



# THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors



**As spring turns to summer and the world battles the pandemic, we wanted to touch base to reflect on the current crisis and update you on the CSF mission.**

It becomes ever clearer to us all how globally connected we are, how we really are all in it together and how we must face global threats with global solutions.

It also reinforces how much the world must resist the fear of “the other”. We are reminded that pandemics and climate change do not know borders, are blind to race, ethnicity, religion and gender and ignore political views. All humans are affected. There is no “other”. We are a global community that can and must also help to go beyond the virus and be part of the climate change solution. As wise people have pointed out, there will be no vaccine for climate change.

Our mission at The Cultural Sanctuaries Foundation is to help preserve and celebrate diversity of culture, language and knowledge and to help the planet's best guardians of the land – indigenous communities – continue as its protectors.

Some facts that are worth repeating:

- 80 per cent of the planet's remaining diversity is on the 15% of the world lived on by indigenous peoples,
- science proves that where indigenous communities are empowered to stay with their land, the biodiversity flourishes and the local culture flourishes – each protecting the other,
- by way of just one powerful example, for every ten square miles of forest that indigenous communities protect from being burnt down, they offset the annual carbon footprint of 300,000 people or 350,000 cars, and
- indigenous cultures are threatened every day with increasing wilderness destruction, urbanisation and economic duress and every two weeks an entire language dies – surely the equivalent of our destroying a library of knowledge each fortnight.



Climate change mitigation and cultural protection are inextricably and intricately linked and we must pool all of our global knowledge, ideas and innovations.

Read more about our team and our work at [www.culturalsanctuaries.org](http://www.culturalsanctuaries.org). Also check out this short **video-letter** from the virus, and this recent **BBC article**.

One thing strikes us as being very clear: human behaviour, corporate behaviour and even government behaviour can change. People are willing to make sacrifices – big and small – to fight a global threat and almost everyone in the world

is currently uniting to help to protect families, neighbourhoods, communities, infrastructures, jobs, companies and countries. The virus has shown us that.

We join the myriad of other voices around the world in hoping for that same behavioural, corporate and governmental change to tackle the even bigger threat of climate change.

In the meantime, many of our on-the-ground projects are currently on hold of course but we are working away from our isolation to make sure that we will be ready and raring to go when the time comes.

Thank you for your continued support – and stay safe and well! **The CSF Team**

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