



THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors



As we put 2020 behind us and look forward to 2021, the CSF team has decided to be overwhelmingly optimistic about the coming year.

There is much to do and we sense a real momentum, a recognition of the need for change and a welcome urgency in the global fight against climate change and wilderness destruction. We also see an ever-increasing acknowledgement of the vital role that indigenous communities have to play in turning the environmental tide.

We look forward to a busy year and to being able to get out to our projects on the ground once it is safe for all involved.

For Cultural Sanctuaries, 2021 will, we hope, bring:

- exciting developments in our Amazonian project: we are formalising our partnership with The Javari Project and Forest Trends to create a cultural sanctuary and help to preserve the rainforest home of the second largest Brazilian indigenous community, the Javari;
- the next steps in our Mongolian project and the start of the building of a cultural community centre (in the form of a very large traditional ger) for the eagle hunter community of Western Mongolia;
- the final decisions for our project in Kenya – the creation of a cultural sanctuary and building of a community centre in the stunning Amboseli/Tsavo home of the Maasai;
- the opening of Bhutan’s borders to allow tourists to visit our cultural sanctuary complete with community centre and homestay in Rukha, the beautiful valley which is home to the Olep people, the oldest indigenous group in Bhutan;
- new energy to our Ecuador project: we have done some of the necessary groundwork and now the time is right to progress our cultural sanctuary with the Chachi community of the Choco region,

working hand-in-hand with the great team at The Jocotoco Foundation;

- discussion of a cultural sanctuary project in New Guinea with the team at the New Guinea Binatang Research Center, one of the largest and longest established conservation groups in New Guinea; and
- all importantly, a big new fundraising campaign to allow us to continue and complete these crucial projects.

Away from our own work, 2021 will, we hope, bring positive change politically, societally and in the corporate world.

We look forward to the incoming US administration’s re-entry into the Paris Agreement, to seeing concrete actions to implement ambitious emissions targets and crucial climate and environmental commitments made in recent months by myriad government leaders around the world and to the making of fundamental changes by corporates and consumers in the agricultural, food, energy, automotive and other sectors. We really believe that society can make the necessary changes and can Build Back Better.

The UN climate change conference, to be hosted by the UK in Glasgow in November 2021, is shaping up to be a really important milestone. We are working to be there, alongside many of our partner organisations and together with indigenous community leaders from around the world, to continue to bang the drum to promote the link between conservation and the protection of culture. The two go hand-in-hand. We must protect the protectors.

Onwards to 2021! If you would like to **donate to the CSF cause**, please give via the Donate buttons on our website. It takes less than a minute or two.

Thank you as ever for your support and all the best for the New Year.

The Cultural Sanctuaries team

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