

Conversations with the Earth: A growing family...

Summary of the development of the hubs and the network in the first half of 2010

Conversations With The Earth (CWE) is an indigenous-led multi-media campaign to amplify indigenous voices in the global discourse on climate change. Since March 2009 InsightShare has worked with seven communities across three continents to help seed a growing network of community-owned video hubs. After coming back from the Copenhagen Climate Summit (UNCOP15), the indigenous representatives shared their fresh inspiration with their communities and started new initiatives. In this document we look back on all the passionate work that already led to great results during the first half of 2010.

Elders Steering Committee

To begin this update on a very happy note, the representatives from the participatory media hubs in Peru and the Philippines each welcomed two hubs steering committee members' to our team: Angelica Canchumani and Hipolito Peralta Ccama from Peru and Manu Ampí and Manang Lulu from the Philippines.

In May, Angelica Canchumani – a Huanca Quechua shaman from the Andes of Peru became our spiritual guide for CWE and InsightShare, by speaking the words

“As long as I have the energy I can help to harmonise the world.”

Angelica (Quecha: Vilcacoto, Peru)

Angelica carries out rituals to harmonise life between humans, deities and nature and has been part of the Peru hub team since 2009 when her daughter Irma involved her in the making of participatory videos. Angelica will work together with Hipolito Peralta Ccama – a Quechua teacher who is also learning to be a shaman. He is very interested in using video to recover shamanic wisdoms and to create educational material to transmit these wisdoms to children:

“so that they can help to construct a new world in which humans can live in harmony with our Mother Pachamama.”

Hipolito (Quecha: Cusco, Peru)

To get familiar with the participatory video methods, Hipolito participated in the PV training that took place in ‘Cuyay Wasi’, the hub in Vilcacoto, the beginning of July. During this training Hipolito and Angelica met each other to make a ritual at Huaytapallana (local sacred mountain) to celebrate the start of their cooperation.

Hub representatives from the other regions are also consulting their communities to find committee members, so soon we will welcome more elders from Kenya, the Arctic and Cameroon to our growing family. The steering committee is part of our efforts to develop local control over the CWE initiative.

New director in Latin America

Welcome to Maja Tillmann as a full time member of the management team and we also celebrate the opening of InsightShare’s first office outside Europe, based at the beautiful Andean retreat ‘Cuyay Wasi’, Maja and Rodrigo’s home. Maja’s year is already filled to the brim as she prepares to take on PV capacity building projects in Bolivia, Mexico and across Peru. Maja will continue her work supporting community video processes in Quechua and Aymara communities as part of CWE as well as IIED’s Food Sovereignty Programme, and will also participate in UNESCO’s forthcoming conference in Yunnan, China on Terraced Agricultural Landscapes.



“Each one teach one”

CWE at the Cochabamba People’s Forum

In April Maja, and community video facilitators Balvino, Primitivo, Irma and Rosio participated in the exciting People's Forum on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights, in Cochabamba, Bolivia that was attended by 35,000 people. CWE coordinator Claire Greensfelder was also with the group. CWE was profiled through an exhibition and a well attended side event where the new film from Peru ‘Derechos de la Pachamama’ (Rights of Mother Earth) was screened. A highlight for Irma was seeing Evo Morales and receiving coca leaves from the Bolivian Army.

“The conference considered the structural causes of climate change,

blaming them on the capitalist model and its logic of competition and unlimited growth. It claims that the world has reached a crossroads... Drawing up rights to protect nature was seen as a logical step to complement human and indigenous rights, and correct the imbalance that exists” (Source: Bolivia Information Net-work, Special Bulletin April 2010). Bing Gong, a trustee of the Lia Fund recorded two special interviews with Maja, Rosio and Balvino which can be heard online:

[click here for the first interview](#)

[click here for the second interview](#)

Nick's trip to Peru

“A trip I will never forget! I learned so much and was inspired each day. Being with Angelica on Apu Huaytapallana for a ritual to the sacred mountains and the healing that followed was most powerful; spending sweet time with Maja at her home, and my last day in Peru spent with Quechua and Aymara farmers in the ancient terraces of Moray near Cusco was profound and emotional.”

