



## Project background

# Voices<sup>4</sup>MotherEarth

## World *Wisdom* Gathering

Paris, 1 - 6 December 2015

### 1. Introduction

At the end of this year, world leaders will have an opportunity to take the decisions needed to stop the ongoing destruction of nature and to restore the balance of life on Mother Earth when they will gather at the **United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21)**, in Paris, France, from 30 November to 11 December. But so far, **world leaders have collectively not been able to put people, planet and peace before power and profit**. As a consequence, humanity has arrived at the edge of total catastrophe.<sup>1</sup> We have come to a critical cross-road. We are in desperate need of a collective transformation in consciousness, a paradigm shift enabling us to restore the balance between Humanity and Mother Earth.

For decades **indigenous peoples** have shared at the world stages their observations, concerns, ancient teachings and prophecies about the pollution, degradation and destruction of life on earth and **called the world to take care of all things that support life**.<sup>2</sup> But the voices of indigenous peoples have been largely ignored, and their lands taken and degraded. Even today they find themselves at the forefront of protecting rivers, forests and land. Indigenous Peoples have proven to be good caretakers of Mother Earth as their territories

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<sup>1</sup> See for example: <http://www.fwii.net/profiles/blogs/the-critical-state-of-our-mother-earth>

<sup>2</sup> E.g.: *Basic Call to Consciousness - The Haudenosaunee Message to the Western World*, United Nations, Geneva, 1977 and *Indigenous Elders And Medicine Peoples Council Statement Beyond Climate Change to Survival on Sacred Mother Earth* – 21 September 2014

belong to the most biodiverse areas in the world.<sup>3</sup> Ceremonies are their sacred way to maintain the balance with all that is living.

The last words of Dale Thomas – Nowaten, *the one who listens* - Spiritual Leader of the Ojibway Three Fire Tribes, were: **'It's going to get worse, unless men will embrace the Ceremonies'**.

Therefore, Indigenous Peoples, their Elders, their New Generation, were invited to take the lead on a **Ceremonial Journey to Paris** – starting with Ceremonial Gatherings, with Sacred Fires and Sacred Drumming, bringing out the heartbeat of Mother Earth in all four corners of the Earth, on the same day, same time, the solstice of June 21, 2015.

This Call for Ceremony was sent to key indigenous peoples' organizations and contacts and was shared at the UN Permanent Forum in NY in April 2015.<sup>4</sup> Many ceremonies took place around the world on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2015. The ceremonial Journey to Paris continues.

## 2. **Voices4MotherEarth - World *Wisdom* Gathering**

The current prevailing paradigms have caused an immense degradation of life on Mother Earth, the very base we all depend on for our daily lives and survival. **What we do to the earth we do to ourselves.** Humanity rapidly needs to change its course and **develop a common vision based on the natural laws**, the original instructions for how to live on earth in a good way, in a way that lasts. We all love our children. We all love our grandchildren.

**'Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.'**

– Sitting Bull

There are many prophecies of indigenous peoples telling us that there will be a time when people of all colors will come together in peace to heal the earth and restore the balance.

**'I see a time of Seven Generations when all colors of mankind will gather under the Sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again'.** – Crazy Horse

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<sup>3</sup> There is a very significant overlap of the biodiversity-richest areas of the world with high concentrations of indigenous peoples. See e.g: *Indigenous and Traditional Peoples of the World and Ecoregion Conservation An Integrated Approach to Conserving the World's Biological and Cultural Diversity*, WWF International – Terralingua, 2000

<sup>4</sup> This Call for Ceremony was delivered by Pelpina Sahureka of Front Siwa Lima/Bangsa Adat AlifUrU, Frank Heckman of Embassy of the Earth and Leo van der Vlist of The Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples. See <https://embassyoftheearth.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/global-call-for-a-ceremonial-journey-to-paris.pdf>

Many believe that this time is now. Millions of people from all directions are standing up, demanding and manifesting the change we need .

**Paris creates a momentum** to bring together outstanding **World Wisdom Keepers**, ethical leaders from around the world with Good Minds, Good Hearts and Good Spirits **to accelerate this growing global consciousness**. This includes Indigenous peoples' elders, grandmothers and youth, as they have preserved Earth's wisdom and are key to the solution, but also other wisdom keepers and spiritual leaders (see Annex 1 for an initial list). We envision around thirty World Wisdom Keepers coming together near Paris for a spiritual gathering called **Voices4MotherEarth - World *Wisdom* Gathering**.

### 3. Purpose and action

The purpose:

**To raise the *global consciousness*** that *all* humans are connected, interdependent and *indigenous* to Mother Earth, as an integral part of the whole web of life, of all that is living. To understand that we are one and need to create a culture of caretaking in which the inherent value of people and all of life is foundational. This *awareness* is the **foundation** to stop destructive actions and find new ways to collaborate across boundaries, to restore, rebuild and re-balance our 'wounded' natural habitat and to create vital communities.

Action:

- 1) **to co-create a unified vision and new paradigm** in balance with our sacred connection to Mother Earth, all things that support life and our responsibilities for our children and those not yet born.
- 2) **to design a way to present this vision and new paradigm** to the world to raise the global consciousness
- 3) **to explore and co-create ways and processes** to ensure that this vision and new paradigm will be the foundation of all our future actions.

