

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EARTH



INDIGENOUS VOICES
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

ARCTIC - Gwitch'in



ECUADOR - Kichwa



PNG - Manus islanders



INDIA - Zanskari



BRAZIL - Guarani



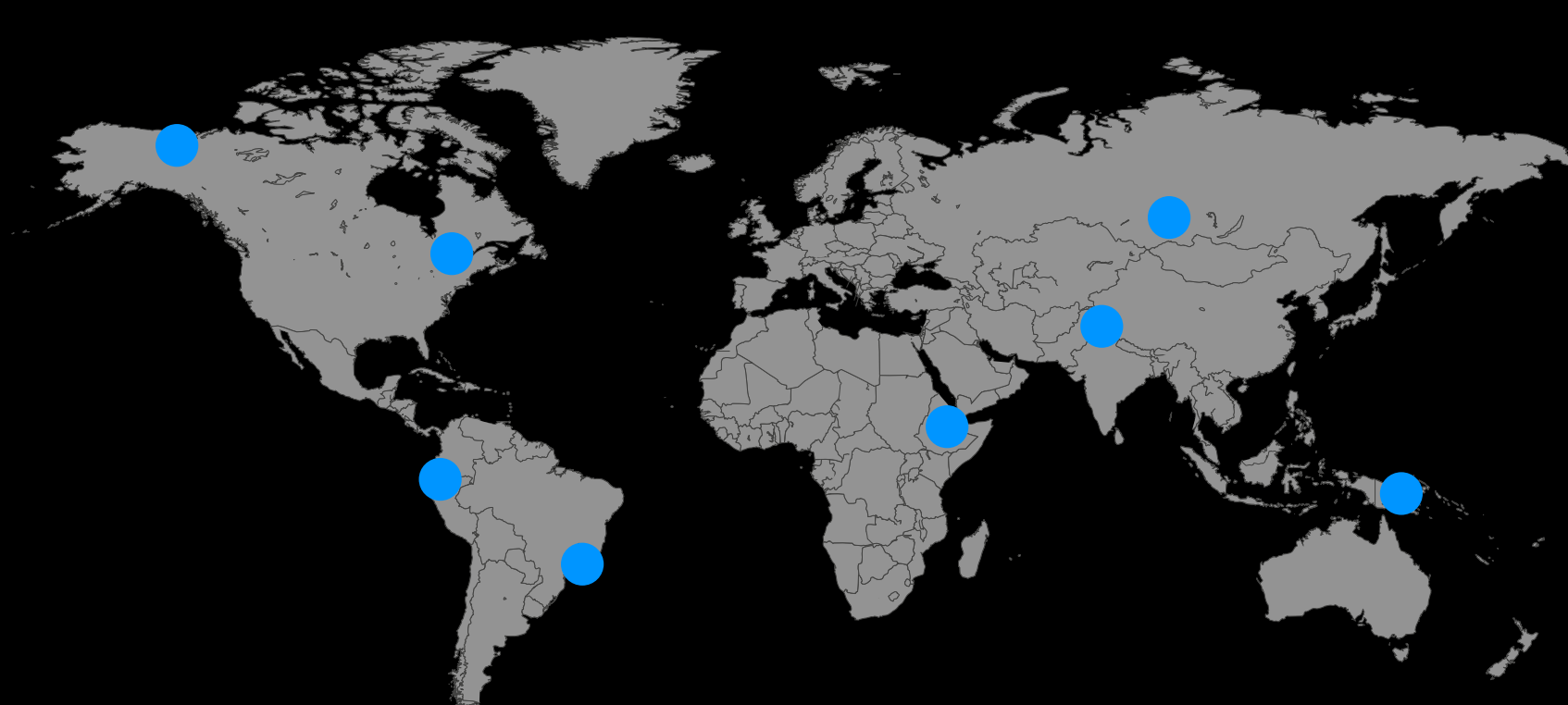
ETIOPIA - Gamo



RUSSIA - Altai



CANADA - Alberta



www.conversationearth.org

Conversations with the Earth: Indigenous Voices on Climate Change

An indigenous-led multimedia initiative that amplifies indigenous voices in the global discourse on ecological and cultural challenges facing the planet, including climate change, Conversations with the Earth (CWE) is a way of listening closely to traditional stewards of the Earth in order to formulate a viable response to the global challenges of our time. CWE conveys local accounts of the impacts of climate change on indigenous communities, stories of the unintended consequences of imposed mitigation efforts on local livelihoods, and examples of traditional knowledge and its value in developing appropriate responses to climate change. Ultimately, CWE asserts indigenous peoples' inherent rights to their territories, lands, and resources as a necessary condition of maintaining and enhancing human resilience to converging global crises, including climate change.

CWE is a respectful partnership of an indigenous-led organization Land is Life, the experts in participatory video of InsightShare, and award-winning photographer Nicolas Villalume. More importantly, CWE supports a growing network of indigenous groups and communities living in critical ecosystems around the world, from the Atlantic Rainforest to the Himalaya, the Pacific to the Andes, and the Arctic to Africa, sharing their experiences of climate change.

CWE premiered in two major multimedia exhibitions at the National Museum of Denmark and the Klimaforum Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) conference in Copenhagen, Denmark (December 2009) as delegates gathered for the watershed UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 15th Conference of the Parties meeting (COP15). In Copenhagen, CWE's presentations highlighted indigenous stories of climate change and the CWE exhibit offered an open invitation to the global delegates present to engage in a conversation about the real impacts of climate change on marginalized communities. CWE also used our time in Copenhagen as an opportunity for local communities collaborating with CWE to grow together in a global network of sharing, reflection, action and support.

Building on the momentum generated in Copenhagen in 2009, CWE has continued to grow its network by launching a series of CWE mobile exhibit presentations at critical locations around the world; organizing participatory media trainings; creating new photostories with impacted communities; and, enhancing indigenous communities' capacity to connect with each other and the rest of the world through global gatherings. CWE continues to mobilize around the key issue of climate change, and looks forward to expanding into other issues critical to indigenous communities such as agrobiodiversity, food sovereignty and cultural preservation in the future.

CWE's exhibits are developed in partnership and in agreement with local communities under the framework of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Images, recordings, interviews and mobile exhibit resources are returned by CWE to participating communities for their use as they see fit. Whenever possible, local members of participating communities travel locally and internationally to represent and speak for their communities and CWE at major events and exhibits.



Endala Tilbe, "Ade", spiritual leader | Place:Doko,Gamo Highland, Ethiopia

Photographer: Nicolas Villalume