



## Recovering Voices

Fosters partnerships with **communities** around the world that are key to revitalizing and sustaining languages and knowledge.

Capitalizes on the **collections** and **research** strengths of the Smithsonian Institution to this end.

Seeks to **understand** the decline in linguistic diversity and develop effective responses to it.

# GET INVOLVED

## Support

**Funding.** Your financial support will allow us to fund community research on Smithsonian Collections, expand our digitization efforts so our archives and collections are more accessible, and broaden the scope of research carried out by Recovering Voices.

## Research Opportunities

**Community Research.** Apply to our Community Research Program and access our collections and archives to support the revitalization of your local language and knowledge.

**Training.** Get involved in our workshops and institutes, and our academic internships and fellowships.

Contact us to discuss specific funding or research opportunities.

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NATIONAL MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY



# RECOVERING VOICES

*Resilient futures built on diversity of languages and knowledge*



## The Diversity of Languages and Knowledge

More than half of the world's languages are endangered. Without immediate action, they could go silent by the year 2100.

Every language is a window into the human mind. It is a record of the knowledge that societies have gained over generations of successful adaptation.

Language and knowledge vitality is critical to

- Community well-being
- Science's ability to understand the world
- Our ability to address global, societal, and environmental priorities

ARCHIVES

RESEARCH

COMMUNITIES

COLLECTIONS



## Strengthening Communities

Now, more than ever, communities around the world are active in revitalizing their languages and knowledge.

Community members are the primary drivers of revitalization and are in the best position to effect change.

Recovering Voices recognizes this in its model of collaborative community-based research.

### WAUJA

The Wauja Tribe of Brazil is addressing the loss of traditional knowledge and local biodiversity. At the Smithsonian, Wauja leaders researched historic films and natural history specimens to develop tangible and concrete approaches to address the cultural and ecological changes taking place in their community.



## Sharing Collections

Access to collections is central to the recovery and regeneration of knowledge.

Cultural artifacts embody knowledge of natural resources, the environment, history, social structures, and collective memory. Natural specimens provide insights into former environments and elicit contemporary conversations.

The National Museum of Natural History alone holds 145 million biological and mineral specimens and cultural artifacts.

# COLLECTIONS

### ANISHNAABE

Following research in the Smithsonian collections, Anishnaabe researchers from Ontario, Canada produced videos with an elder as he collected and processed sap into maple syrup. These videos support the teaching of the language and traditional ecological knowledge to Anishnaabe youth.



## Opening Archives

Archival holdings range from the finest detail of a language to the history of a people.

The National Anthropological Archives holds documentation on languages and cultures from six of the world's continents

Recovering Voices connects community researchers with Smithsonian archives both through on-site visits and through digitization of materials.

### BREATH OF LIFE

Since 2011, through the National Breath of Life Archival Institute for Indigenous Languages, the National Anthropological Archives has offered a wealth of resources to researchers from more than 50 Native American language communities. The archives hold historical records critical to the revitalization of language, culture, and knowledge. <http://nationalbreathoflife.org>



## Leading Research

Recovering Voices researchers contribute towards the sustainability of languages and knowledge through documentation and rigorous study.

Our research is global and is carried out both in the museum as well as with communities.

Our extensive research has gained international recognition. Recovering Voices researchers participate in international panels convened by UNESCO and hold strategic partnerships with institutions around the world.

# RESEARCH

### BINNIZÁ

In collaboration with knowledge bearers from the community of La Ventosa in Oaxaca, Mexico, Smithsonian scientists conducted comprehensive research on the local flora. This research produced botanical samples, photos, audio recordings, and educational materials for the community. The work also motivated the start of language workshops for children, which are the first concerted revitalization efforts in La Ventosa. <http://neho.si.edu>



# COMMUNITIES

# ARCHIVES