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THE 7th WORLD WATER SOURCE SUMMIT

2021

THE 7TH WORLD WATER SOURCE SUMMIT FIELD TRIP IN SW CHINA (2021)

THE ECHO OF WATER:
NEW CHINA-EUROPEAN APPROACHES
FOR A WORLD WITH US







The Echo of Water: New China-European Approaches for A World With Us

The 7th World Water Source Summit Field Trip in SW China (2021)

Oriental Danology Institute & Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Shanghai Representative Office

The 7th World Water Source Summit Academic Committee

The Echo of Water: New China-European Approaches for A World With Us

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As human race, we are to some extent, drawn by the Pencil of Nature: the contours of our life will not appear until "us" disappear, and this will inadvertently enable us to leave some recognizable vestige in the abyss of time.

Back to the source: respect the Ursprung and Eingedenken(remembrance), to explore the unruly water both as Gegenwart (presence), Übergang (betwixt and between) and Stillstand (stillness), to create a convergence of trans-watershed dialogue.

"If you're going to save only the insects and the animals and not the indigenous people, there's a big contradiction," said the head of the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin. "We're one ecosystem."

The aforementioned paragraph was quoted by Matthias Schäfer, Director of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Shanghai Representative Office, from New Yorker Times article in a discussion with Zhou Lei, Co-founder of Oriental Danology Institute, after a four-day field trip to China Southwestern Yunnan Province.

This collection of comments which based on ODI and KAS Shanghai Representative Office's 5-hour fieldtrip VLOGS (one trilogue conducted by ZHOU Lei, Matthias Schäfer and ZHUANG Chengzhan) joins other current research and campaign efforts to draw attention to environmental themes and eco-critical practices in a vision for our China-EU cooperation that is able to transcend narrow boundaries and overcome constraints.

——ZHOU Lei, author and Editor of The Echo of Water-

CHENGJIANG CAMBRIAN FAUNA

The Chengjiang fauna, an exceptionally well-preserved fossil lagerstatte, from the lower part of the Lower Cambrian Eoredlichia-Wutingaspis Biozone in the Kunming area, Yunnan Province, China is generally introduced, including the research history of the area, stratigraphy in the interval with soft-bodied fossils, geological setting, depositional environment, discovery, distribution, significance and faunal association. The Chengjiang lagerstatte yields various mineralized and nonmineralized skeletons and internal soft parts of organisms, as well as complete soft-bodied animals. The fauna includes virtually all animal phyla that were previously known from the Middle Cambrian and vividly reproduces the appearance of the oldest Phanerozoic animals.

The Kunming area is located near the southwestern margin of the Southwest China Platform (Figure 1). This area is often considered as a shallow sea open toward the east and is on the east side of the Central Yunnan Old Land, from where the sea became progressively deeper towards the east. Paleogeographically, the Kunming area had the Central Yunnan Old Land to the east, the Niutoushan Old Land to the north and west, and the western littoral part of the shallow sea of the Southwest China Platform to the north. Based on the reconstruction of the early Cambrian

continental position (Briggs et al., 1994, p. 36, figure 2.8), the Chengjiang lagerstatte was on a latitude of about 14° North. The Chengjiang fauna probably lived in a tropical sublittoral sea.

[Source: www.bioone.org]



WATER SUMMIT FIELD TRIP COMMENTS:

"Chengjiang Cambrian Fauna Fossils are ecological Greenwich Mean Time."

"Behold that, the lapse of time", said Confucius to his students while pointing the flowing river as a metaphor of time. We should be cognizant that the flowing water respects no boundaries, as water constantly changing in solidity, gaseous and liquidity forms. When we are planning to visit Kunming, Chengjiang, Jianshui and Tonghai, four water margin cities and counties in China's southwestern Yunnan province, we are witnessing how space and time continuum has been formed, at the same time, it's a chance for us to envision a world without us or beyond us. As blank spaces and the natural places blotted out by human "intelligent design", we are all somehow displaced. It's high time for us to think a world without us and envision a transspecies mentality in this Anthropocene and Post-COVID 19 Epoch.