#### 4. Timetable

The *Gathering* will take place from 1 to 6 December 2015:

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|----------------|---|
| December 1     | Making connections; Getting in touch with the ancestors and natural environment and meeting each other;   |
| December 2 – 5 | Four days of a deep co-creational ceremonial gathering to:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) create a unified vision and new paradigm, based on our sacred connection to Mother Earth</li><li>(2) design a way to present this vision and new paradigm to the world to raise the global consciousness, and</li><li>(3) explore and co-create ways and processes to ensure that this new paradigm will be the foundation of all our future actions.</li></ol> |
| December 6:    | On this day the World's Wisdom Keepers will go to Île de la Cité, in front of the Notre Dame, to present their vision and messages to the world. Hopefully, via the river Seine with Indigenous canoes. <sup>5</sup> They will bring a <i>Sacred Peace Fire</i> and will be surrounded by a large group of people drumming the heartbeat of Mother Earth. This is the only day that COP 21 will not convene. The world's media will be invited. See also point 6 below. |

#### 5. Ceremonial drumming and sacred fires

Ceremonial Drums will be placed in the geographical centre of Paris, which is in front of the Notre Dame. These drums will drum the heartbeat of Mother Earth. On 6 December there will be a large procession of sacred drumming along the river Seine to Notre Dame. People around the world will be invited to join in sacred drumming. The drumming will be very gentle to create an atmosphere of Peace and Oneness.

A sacred fire will be lit and maintained from the beginning until the end of COP 21. A call goes out to people around the world to support the World Wisdom Gathering

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<sup>5</sup> We are cooperating with an initiative to bring Indigenous canoes to Paris: <https://canoes2paris.wordpress.com/>

by making their own sacred fires in their own places on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December (see annex 2 for a graphic impression).

## 6. Organization

The Voices<sup>4</sup>MotherEarth - World *Wisdom* Gathering is an initiative of:

Front Siwa Lima/Bangsa Adat AlifUrU – Pelpina Sahureka and Semuel Sahureka

The Embassy of the Earth – Frank Heckman

Four Worlds International Institute - Phil Lane Jr.

The Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples – Leo van der Vlist

In co-creation with:

Mona Polacca - International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers

Duane Kinnart - Ojibway firekeeper

Peter Bal - Millemont Institute

Petra Pop - French blogger

Nicolas Beriot - Climate scientist and ecologist

John Liu - Filmmaker and ecologist

Henry Mentink - Club of Budapest

Karin Lindeman-Boere - Four Worlds Europe

Chiara Vitali - Rayavita (drumming)

Danny Vader - Tree of Peace

Jan Gerritsen and Truus Oosterhuis - Vier Winden (drumming), and many others

# ANNEX 1: INITIAL LIST OF WISDOMKEEPERS

Update 03 November 2015

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Participation</b>
Anna Bacchia	One Earth Choir	confirmed
Anne Poelina	Madjulla Inc. (Aboriginal, Australia)	invited
Ayangat	Mongiolian Grandmother Shaman	confirmed
Dalai Lama	Club of Budapest, Buddhism	invited
Desmond Tutu	Club of Budapest, Ubuntu	invited
Doña Rosa Huenufil	Mapuche Indigenous Grandmother	confirmed
Douglas Tolchin	Salish Sea Foundation	confirmed
Ervin Laszlo	Ervin Laszlo Institute for Advanced Study / Club of Budapest	confirmed
Faith Spotted Eagle	Lakota, Brave Heart Society	confirmed
Giuseppe Villalaz	Kuna peoples	confirmed
Henry Mentink	Club of Budapest	confirmed
Herman Wijffels	Utrecht Sustainability Institute	invited
Jane Goodall	The Jane Goodall Institute	confirmed
Jean Shenandoah	Haudenosaunee Confederacy	invited
Jude Currivan	Cosmologist, planetary healer and author	invited
Kogi representative	Kogi people	invited
Laila Spik	Indigenous Saami Grandmother	confirmed
Lindar Winnie Otieno	Luo-Kenya and Pathola-Uganda, Environmental Science Resource Conservation	confirmed
Lisa Heenan	Regrarians Ltd. – permaculture	invited
Lucy Mulenkei	Maasai, Indigenous Information Network	invited
Mona Polacca	Havasupai/Hopi/Tewa Nations, International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers	confirmed
Patrick Dacquay	Association of Traditional Wisdom	confirmed
Paul Clarke	Professor of Education St Mary's University, London	invited
Pelpina Sahureka / Amus Yawadbibi	Bangsa Adat Alifuru	confirmed
Phil Lane Jr.	Yankton Dakota/Chickasaw Nations, Four Worlds International Institute	confirmed
Piet van IJzendoorn	Biodynamic farmer	confirmed
Rex Weyler	Author, journalist and ecologist	confirmed
Ruben Saufkie	Hopi, Waterclan	confirmed
Stephanie Heckman	Sycamore Facilitation / Sustainer Homes	confirmed
Supraba Seshan	Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary, India	invited
Vasimalai	Dhan Foundation, South India	confirmed
Xiuhtezcatl Roske-Martinez	Aztec, young community leader, Earth Guardians	confirmed

# ANNEX 2: GRAPHIC IMPRESSION