Nick (InsightShare's Director, Oxford, UK)

Nick Lunch spent 2 weeks in Peru visiting several communities participating in the CWE programme, also participated in the Andes Food Sovereignty gathering in Cusco organised by experienced participatory facilitators Timmi Tillmann and Maruja Salas and with Michel Pimbert of IIED. This was an incredibly rich learning experience for Nick who saw the flourishing of an authentic participatory process and gained inspiration from how to integrate Visual (VIPP) methods with participatory action research tools. Participatory Video so clearly permeates everything the farmers are doing on this project, and Nick was able to learn from the power of PV in documentation and cultural affirmation processes whilst also sharing his experiences in the use of PV as an advocacy tool as the group prepare to build bridges to influence scientists and policy makers.



Directors Nick and Maja with the Apu.

Hub updates

During the last six months the people from the hub in the Philippines have been working on three separate projects. To begin with a PV project in a community in Sarawak, Malaysia. Secondly Keidy and Haydee have been working on a video about the education situation in the Cordillera region. Thirdly, they have been interviewing elders to create a 'Rights of Mother Earth' video, similar to the one that was made in Peru. All three videos are currently in the editing stage and will be finished soon. Next to finishing the videos, they are preparing for a training of facilitators that will take place in November with InsightShare. In Philippines we see the development of a local Igorot community hub in the Cordillera using PV to document traditional cultural practices, rituals etc; and also regional hub based at APIYN which serves to train indigenous facilitators across South East Asia!

After the production of the inspiring 'Rights of Mother Earth' video- which was a joint project between three communities – the Peru hub has been expanding its network of communities in Peru and even across the border in Bolivia. At the beginning of this month Maja and Irma facilitated a PV training at the 'mother hub' Cuyay Wasi in Vilcacoto. This training brought together representatives of communities in Cusco, Ayacucho, Chaski (Peru) and Bolivia to learn PV and develop their own video action plans. Through the Food Sovereignty Programme 3 Aymara communities near Lake Titicaca are also involved in CWE.

At the June solstice Maja filmed the sun rising in a very sacred place Moray, accompanied by John Earls whose research led to value Moray as a centre for biodiversity.

Inspired by the video from Peru, the people at the hub in Kenya are also planning to produce a 'Rights of Mother Earth' video, similar to the one that was made in Peru. After they have finished

that video they would like to explore the Maasai culture in general. Moreover, they are planning to organise screenings of their original CWE video to remind their fellow Maasai to make provisions or adaptations in preparation of a future drought.

Together with the Baqyeli and Bakola forest people, the Baka people of the Cameroon hub have been involved in conducting consultations to inform their communities about potential REDD (Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) projects. Following this, they have been taking part in a civil society workshop held in Yaounde on June the 30th. This workshop brought together a range of civil society organisations and indigenous peoples to reflect on the consultations and prepare recommendations for a subsequent meeting with representatives of relevant Government Ministries on the 1st of July. More news will follow!

Sharing the conversations

During the first half of this year several CWE films were already screened at various events. In April, the two Peruvian productions 'Conversaciones con la Pachamama' and 'Conversaciones con los Apus' were shown at a film festival in Mexico City organised by Voces Contra El Silencio, which is a nonprofit civil association whose mission is to produce, promote and disseminate Hispanic documentaries on social themes. A month later the 'Conversaciones con los Apus' video was also screened at the 4th International mountain film festival in Domzale, Slovenia.

Nick joins campesinos at the sacred site Moray near Cusco.



were part of the *Environmental Film Festival H2O*, in Moscow- which took place in celebration of both the UN International Biodiversity Day and the World Environment Day.