New Personhood: Lakeside reflections



[Mafang Village, New socialist eco-village in Chengjiang, Photo by Chang Shuvu].

The earthquakes, lepers, volcano eruptions, Bird Flu, Mad Cow disease, African swine fever, Zika virus, SARS, Covid-19...

The human consciousness of personhood is ironically defined by mishaps and catastrophes such as disasters, diseases and pandemics, the care (Sorge) and forethought (Vorsorge), two key concepts from Hegel's reflections within the framework of his practical philosophy, become the cornerstone of human's understanding of freedom and agency.

What we have seen in almost all lake conservation cases in Yunnan, the local people's endemic knowledge concerning nature intertwines with foreign holistic eco-thoughts, which convolutes a wide range of topics such as: ecodisasters, problematic development models, folklores, ecological myths, inter-personality, fundamental rights, property, formation of nature and second external nature, appropriation, intellectual property, injustice, political malcontent, etc.

In order to define "modern" and personhood, we need new approaches and standards for all our mankind to witness sustainability as an abstract and de-familiarized concept:

Save the nature, "burn human's past" — to evacuate human and making room for the nature, as the human vestiges vanish, the nature prevails. (This "poetic and romanticized" sustainability mentality rules the current China's environmental conservation movement, however, after evacuation, more interventions projects enter.)

As ZHOU Lei once observed one slogan painted on villagers' house by Yunnan government in a campaign to demolish waterfront villages along Dianchi Lake in 2009: Bid farewell to the traditional past and marching toward the standardized future(与传统的昨天告别,向规范的明天迈进).

In Jianshui, when the local watersheds, especially underground water were depleted and becoming undrinkable due to salinization caused by over population, pollution and urbanization, the shrinking well water adds up a special flavor to local Beancurd product (doufu, made of soybeans). At the same time, the local folkloric songs are still

sounding the unforgettable sweet taste of well water, when human co-exist harmoniously with nature in the past.



[Several old local musicians – most in their 70s and 80s – gather in heritage architecture square in Jianshui everyday, celebrate their memory of forlorn past by using soundscape. The most popular tune on their repertoire is called Bird Nest – yiwo que.] "Jianshui Wordsworth", photo by Chang Shuyu.

ACCLIMATIZATION AND ACCULTURATION

It is becoming clearer that acclimatization and acculturation is accompanied with China's current ecological turn as it embraces the dual-inner-circulation economy; flagship and indicator species start to flourish and thrive in a variety of habitats and biographic locations in Yunnan, despite that the sustainability might not be easy to achieve due to the recovering capacity of nature still sabotaged by the current politico-economical, ecological, physiological and population modes.

The red-bill and black-head seagulls frequent Kunming and neighboring lake cities in Yunnan in winter heralds the annual return of Siberian seagulls that have been traveling to Kunming for a warmer winter over the last 37 years. The legions of seagulls, at least in 10,000, has been treated as an indicator by local government for ecological rehabilitation.

According to Kunming Birdwatching Association, the Yangtze River Delta and east coast of China used to be major wintering destinations for migratory birds coming from the north. Unfortunately, since the country's opening up and massive industrialization followed by, these two areas have experienced unprecedented ecological damage and environmental deterioration, which leave black-headed gulls and other wild birds with almost no choice but to

travel further south until they reach Kunming. Through investigation, three major migratory routes were mapped out by ornithologists: Firstly, starting from Kunming to the Bakal area via several parts of China - encompassing Sichuan, Shanxi, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia - is the most known one among the public; Secondly, instead of traveling all the way up to Russia, halts near two saline lakes in Mongolia, namely Uvs and Khyargas, while the last route indicates that gulls also end their journey around the Bosten Lake in Xinjiang, northwest China, after flying over Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu provinces.



[The seagulls hover in Dianchi Lake region, Kunming. In 1980s, local people misconstrue these birds as "water pigeons", as ornithologists later confirmed them as black-headed gulls - a common type of migratory bird native to Europe and Asia.]

