas islands are the farthest North and least visited island group within French Polynesia and one of the remotest island chains in the world. Having been crushed to near dormancy by colonisation and the church, the Marquesan culture is once again thriving – in an effort led with pride, patience and passion by a number of determined community leaders. Having been generously hosted on an expedition to these beautiful islands by Kristin and Sven Lindblad and having seen first-hand the threats still facing the community, we are working to support the Marquesan community in strengthening their culture and language and to protect their ocean by building a much-needed culture center on the island of Nuku Hiva. A connected project

will enhance an existing community center in the more Southern Polynesian island of Moorea.

Western Mongolia

Here, we are working with Nomadic Expeditions, the Mongolia Golden Eagle Association and the leading Mongolia conservation group, the Wildlife Sciences and Conservation Centre to build a community center for the eagle hunting (falconer) community who live nomadically in the vast grasslands of Western Mongolia. The project is designed to support the culture and local land of the eagle hunters and to act as a focal point for protection of the endangered grasslands. To see the proud falconers hunt with their eagles and horses is truly a sight to behold. Our upcoming meetings in Ulgii are timed to coincide with this year's eagle festival so that we can consult as many of the eagle hunter community as we can.

If you would like more information on any of these projects, please let us know – we can provide detailed reports on the first two projects with an equivalent report becoming available on the Mongolian project in the coming months.

As always, we would like to finish by thanking all of you who so generously support The Cultural Sanctuaries Foundation. We could not do any of this work without you and the need to protect indigenous culture and language in the fight against climate change and biodiversity destruction is ever more urgent. We must protect the protectors. Thank you



Tehautetua Tauhiro, Marquesas

The Cultural Sanctuaries team

All donations can be made via www.culturalsanctuaries.org