



native planet

a not-for profit organization

Native Planet is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the worldwide preservation of threatened indigenous cultures. Using ecotourism, education, documentaries and humanitarian projects, we offer native peoples a global voice and promote the self-empowerment necessary for them to protect their own land and lifestyles.



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A young NGO, we have focused initially on the Mentawai, an indigenous people who have lived sustainably for thousands of years in the deep, lush rainforests of Siberut Island, off the coast of Sumatra. Native Planet's founder, Jean-Philippe Soulé, went to visit them—and stayed! He returned to the west completely dedicated to helping these threatened traditional people protect themselves against rapacious loggers, encroaching “civilization” and the impact of discriminatory government policies. Native Planet projects that facilitate Mentawai self-empowerment include an ecotourism plan under their control and a program to help the clans rebuild their traditional lodgings and return to their ancestral lands.

Native Planet works for all indigenous communities worldwide, providing them with a voice and presence both on and off the Internet. Our website, www.nativeplanet.org, provides insightful cultural documentaries illustrated with award-winning photographs that capture the souls of the subjects. Indigenous mapping and news sections keep the rest of the world abreast of the remaining traditional cultures and the issues that impact them. Please visit our site, enjoy the riveting photographs and the lifestyles of these threatened cultures and help us help them save their future.

Preserving Culture. Empowering People