In the beginning of June the latest video 'Derechos de la Madre Tierra' (Rights of Mother Earth) was screened at a film festival in Bonn- that was organised as a side-event of the conference *Towards a new justice triptych: "Development, Climate, Opportunity"*. This conference was organised by Germanwatch and brought together negotiators, NGOs, scientists and other experts from developed and developing countries to advance the debate on climate equity and explore the potential of the fair "opportunity sharing".

In May the *World Summit on the Information Society Forum* was organised in Geneva. At this event a slideshow with photos –showing the work of the various CWE communities– was screened alongside a panel of indigenous people. The audience was directed to the website.

In June Claire Greensfelder took the films and mobile exhibit to the World Social Forum meeting in USA.

Looking forward, several CWE films will be shown at the *Boombestival* in Portugal (August 2010); at the exhibition *El Clima cambia, Klima verndert* at the Natural Science Museum in Bielefeld, Germany (September 2010 – January 2011); and at the *Ushuaia Shh... Festival Internacional de Cine de Montaa*, Ushuaia, Patagonia, Argentina (August 2010). Moreover, there is interest in showing CWE films at the *CLACPI Indigenous Video Festival* in Ecuador; the *Native Spirit Festival* in



A map of Aymara sacred and ritual places.

London, the UK and in Spain. Films from Peru will be also shown at a special exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian Mall Museum, Washington, DC. Finally the CWE films, workshops by InsightShare and the mobile exhibit will be part of Europe's first Bioneers conference at Findhorn Eco-village, Scotland (15–17 October 2010) and the forthcoming UNESCO ICTD Conference that will take place at the Royal Holloway, University of London (13-16 December 2010).

Looking forward

In September, APIYN coordinator Jennifer Awingan, from the Philippines will come to the UK as a keynote speaker at the 2nd International Worldly Leadership Summit at the Leadership Trust in Ross-on-Wye. The theme of this year's Summit is "Building a leadership ethic of responsibility and conviction - connecting Business, Civil Society, Education and Indigenous Communities across the globe toward a shared agenda for ethical, transformative and connected leadership". This visit provides an opportunity for Jennifer to get to know the other directors at InsightShare, visit the London hub, strengthen our connection and discuss future hub strategy.

In October Nick plans to organise a series of workshops, events and an exhibit in Oxford. CWE will be presented alongside local low-carbon initiatives that people can get involved in.

Trainings

In August Maja and Raymundo will facilitate a PV training with Christensen Fund partners in Sonora, Mexico. This

training hopes to seed a participatory media hub in both Seri and Yaqui territories. After this training, Maja will visit the Vecinos Mundiales community in Bolivia in September.

The training in Kyrgyzstan in October is planned as the next stage in the ongoing development and capacity building of staff from the Taalim Forum and community representatives from various regions, in participatory video facilitation. The next stage in the programme is planned to take place in a small village (80 households) located within the mountainous Naryn region (Ak-Talaa district), which is one of the poorest districts in the region. The training was originally planned for April/May but has been postponed until later in the year due to ongoing political and social instability.

In January we plan the first training visit in a two year PV capacity building process in the Gamo Highlands of Ethiopia for the Christensen Fund.

Finally, InsightShare have also been invited by UNDP Small Grants Programme to return to Samoa for further capacity building. The local interest is specifically in PV as a participatory monitoring and evaluation tool for local communities adapting to climate change. Details are currently being worked out.

New resources available

We proudly present some new resources that were recently published on the InsightShare website: a Spanish and a French translation of the 'Insights into Participatory Video' handbook and brand new toolkit on using PV in combination

with the Human Rights Based Approach – in which we collected all our useful experiences from the last few years. This resource can be seen as an update of the original handbook.

[Click here to download the handbook](#)

[Click here to download the toolkit](#)



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For more information about CWE
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A Food Sovereignty plan made visual.