In China, as it emerges more powerful in global arena, this country is witness a new young generation who are hungry for new cultural identities and international recognition which sometimes give possibilities to critical analysis of society, politics, ecology and culture and developing new tools and methodologies for a different future.

China is currently focusing on deliver a Chinese critical praxis in this post-COVID 19 era that sees itself both global in scope, sustainable in mode, complex in its strategies, informed by historical knowledge, mishaps, aesthetic values, international ambitions and imaginations.

This confirms a ready idea market and potential transmountain, trans-watershed mechanism dialogue between China and EU, to probe the needs for collaborations across different agenda and disciplinary boundaries.

BIODIVERSITY: IN SEARCH OF NEW SHEPHERDING THOUGHTS?

Shepherding our planet's remaining biodiversity through the current era of human population growth, environmental degradation, economically meltdown, pandemic-caused lockdown and climate change is one of the most pressing challenges we face.

A sheer return to past ecosystem configurations is not possible. The life-safeguarding thoughts reside not only in history but also in the future, policies under justice system are conducive to bring the ecology away from its teetering danger, to help avert further life loss, mankind and other-kind. At stake, is not just the viability of the ecosystems on which we depend, but also the very richness, diversity, mutuality, compatibilities of "ecological/cultural remnants".

Almost all prepossessing ecological feature of SW China, in our "water-gazers" eyes, is its complexity, purity, hybridity and diversity. Both in Jianshui and Chengjiang, local people and tourists all adore creative use of cultural and natural resource, be it endemic or outlandish in some cases. In order to sustain, we need to find a mechanism governing the land and water as a global commons, to ensure every butterflies to flutter their unerring effect within its co-existence rhythms, and to ensure everyone has access to its fruits.





[In replacement to its cobble stoned lake beach, the artificial sand beach in Cheng Jiang must be watersprayed continuously, in order to stop the strong lake wind blowing its sand dunes into neighboring wet land and arable land.]

Public goods and public commons should find a compatible way to negotiate the menacingly growing private property vandalism and appropriation. The ownership of nature (not being corroded by dis-ownership of other species to their habitats) should first of all designed by mankind under the umbrella of mutuality and reciprocality, mediated by bundles of rights and duties. The capitalization of nature and mobilization of nature should shift towards a moral stewardship of land and water, by leaving bland spots and protecting future generation and fauna/flora living elsewhere

In an increasingly isolated and quarantined world, global cooperation and dialogue is still essential for us to achieve an open world trade system which manage land/water/air based production and water/carbon footprints in a sustainable and equitable way.

In the upcoming COP15 meeting, a nested regime for

international/regional/trans-regional cooperation will be necessary, in order to manage potential hazards and perils:

- a transnational financing system for active conservation and equitable development must be scaled up and speeded up.
- New sustainable patterns of consumption and production should be developed in this Post-COVID 19 era.
- Global commons need new mechanisms of creative commons and governing commons, personhood and human organizations need to be redefined, matching rules to governing the use of commons should be revamped, providing means for local and trans-local dispute or rules modifications, imposing sanctions on potential violators.
- Diversity breeds tolerance and tolerance begets equity and justice. Still, heterogeneity is more cogent in human's dialogue that occurs in vivo. The "savoir vivant" is sometimes more needed than canonical classics.

你在何处,青春!在何处,光!那总是在熹微中唤醒我的光!Wo bist du, Jugendliches! das immer mich Zur Stunde

weckt des Morgens,
wo bist du, Licht?
在田野里看到"自然不确定的美",
unbestimmten Schönheit der Natur 暂时忘却课本里"绝对确定的自然"。
die absolut bestimmende Natur.

New Echo Readings Recommended

Alan Weisman. The World without Us

Axel Goodbody. The Culture of German Environmentalism: Anxieties, Visions, Realities

Dipesh Chakrabarty.

