

COHERENCE LAB

NEWSLETTER DEC 2019



Letter from the Executive Director and Big News for 2020

Dear friends,

Aloha! As we enter a new decade, we take a moment to take stock of where we've been and where our energies are needed moving forward. We are grateful for the wisdom of our Indigenous leaders who remind us that even in times of great planetary crisis, we must continue to listen to the guidance of Mother Earth as we seek solutions locally and globally. We give thanks to our partners and supporters, like you, who have leaned into our work at Coherence Lab.

We have BIG NEWS to share with you!

From our home on the tiny island of Kaua'i in the heart of the Pacific ocean, our work—or rather the way we work to build coherence-in-action—has taken a big leap toward global action on climate. At the invitation of global allies, in 2019 we held a series of strategy meetings to examine where we could bring coherence to those seeking big climate solutions. For us, it was the forests that were calling us to act.

The twin crises of climate change and mass extinction are no longer theoretical, but visible and palpable. The 2019 catastrophic and unprecedented forest fires in the Amazon, the Congo, California, Siberia and Australia put the world on notice about the scale of the climate crisis to come. Visible from space, the fires raged, releasing vast amounts of stored carbon, destroying complex and irreplaceable life systems and displacing human and animal communities. The calamities we witnessed (and experienced) were not unexpected. Indigenous forest protectors, scientists, researchers, advocates and activists have been sounding the alarm for years that the world's forests were mismanaged and in peril, and in 2019 important research was published linking forests, biodiversity and climate change.

After a year of quiet coalition-building, Coherence Lab and our partners are proud to announce the creation of a new partnership for protecting primary forests worldwide, to be announced formally next year.

Recognizing that forests are the first and foremost key to answering the climate crisis and saving biodiversity on earth, our bold vision is to build a network around the globe to protect and preserve the most vitally important old-growth forest landscapes worldwide.

We will as always take our lead from the Indigenous elders that surround us. Over 80% of the world's intact forests are in Indigenous lands. We're also excited to introduce our partners Wild Heritage, and Griffith University, who offer the rigorous scientific approaches and policies needed to ensure the long-term success of any work that happens through this new partnership. Something we do really well at Coherence Lab is bringing together that which is normally kept separate (like Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and modern science) as well as people who wouldn't normally work together (such as environmental nonprofits and business leaders).

We believe it's not too late. We believe this can be done. Thank you for standing with us.

Prajna Horn, Co-Founder and Executive Director

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Forest Strategy Session at the Ellsberg's On June 17, in Berkeley, California,

Coherence Lab brought together an extraordinary team of NGOs, Indigenous leaders, policy experts, scientists, economists, climate experts, tech innovators, business strategists, and movement leaders, to build concrete strategies to advance one of the most powerful ways to reverse climate change: saving the Earth's primary forests. The meeting objective was to leverage our collective knowledge, expertise, passion, vision and wisdom to **align efforts, share resources and amplify impact around a common global vision:**

To preserve the earth's remaining old-growth forests and restore adjacent forest cover, creating corridors for biodiversity habitat and pristine watersheds.



Global Forest Conference

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center | 5 day retreat

Coast Miwok Territory, October 2019. Verdant World and Coherence Lab gathered a diverse group of over thirty international forest advocates including NGO leaders, Indigenous leaders, policy advocates, campaigners, ecologists, business leaders and media representatives. Four days of deep-dive discussions and ceremony resulted in shared understanding and alignment about the critical importance of conserving Primary Forests as a top priority for both the climate change and biodiversity crises, and the need to communicate this message worldwide.

We believe that what is possible when we join forces is exponentially more powerful and effective than efforting alone.





Kuntanawa Nation of Brazil

The Kuntanawa Nation is showing inspiring leadership in action at this time, as they reclaim feeding their Amazon rainforest communities sustainably (which also empowers the long-term protection of the living forest, animals, water and people). Coherence Lab is proud to have an initial contact point, with the Kuntanawa, assisting both behind the scenes and as a sponsor of their international crowdfunder campaign to gather supporting funds for their efforts thanks to the work of Danielle Mayuri. The vision of Kuntanawa leaders, Haru Kuntanawa and Hayra Kuntanawa brings hope for the world. In their words:



