

The Quiet Beasts in the Living Territory

Rukai Forest Knowledge, Colonial Forestry History, and Decolonial Futures



Saturday, **11 July** 2026 | 10:00–11:30 AM (UTC+2)

Kabalelradhane Village Indigenous Cultural Health Station + YouTube Livestream



Why does this matter?

When museums start including Indigenous and local knowledge alongside Western science, the result is often oversimplified or turned into a template. And even when the intention is good, the way knowledge gets interpreted and presented to visitors, whether through guided tours, exhibition labels, educational programs, still tends to be shaped by a modern, Western lens.

Why is this so hard to change? Because the knowledge itself arrives fragmented. The gap between how traditional knowledge was built and how modern institutions operate is enormous. Many native languages, known as the living vessels of this knowledge, are no longer spoken fluently across generations. And the communities who hold this knowledge have seen their landscapes transformed by decades of policy change, population shifts, and climate change. Add the pressures of tourism and local bureaucracy, and cultural interpretation becomes even harder to keep in the hands of the people it belongs to.



About This Forum

This event brings museum professionals directly into a conversation that is rarely heard outside the village.

Through two pre-recorded interviews at Kabalelradhane Village (神山部落) the Rukai people in Pingtung County, Taiwan, you will hear from an elder who lived through the era of colonial forestry plantation, sharing what the forest used to look like, how government tree-planting policies changed the mountains, and what today's young people are doing to reclaim that history. You will also hear a female elder and a young woman in dialogue that shows what it really looks like when traditional knowledge is passed on and when it breaks.

Together, these voices connect elders still practicing traditional knowledge in daily life with a younger generation working to repair what has been lost and to reclaim the right to tell their own story.

We invite you to join this conversation and explore what it might mean for museums, cultural interpretation, and traditional knowledge to genuinely coexist.



Program (UTC+2)

10:00–10:10 | Opening Remarks

10:10–10:20 | Introduction: The topic and the "Cultural Learning Week"

10:20–10:35 | Interview I: Forest Knowledge and Colonial History

10:35–10:50 | Interview II: Farming Knowledge and Intergenerational Dialogue

10:50–11:00 | Commentary from ICOM UMAC and ICOM ICR

11:00–11:25 | Q&A and Open Discussion

11:25–11:30 | Closing Remarks

FREE and open to all. Watch live on the ICOM NATHIST YouTube channel!



Online registration: <https://forms.gle/76GTK9bUkam3hbuQ6>

WEBINAR

ICOM SAREC PROJECT 2026
CONFLUENCE OF KNOWLEDGE ACROSS
TIME: WORKSHOP FOR RECIPROCAL
ENGAGEMENT WITH LIVING
KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS IN MUSEUMS

The Quiet Beasts in the Living Territory

Rukai forest knowledge,
colonial forestry history,
and decolonized futures



SATURDAY
JULY 11



10:00-11:30
UTC+2

YouTube
Live Stream

Lead Organizer

ICOM NATHIST

Co-Organizers

ICOM France · ICOM SUSTAIN

Local Organizer

Kabalhelajan Village of the Rukai People

Supporting Partners

ICOM Zambia · ICOM ICME · ICOM ICR · ICOM Spain · ICOM Costa Rica · ICOM Israel ·
ICOM Barbados · ICOM UMAC


議程 PROGRAM

「靜靜地坐在部落生活領域中的猛獸」：魯凱族的林相知識、殖民林業史與解殖未來

**The Quiet Beasts in the Living Territory:
Rukai forest knowledge, colonial forestry history, and decolonial futures**

日期 Date: 星期六 11th July 2026

地點 Venue: 神山文化健康站 Indigenous Cultural Health Station /

YouTube Live Stream 

Time (UTC+8)	項目 Activity
16:00 – 16:10	開場致詞及大合照 Opening Remarks and Group Photo
16:10 – 16:20	介紹議題、文化學習週的意義 Introduction of the topic and the “Cultural Learning Week”
16:20 – 16:35	訪談（一）：林相與殖民史 Pre-recorded Interview I: Forest Knowledge & Colonial History 男性耆老分享傳統林相知識、不同政權的林業政策如何改變山林樣貌
16:35 – 16:50	訪談（二）：農耕與世代對話 Pre-recorded Interview II: Farming Knowledge & Intergenerational Dialogue 女性耆老分享農耕智慧、耆老與青年對話
16:50 – 17:00	計畫團隊專家代表發表評論與回饋 Commentary from Collaborating ICs: UMAC, ICR, ICME
17:00 – 17:25	問答與綜合討論 Q&A and General Discussion
17:25 – 17:30	總結 Closing Remarks