-Brute Force (Eurozine 2010)

-The Climate of History: Four Theses

Judith Schalansky. Der Hals Der Giraffe

Malm, Andreas and Alf Hornborg. **The Geology of Mankind? A Critique of the Anthropocene Narrative**

Wolfgang Struck. A World without Us: Aesthetic, Literary and Scientific Imaginations of Nature beyond Humankind



Ecological conservation is not only an audacious exploration to the unknown, but also a domestication of your routine unruly self.

生态保护不只是对未知的探险, 也是对已知习惯的驯服。

Theater is the microscope of thought, from which everything seeks to fly but nothing escapes: gazing at the nature as it unravels.

戏剧是思维的抽象和具象, 其显微之功, 使万物无处逃逸。我们因此选择在上海大剧院召开一个生态会议, 看到自然的无常和戏剧性。

——第七届世界水源地峰会学术委员会

2021: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREEN TRANSFORMATION IN CHINA AND BEYOND

Edited and written by the WWSS Academic Committee And Oriental Danology Institute

Feb.

- Global Adaptation Summit
- China's first non-migratory Spring Festival (bendi guonian 本地过年), a great dis-continuum in Chinese history when huge number of population stay in their working cities for Chinese Lunar New Year, through the mediation of massive scale digital connectivity
- Kickoff year of China's 14th Five year plan(十四五规划开局之年): as China's power and influence continue to build up in Asia and beyond, in the post COVID 19 epoch, many analysts look to Chinese history to understand how a strong China will position himself in the present and envisioning China's future prowess through socio-politico-economical lens as represented by its future five-year plan. How will its five-year plan influence environment both at home and abroad? How it might behave in the future, as China power and influence grow in these upcoming five years? For the West, China attempts to offer not only a domestic tool for its advancements in power and prosperity, but a cure and political/social models for the world.

KEY MISSIONS OF 14 FIVE-YEAR PLAN

- Replacing high-speed growth with high-quality growth;
- Rebalancing its economy with supply-side structural reform;
- Expanding domestic demand, while continuing to support international export markets;
- Driving modernization through innovation and technological advancements; and
- Promoting high-end, intelligent, and green production.
- G7 Leaders' Meeting
- The Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly

Mar

- The 7th World Water Source Summit, Shanghai
- China's National People's Congress

Known as the "two sessions", or lianghui, the annual gatherings of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the National People's Congress (NPC) are a window on the central government's priorities and plans for the coming year.



The 2021 gatherings of the top advisory and legislative bodies are particularly important because they will mark the start of the next five-year plan and fall in the Communist Party's centenary year.

While the CPPCC and NPC meetings take place almost simultaneously and at the same place, they are separate events. The CPPCC has about 2,200 members from political parties, social groups, professions, various sectors and other organisations. The NPC has never vetoed a partyendorsed plan or work report, although the vote is not always unanimous. The number of opposing votes, however small, is often seen as a sign of the level of disagreement with a government leader or agency.

Tech, economic growth and climate change are top of the agenda

One of the NPC's tasks this year will be to pass the final version of China's 14th five-year plan, which gives the leadership a chance to outline longer-term priorities that could define President Xi Jinping's legacy and the party's future.

Notably, the latest five-year plan will be the first to dedicate a specific chapter to technology, framing self-sufficiency in technology as a major pillar of China's economic development and marking a shift in priorities towards industrial and national security as well as reduced tech imports.

Technology is one of the most contentious areas in Beijing's relationship with Washington and a field that China sees as critical to its drive for modernisation and self-reliance over the next decade and a half. The outlines of the five-year plan published in November indicate that China intends to boost domestic consumer demand and encourage self-reliance in the hi-tech sector, as part of its so-called dual circulation strategy.

This year's political set piece will take on extra political weight for the president as the Communist Party gears up to celebrate its centenary in July. Xi has signalled his confidence that the party and country are on the right track by telling senior officials in January that "time and momentum are on our side".

However, he warned that the country faced "unprecedented challenges and opportunities", telling the Politburo they must "create favourable social conditions" for the anniversary.