This is a time of great transformation. We are reaching out to stay connected, to stay in unity, during these new times. With climate change intensifying, world epidemics will become more prevalent and severe if we continue with deforestation, releasing excess CO-2 and not living our lives in the guardianship of Mother Earth. The Amazon is the largest and oldest rainforest on the planet, supplying over 30% of the world's oxygen & freshwater output. From the recent record deforestation fires in the past months, there has been a major decrease in this world-output of water and oxygen, resulting in a major Earth imbalance. It is time to take action in the best way we can, to protect our biological diversity from this great destruction that is happening on Earth caused by the human capitalistic system. Supporting the Guardians of the Forest; specifically the Kuntanawa Nation, you are taking part in this mission in guaranteeing the protection and existence of the Amazon for the balance of the planet. Together we can protect the plants and animals from deforestation & extinction, promoting peace & harmony between humans & nature. [Read the Kuntanawa Full Story & project details + give towards their food sovereignty here:](#)

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/kuntanawa-sustainable-food-security-campaign>

2019 Summer Solstice Ceremony for Peace

In the middle of the Bering Strait, the border between the US and Russia – the two countries that possess over 93% of the world's nuclear weapons – is less than three miles apart. This is the place where the peoples of the US and Russia are neighbors. Our partners at Nuclear WakeUp Call are working toward a mission of peace in 2021, to journey in small boats across the Bering Strait to gather in a ceremony for peace and unity that will be filmed and shared with people of all ages and all backgrounds around the planet. Coherence Lab was honored to co-sponsor the 2019 Summer Solstice gathering to launch this critical initiative. Grounded in ceremony led by Kumu Hula Puna Dawson, the event brought together peacemakers, artists and founders of Arctic Without Borders, [Galya Morrell](#) from Russia, known as "the woman who dances barefoot on icebergs" and Greenland indigenous elder [Ole Jorgen Hammeken](#). For more, visit <https://www.nuclearwakeupcall.earth/melting-ice-curtain-bering-strait>



OUR BIGGEST NEWS

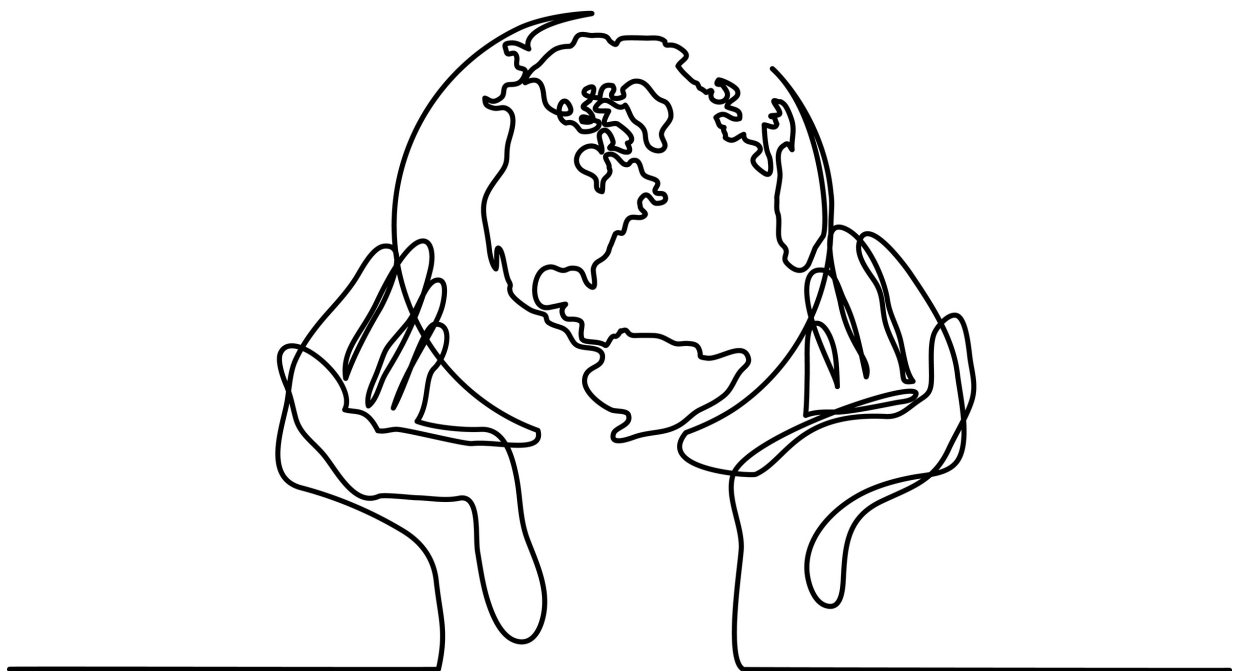
In 2019 Coherence Lab made the commitment to focus on the health of forests worldwide, and we quickly honed in on primary forest conservation as the most urgently needed action to naturally limit both climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Coherence Lab's focus is to protect the Earth's remaining intact old-growth forests, working with traditional forest communities, including their leadership and sustainable livelihoods. Conserving primary forests ensures intact habitat for the greatest biodiversity density on land, and pristine watersheds for groundwater and rain cycles to flow clean.

