



THE CULTURAL SANCTUARIES FOUNDATION

Protecting the Protectors



Dalaikhan, Shaimurat and Bigtas, eagle hunters in Bayan-Ulgii province

The year is flying along and we have much to report on our three **Priority Projects**:

Mongolia Eagle Hunter Community Center

– we have returned this week from Ulgii in Western Mongolia. The site for the center which has been donated to the project by the local Bayan-Ulgii government is perfect. It is a spot which the eagle hunter community can easily get to on the outskirts of Ulgii (the town to which the nomadic eagle hunting families all gravitate and often move in winter). It is also close to the airport road so on the direct path of tourists visiting the area. With our project partner The Kazakh Falconry Association, we are now designing the finishing touches of the center – most importantly, working to make sure that it can withstand the bitter winter cold and can be used all year round. In other excellent news, we have received a commitment for half of the funding we need to build the center, conditional on our raising the other half.

Marquesas Community Center – the community renovation of the sacred site at Koueva is almost complete and will be ready in time for the biennial Marquesan Festival on the island of Nuku Hiva (the largest of the six inhabited Marquesan islands) in mid-December of this year. We will be going to the Festival, first and foremost, for meetings with our local partners to plan Phase 2 of the project (a large central community and conservation center) but also as the Festival only takes place on Nuku Hiva every 12 years and we will be able in one place to meet islanders and photograph Marquesan traditional regalia and patiki (Marquesan tattooing) from all six islands. The images will adorn the walls of the community center once built.

Mazahua Community Center – while we continue to raise the funds to renovate the community center building in Crescencio

Morales in Michoacan in Mexico, we have two major developments to report: first, Banamex has generously agreed to design and teach a series of creative and commercial workshops for the local artists and artisans in the Mazahua community; and secondly, we are soon to start Mazahua language classes – this will be the first time that the endangered traditional language is taught to the Mazahua community in their home town.

While we focus on these three Priority Projects, work continues on our many **Pipeline Projects** (and we are delighted to have been approached to create cultural centers in Costa Rica and Colombia too). Onwards!

If you would like to donate to any of these projects or to Cultural Sanctuaries in general, you can do so by getting in touch direct or through our website: www.culturalsanctuaries.org.

In other news, the fantastic new book *The Future of Exploration* is now available. Created and curated by Cultural Sanctuaries co-founder Chris Rainier, together with Cultural Sanctuaries board advisor Terry Garcia, and with a foreword by Sir Richard Branson, the book brings together some of the world's leading explorers, scientists and conservationists to discuss the future of exploration: what remains to be discovered and why it matters. It's a fascinating, thought-provoking, inspiring and important read and all profits go to grants to support future exploration and conservation. You can buy it now in bookshops or online. It makes a great Christmas gift too! Check it out at www.thefutureofexploration.org and on social media [@futureofexploration](https://twitter.com/futureofexploration).

Thank you as ever!
The Cultural Sanctuaries team



Eagle hunters Dalaikhan and Bigtas