China is looking to reset relations with the United States after four years of rapid deterioration under former US president Donald Trump. But Joe Biden has made it clear that he expects "extreme competition" between the two countries, and his team is expected to continue a hard approach to China, albeit in greater consultation with US allies. [Source: South China Morning Post]

• Global Agriculture Innovation Forum

The Global Agriculture Innovation Forum is a joint undertaking between USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and Purdue University's Office of International Programs in Agriculture. The Forum will be valuable to entrepreneurs, producers, value-chain operators, service providers, and researchers, as well as donor agencies and implementing partners and will consist of a series of virtual events held throughout 2021. The first event titled Farms and Farmers of the Future is scheduled for 2 March 2021 from 15:00 - 16:30 CET.

April

• Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group

The Spring Meetings will center around the broad theme of From Crisis to Resilience: helping countries build a green and resilient recovery. At the heart of the Spring Meetings are meetings of the joint World Bank Group/IMF Development Committee and the IMF International Monetary and Financial Committee, which discuss progress on the work of the institutions. Other featured events include regional briefings, press conferences, and fora focused on international development, issues of debt, economic recovery, vaccines, and climate. The public program of events are streamed on World Bank Live and may be viewed without registering.

May

• Leaders' Climate Summit

The summit will be held on 22 April 2021, which is the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Paris Agreement on climate change for signature. The US' Biden Administration has also indicated its intention to reconvene the Major Economies Forum. The first preparatory meeting of the Major Economies Forum took place in April 2009. Meetings of the MEF took place periodically through September 2016. Between 2017 and 2020, after the US' Trump Administration announced that it would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, Canada, China and the EU cohosted four Ministerials on Climate Action.

• COP 15, Kunming

Despite on-going efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide and this decline is projected to worsen with business-as- usual scenarios. The UN Biodiversity Conference will convene governments from around the world to agree a new set of goals for nature over the next decade through the Convention on Biological Diversity post 2020 framework process. The framework sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled. The Conference will also look at the implementation of the protocols of the



Convention on Biological Diversity that deal with the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of nature, and the safe transport, handling and labelling of Living Modified Organisms.

• 12th Petersberg Climate Dialogue

The Petersberg Climate Dialogue series was launched in 2010, after the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, and has been held annually. The Dialogue facilitates open discussions in small groups on key issues in international climate policy.

<u>Iun</u>

- G7 Leaders' Summit
- G20 Foreign Affairs Ministerial; joint session between G20 Foreign Affairs and Development Ministers

The Ministers and Governors acknowledged that health and economic conditions remain difficult despite the launch of vaccination campaigns and signs of strengthening economic activity. They are committed to scaling up international coordination to tackle current global challenges by adopting a stronger multilateral approach and focusing on a set of core priorities. Granting equitable access to safe vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics for all countries is a top priority for all the Ministers and Governors. Efforts to

promote preparedness against future pandemics are equally important – a G20 High Level Independent Panel has been established to this end. The FMCBG meeting discussed the benefits stemming from joint action and strong policy cooperation and concurred that a premature withdrawal of the support measures should be avoided. In April, the update to the G20 Action Plan will offer the opportunity to address new and pre-existing challenges, such as low productivity growth, rising inequality, climate and environment-related risks, and the infrastructure financing gap.

Another point discussed by the Ministers and Governors was their recovery strategies as a unique opportunity to support the transition towards more sustainable, inclusive and equitable societies. Landmark steps will be considered more in-depth in future meetings and particularly during two events – a High Level Tax Symposium and a Conference on Climate, both to be held in Venice in July. These events will bring together policy makers, international financial institutions and eminent representatives from the private financial sector.

The Ministers and Governors also discussed the challenges that the COVID-19 crisis poses for financial stability and financial inclusion. They concurred that preserving financial stability and the capacity of the financial sector to support the recovery is a key priority, and maintaining close cooperation is essential to those goals. While the emergency is not yet behind us, the Ministers and Governors are taking

stock of the lessons already learned from a financial stability perspective. Ongoing work is focusing on strengthening the resilience of the nonbank financial intermediation sector, which played a part in the amplification of the March 2020 market turmoil.

