

# WHO SPEAKS FOR NATURE?

## Indigenous Peoples vs. Unethical Artificial Intelligence



It's called Artificial Intelligence because it's **FAKE!**



Since time immemorial, **Indigenous Peoples'** ability to communicate in spiritual ways with their sacred animal relatives and Mother Earth has rendered them **spokespersons for Creation**. However, Indigenous Peoples' rights, agency and moral authority to interpret what Nature wants and needs may soon be **taken over by racist,**<sup>1</sup> **war-prone**<sup>2</sup> **Artificial Intelligence controlled by rightwing tech billionaires,**<sup>3</sup> their political cronies and **carbon traders** to **greenwash** extractive industries that are destroying Mother Earth; and to justify **carbon colonialism.**<sup>4</sup>



**Artificial Intelligence**, the **"brains" of robots** designed to **replace humans,**<sup>5</sup> has supposedly begun to "decode the animal kingdom"<sup>6</sup> and **decipher animals' "languages."** Thus, polluting AI<sup>7</sup> and its "nonhuman animal communication technologies"<sup>8</sup> vest self-appointed **Dr. Dolittles and carbon traders** with the power to **speak for Nature**, and potentially claim that She wants all her ecosystems and beings to be used for **REDD, offsets** and **Nature-Based Solutions**. Of course, turning all of Mother Earth into offsets necessitates the expropriation of Indigenous Peoples' sacred animal relatives, lands and oceans; home to **80% of the world's biodiversity.**<sup>9</sup>

AI was shaped by the military<sup>10</sup> and could **start a nuclear war.**<sup>11</sup> Therefore, it should come as no surprise, that according to the UN, "AI systems often reflect **biases embedded in the data...** that frequently excludes or **misrepresents Indigenous Peoples'** voices and knowledge. AI can reinforce harmful biases, exclusion, and lead to further **appropriation of Indigenous Peoples' culture and knowledge.**"<sup>12</sup> And **sacred relatives and territories.**

### Dangers of using AI to communicate with whales compared to developing Atomic Bomb

In 2025, the Cetacean Translation Initiative (**Project CETI**),<sup>13</sup> supported by carbon offsetter National Geographic,<sup>14</sup> made a supposedly historic breakthrough in **AI decoding whale coda clicks**, claiming that sperm whales use a **"phonetic alphabet,"** with **"human-like vowels."**<sup>15</sup> Claims that AI can identify whale "words" may be just around the corner. However, even within CETI, there are grave concerns about the terrible **dangers of using AI** to "talk" with whales. CETI's **Biology Lead Dr. Shane Gero**<sup>16</sup> suspects that **AI-synthesized whalesong** could **short-circuit whales' 34-million-year-old culture.**<sup>17</sup> Gero confesses that "the last thing any of us want to do is be in a **scenario where we look back and say, like Einstein did, 'If I had known better, I would have never helped with the bomb.'**"<sup>18</sup> Alarming, CETI's partner New York University-MOTH reports that using AI could **threaten animals' survival,** and cause **"starvation, illness, reproductive failure"** and **"death."**<sup>19</sup>

Distinguished experts **categorically refute CETI's claims.** Eminent whale biologist **Dr. Luke Rendell** **questions the term "phonetic alphabet,"** saying **"it's nothing of the sort... There's NO EVIDENCE** of that, and it's **not a super helpful interpretation** because it forces everything into a restricted and somewhat over-sold perspective of 'Is it like human language or not?' when there is a much broader range of interpretations available."<sup>20</sup> Rendell also cautions that **"machine learning** is great for finding patterns in large datasets, but



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it **doesn't create meaning**.<sup>21</sup> Other scientists also question CETI's alleged analogy between whale sounds and human language; and wonder whether the whales produced the patterns being referred to as vowels on purpose or **if the CETI researchers or AI misinterpreted the recordings**.<sup>22</sup> For instance, Denise Herzing, a dolphin communication expert objects to the word "vowel" out of concern that **people might assume whales are using "something like human language,"**<sup>23</sup> **when they are not**. The bottom line for zoologist Dr. Yossi Yovel is that **"removing the bias of human interpretation is impossible."**<sup>24</sup> **Adrienne Aakaluk Titus (Iñupiaq) from Alaska of Indigenous Environmental Network warns that AI is "dangerous and threatens Indigenous Peoples' inherent right to speak for the whales,** animals, birds and living and non-living beings, the oceans, rivers and lands **to ensure a healthy Mother Earth for generations to come.**"<sup>25</sup>