In partnership with *Wild Heritage* and *Griffith University*, we have been developing a new evidence-based joint strategy for the enduring protection of all primary forests worldwide.

Details will be announced in 2020.

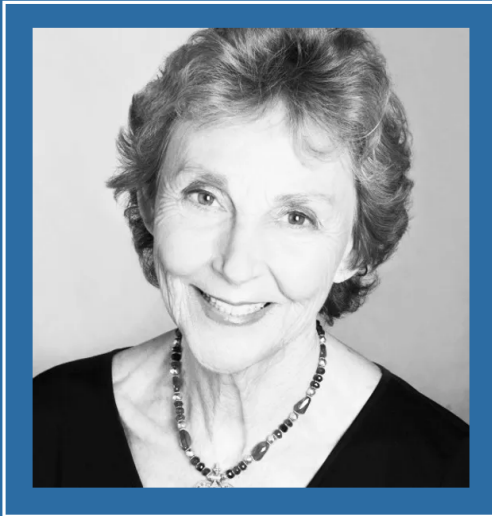
Deeply cognizant of the immensity of such a vision, Coherence Lab's expertise is to see the larger patterns, identify areas of alignment, and attract and synthesize the collective genius required to actualize awareness-based systems change.



New Additions to the Coherence Board & Team

PATRICIA ELLSBERG Board Member.

We are delighted and grateful to add Patricia Ellsberg to Coherence Lab's Board.



patricia ellsberg

Board Member; Co-initiator of the Living Forests Fund

Patricia is a social change activist, public speaker, meditation teacher and spiritual mentor. In their first year of marriage in 1971, she helped her husband, Daniel Ellsberg, release to the press the Pentagon Papers, a top secret history of US involvement in Vietnam, which helped end the Vietnam War.

A central theme of her life has been bridging spiritual experience with social activism. For years Patricia had her own nationally syndicated interview radio program called New Voices. She has spoken widely on peace, environmental and women's issues and has served on numerous Boards of peace and environmental organizations.

She currently is leading tele-seminars on personal and social transformation and is working closely with her sister, Barbara Marx Hubbard, to bring greater synergy and collaboration between social innovators worldwide.



Honoring a Founding Council Member and Spiritual Guide

KUMU HULA PUNA KALAMA DAWSON



Puna has been with us from the beginning. A highly respected indigenous elder and cultural practitioner in Hawaii, she sees through to the essence of everything, with an uncanny capacity to recognize and name what is really going on and what is needed.

Puna carries the powerful magnetism and authority of a true medicine woman. She was absolutely key in our very first gathering, the Women's Wisdom Keepers Summit. She has been with us ever since, bringing ceremony, deep wisdom, and her graceful embodiment of the aloha spirit.

Over and over, she guides the inner workings of Coherence Lab and our partnerships to remain on the crystal clear path of authentic, earth-based integrity, love and coherence.

Reflecting

These are just a few highlights from the past year. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve in these critical ways. Thank you for being part of this incredible unfolding of coherence!

It is clear that Coherence Lab has an important role to play in bringing together indigenous wisdom and Earth Systems Science to put forth whole-systems solutions; build diverse community-based coalitions; and design projects to create a sustainable future that works for all.

YOU CAN HELP US complete these new projects by making a tax-deductible contribution to Coherence Lab today. You can donate online at coherencelab.org or send your check by mail to: Coherence Lab, P.O. Box 264, Hanalei, HI 96714.

We are deeply grateful for your support and honored to be able to continue to do this work.

DONATE

May 2021 bring us all closer to the healthy, just and unified Kaua'i and world we envision!

Love & Aloha,
Prajna Horn and the Coherence Lab Team

Coherence Lab is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization.



www.coherencelab.org