<u>July</u>

• High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was established in June 2013 through a Resolution by the UN General Assembly as the main forum for sustainable development issues within the UN framework. Its establishment is one the main outcomes of the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development (see para 84 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document "The Future We Want"). The HLPF replaces the Commission for Sustainable Development, which was a functional Commission under the UN Economic and Social Council, established at the 1992 in the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The HLPF meets every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (next in 2019, then 2023 etc.) and every year under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The HLPF adopts a Ministerial Declaration and provides a Chair's summary of the

discussions.

The HLPF is mandated to provide political leadership and guidance; to address new and emerging sustainable development challenges; and to enhance the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In that regard, the HLPF is an important forum to bring together the input and expertise from a wide range of stakeholders from civil society organisations to enterprises and academia. It also incorporates the expertise of the UN agencies and programmes from the economic, social and environmental field, all working on sustainable development.

The HLPF plays a key role in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, agreed at the UN summit in September 2015. HLPF receives reports from various international organisations, processes, platforms and other sources. The main annual report is the SDG Progress Report prepared by the UN Secretariat on the basis of global SDG indicators. Every four years there will be a more comprehensive Global Sustainable Development Report which will provide more profound analysis for decision-makers and support the HLPF mandate for strengthening the science-policy interface for sustainable development policies.

• G20 Economy and Finance Ministerial Meeting



• G20 Environment and Energy Ministerial Meeting

Environment ministers meeting on July 22

Climate and energy ministers meeting on July 23

<u>Sep</u>

• International Union for the conservation of nature, World Conservation Congress

The world is increasingly recognising the inextricable link between biodiversity conservation and human and economic wellbeing, a connection made all the more visible by the COVID-19 pandemic. The IUCN Congress will be a key milestone for nature conservation and the development of a new global framework for biodiversity. The French government and IUCN remain steadfast in their commitment to these goals.

- UN Food Systems Summit, New York
- 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- New York Climate Week

Climate Week NYC will bring together CEOs from the world's leading companies, heads of some of the world's largest sub-national governments and civil society leaders to provide a shared vision for a low-carbon economy and

the action and leadership it will require. In addition to highlighting corporate and government leadership, it will also focus on key climate themes including: finance, security and innovation.

• Youth4Climate Summit

The "Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition" special event is being held ahead of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC, which is taking place from 1-12 November 2021, in Glasgow, UK.

In the run-up to this special event, the Italian Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with Connect4Climate – World Bank Group and the Office of Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, has also launched a programme of virtual and interactive meetings addressed to young people around the world. The webinars programme titled, "Youth4Climate Live Series: Driving Momentum Towards Pre-COP 26", includes one meeting per month, from June to February 2020.

Oct

- Preparatory meeting ahead of the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and

World Bank Group

• G20 Leaders' Summit

Dec

• Nutrition for Growth Summit

Oriental Danology Institute

NATURE WRITS LARGE:

DESIGNED BY ANTHROPOLOGISTS, OF EDUCATIONAL VALUE AND FOR THE CREATIVE MINDS

The Oriental Danology Institute is a hub in the global environmentalist network, its membership spans several continents but we are especially proud that the institute has created between China, Brazil and several countries in South America, between urbanites and rural ecologists in upper tributary of Qinghai Tibetan Plateau. These countries and mechanisms have become increasingly interdependent due to the global flow of commodities, embedded water, people, information and capital. The ODI has helped to shed light on these often hidden connections that are shaping our shared futures.

On behalf of ODI, we would like to invite you to take part in the networks of World Water Source Summit, together let's raise awareness about the social and environmental impacts of interdependence through design, art work, education, consultancy and, perhaps most importantly, people-topeople cultural diplomacy. Before plans for environmental conservation and social transformation are put into action, they are conceived in the minds of people who usually have very different ways of thinking about the global economy

and ecology.

Let us allow our minds to converge so that we can together find a path towards a shared sustainable future. May we converge while enjoying learning about our global biocultural diversity.

> www.odinfinity.org (www.herbauhaus.com)