## Are whales saying "Pay me to be a carbon offset?"



Ventriloquist's dummies  
Photo: Metaweb CC-BY

CETI's supposed inroads into deciphering whale communication raise crucial questions about **who controls a whale's message**. In the 1950s, the infamous Nestlé corporation<sup>26</sup> hired the ventriloquist Jimmy Nelson to make his dummy Farfel the Dog speak English to sell chocolate on TV.<sup>27</sup> Now carbon traders daydream about **whales singing to sell whale offsets**. Like a modern-day ventriloquist, the former **International Monetary Fund** economist Dr. Ralph Chami, the top proponent of turning whales into carbon offsets,<sup>28</sup> shamelessly **puts words in whales' mouths**, pretending that if whales could speak, they **would demand to be paid for sequestering carbon dioxide**.<sup>29</sup> Chami's bizarre fantasy fits perfectly with the plans of his company Blue Green Future<sup>30</sup> to promote whale offsets and use Nature as "an asset class."<sup>31</sup> It is no coincidence that at the same time that the IMF **prioritizes using whales**<sup>32</sup> and **elephants**<sup>33</sup> **for offsets**, whales and elephants' communication is being **prioritized for AI translation**.<sup>34</sup>

**WATCH OUT!** If AI "translates" whales' and elephants' "words," and pretends that they say "I wanna be an offset!" that could be construed as **whales and elephants giving their consent to be offsets**; which could **supercede Indigenous Peoples' right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent and right to veto** offset projects and supposedly compatible "sustainable" **extractivism** done in their terrestrial and marine territories. **Remember:** Rights to use species as offsets ARE rights to their habitat ARE **rights to Indigenous Peoples' lands and oceans where species birth, live and migrate ARE RIGHTS TO EVERYWHERE.**



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## **DEEPAKES** and Playing God

ChatGPT might be able to invent animals' messages thanks to deepfakes. According to the *Financial Times*, "Earth Species Project is experimenting with **synthetic animal sounds**."<sup>35</sup> **In the same way a human voice can be deepfaked,** **animals' voices can be deepfaked.**<sup>36</sup> So, **whoever controls AI can fake the messages of Creation.**

## **Polluting Car Giant uses AI to speak for Trees** in its **REDD** plantations

Hyundai uses AI to provide **"tongues for trees"** and give **"trees a voice"** in some of its **REDD plantations**<sup>37</sup> in 13 countries.<sup>38</sup> Both REDD and handing over **tree communication to computers** disrespects sacred trees, the **forest peoples of the world** and their **land rights**.<sup>39</sup> Hyundai also does **ocean offsets**.<sup>40</sup> Soon AI-translated trees and whales may supposedly beg polluters to grab Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' forests and oceans to greenwash how their pollution is destroying the climate. **Stop AI and offsets from violating the Sacred!**

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<sup>4</sup> World Rainforest Movement. Ending Colonialism Means Ending REDD+. April 27 2022. <https://www.wrm.org.uy/15-years-of-redd-ending-colonialism>

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<sup>6</sup> Financial Times. Persis Love, Irene de la Torre Arenas, Sam Learner and Sam Joiner. How AI is decoding the animal kingdom. January 18 2024.

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<sup>13</sup> Project CETI (Cetacean Translation Initiative). <http://projectceti.org>

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<sup>15</sup> Beguš G, Sprouse RL, Leban A, Silva M, Gero S. Vowel- and Diphthong-Like Spectral Patterns in Sperm Whale Codas. Open Mind (Camb). 2025 Nov 2;9:1849-1874. doi: 10.1162/OPMI.a.252. PMID: 41210602; PMCID: PMC12594577. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12594577/>

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