



Community Conservation

Fall Newsletter

CATALYZING CHANGE. EMPOWERING LOCAL PEOPLE. SAVING SPECIES.

OCTOBER 2020

Myanmar: Locals Lead Plastic Cleanups

Improving water quality in villages near Rakhine Yoma Elephant Sanctuary

Community Conservation is supporting three locally-led conservation projects which were proposed by people living in communities near Myanmar's protected areas. After attending the Biodiversity Heroes training in December, they came up with some great ideas for how their villages can participate in conservation.

THE THREE PROJECTS:

#1 Establishing a community forest for Chin-Chaung village next to Maharmyaing Wildlife Sanctuary, home to endangered Eastern Hoolock gibbons.

#2 Establishing community forests near Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (primarily set aside for tigers) and monitoring bird and fish populations at Naungsi Lake.

#3 Initiating village clean-ups and sustainable fishing practices to improve water quality near the Rakhine Yoma Elephant Sanctuary.

We are proud to report that project #3 has safely been able to start its first phase: cleaning up plastic pollution.

The community members who proposed this project had observed that the water quality in the stream next to their villages was very poor. Plastic waste and litter were accumulating, and the villagers there had limited knowledge about biodiversity and sustainable fishing practices. They have just begun working with youth volunteers in two villages to clean up the plastic. They also plan to start dialog about sustainable fishing practices.

Community-based conservation can be very cost-effective: these projects each only required about \$1,000 in funding. Thank you donors!



Ecuador: Organic Community Gardens

Helping dairy farmers establish a new food source that keeps the surrounding forests healthy

Community Conservation is supporting the construction of large, community-level organic gardens in the village of Sumaco, Ecuador. The people there are interested in starting their own community-managed ecotourism preserve, which could protect many species in this biodiversity hotspot.

Community Conservation had been planning to do a community training there this spring. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has made large gatherings unsafe, and also caused economic hardship and food insecurity for the local dairy farmers. Organic community gardens will provide a new food source without affecting local wildlife.



Executive Director Search

In June we were sad to announce that Dr. April Sansom had moved on to another executive director position in her home state of Texas. We thank her for leadership at Community Conservation and wish her all the best in her new adventure.

The board of directors is now searching for a new executive director. The posting is available at communityconservation.org/edsearch.

Thank you for your ongoing friendship and support.



3 Projects in the Works

We plan to begin these projects over the next year depending on the situation with COVID-19 in each country.

1) In Borneo, Smithsonian researchers have set up wildlife cameras to get a glimpse at the lives of reclusive wildlife within the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary. We are planning to help them make their project more community-run, including **the participation of women in wildlife monitoring**.

2) In Thailand, Dr. Teri Allendorf went to Thungyai Naresuan East Wildlife Sanctuary in February to explore ways to **involve communities with tiger conservation** there.

3) In Myanmar, we are partnering again with Friends of Wildlife to **provide a fourth Biodiversity Heroes training for people who live near the country's protected areas**. The training is tentatively planned for December, pending Myanmar's COVID-19 status.

Welcome to New Board Members

We are excited to announce that Kara Delanty and Doug Pierce have joined our board. They both bring a passion for community conservation and relevant nonprofit experience.



Apply to Join the Board of Directors

Are you passionate about our mission? Can you provide expertise in the areas of communications/marketing, fundraising/financial, or legal aspects? Commitment is about 3-5 hours per month. See communityconservation.org/aboutus to learn more.

Updates from Nepal

Continuing to make progress with our partner organizations.



Otter Conservation Booklet

Community Conservation is pleased to support the creation and printing of a new informational booklet about the Eurasian otter created by Sagar Dahal at Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation, one of our partner organizations in Nepal. The booklet will raise awareness in communities about the otters. You can see the booklet and SMCRF's other educational resources at smcrf.org/books.



Community Forest Patrols Continue

Good news: the community forestry groups we work with in Nepal tell us that patrolling and monitoring of the illegal activities inside the forest are happening as usual, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. We are glad to hear that they can continue to protect their forests safely. The communities have also said they're very keen to resume wildlife monitoring activities soon.

"Our approach sees rural community members as potential conservationists, and asks them for their help."

– Dr. Rob Horwich, founder



OTHER UPDATES



Online Lecture Series Available

Before he passed away, Dr. Rob Horwich recorded 8 lectures detailing his 25+ years of experience working with communities all around the world. The lectures have been updated and are available for free on our website. See the introduction at communityconservation.org/lectures.



Grow Article

The UW College of Agriculture and Life Sciences magazine Grow will include an article about the community conservation work of Dr. Teri Allendorf, our board president, this fall. Watch our online communications for a link when it is available.

Board of Directors

Dr. Teri Allendorf, President

Mark Fenn, Vice-President

Dr. John Delaney, Treasurer

Kara DeLanty

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Doug Pierce

Joe Rising

Staff

Shelly Torkelson, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Jerry Pedretti, Bookkeeper

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