



Elizabeth Lindsey

National Geographic Society Fellow



Dr. Elizabeth Kapu'uwailani Lindsey is the first Polynesian Explorer and female Fellow in the history of the National Geographic Society. An award-winning filmmaker and anthropologist, she travels to remote regions of the world to conserve indigenous knowledge. Her global effort to 'map the human story' explores teachings critical to navigating the complexity of our times. PBS will broadcast Lindsey's expeditions as a television series. Her journeys will take her to Micronesia, Bhutan, Vietnam, New Zealand, Kazakhstan and India. As Creator and Co-Executive Producer of the series, Lindsey's work serves as the cornerstone of what will become a 'cultural trust', a digital repository, for present and future generations.

The former Miss Hawai'i also works with United Nations Ambassadors on behalf of environmental refugees who are faced with the punishing realities of the climate crisis. A U.N. study predicts there will be as many as 50 million environmental refugees by 2012. There has been no other time in history where the fabric of the human story has been more vulnerable.

Lindsey's keen insight and first-hand accounts from the world's most fragile regions make Elizabeth a compelling, dynamic public speaker. She offers global audiences the rare invitation to experience unsung societies. Lindsey's insights into native science and ancestral wisdom reshape western perspectives.

On Elizabeth's most recent expedition, she journeyed to Satawal, Micronesia where she recorded the traditions of the palu, Micronesian non-instrument navigators. Lindsey, who was raised by native Hawaiian elders, earned her doctorate in cultural anthropology specializing in ethnonavigation. She spent almost ten years documenting master navigator Pius "Mau" Pailug who is considered the greatest wayfinder in the world.

She has created scholarships for children in India and the Pacific and plans to expand her efforts this year. In 2004 she was named Woman of the Year in Hawai'i.

Her documentary film, "Then There Were None", which chronicles the near extinction of native Hawaiians, is considered a Hawaiian history classic and has received numerous awards including the prestigious CINE Eagle.

Elizabeth serves on the international boards of the Tibet Fund, Islands First, Blue Planet Foundation and is an advisor to the National Geographic's Enduring Voices Initiative and Paris-based NGO ProNatura.

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