



Community Conservation Spring Newsletter

April 2020

CATALYZING CHANGE. EMPOWERING LOCAL PEOPLE. SAVING SPECIES.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Expanded Online Resources

Promoting people-focused conservation during this time of remote learning

Part of our mission is to facilitate widespread, global adoption of community-based conservation. This means giving conservation practitioners the tools they need to involve communities in conservation, and spreading awareness about how impactful community-based efforts are in protecting biodiversity.

Our website, re-designed in 2018, has become more popular. 5,500 people read about people-focused conservation on our website last year.

It is even more popular in 2020, with over 50% more visitors than in 2019. With so many people being stuck in their homes due to COVID-19, we expect this trend to continue.

As a small organization we're luckily able to be flexible during times like these.

We are ramping up our efforts to provide online resources for the general public and conservationists.

NOW AVAILABLE:

- **Summaries** of important seminal works of community conservation – easy reads for both conservation workers and the general public
- **A reference list of studies and papers** about community involvement in conservation projects, with links to the full papers
- **Tools** for conservation practitioners: checklist, step-by-step, and...

COMING SOON:

- Online lecture series (revamped)
- Video: "What is Community Conservation?"

If there are other online resources you would like to see, please let us know!



How COVID-19 is affecting our work

A note from our Executive Director Dr. April Sansom and some project changes



Trainings in Nepal and Myanmar

Photos from the most recent community trainings, and new grant to fund continuing work in Nepal



New project coming!

While we wait for travel to become safer, we are working with local conservationists living around protected areas in Myanmar – they have exciting ideas for how the communities they live in can launch conservation projects! Soon we'll be announcing a new way we can support their efforts.

Thank you for your ongoing friendship and support!



COVID-19 and our Projects

We have a formula for conservation that works, and that gives us hope.

In response to COVID-19, we are:

- 1) Supporting our partners in the field and being flexible together as we adjust plans for trainings and other in-person events as needed - the top priority is everyone's safety.
- 2) Expanding our online educational resources so that conservationists can read about involving communities in conservation work easily (especially if they find themselves stuck at home).
- 3) Sharing stories of #conservationoptimism as much as we can. Communities have achieved so much in protecting their natural resources. Now is the time to share those stories.

A Note to You from April

"We are a global community, and we are in this together. Our hearts go out to everyone affected by COVID-19. Our small team in Wisconsin is working from home and we are checking in with our partners in other countries. We're staying flexible, as the situation is rapidly changing. As of now, some projects can move forward and some will have delays because of social distancing measures and travel bans.

The work that you care so much about continues. Thank you for your ongoing friendship and support and we hope you are all staying as healthy as you can."

Sincerely,

Dr. April Sansom,
Executive Director



OTHER UPDATES



Nepal study published

A study launched by Community Conservation was recently completed, and it shows how local communities can help point scientists in the right direction. Our website has a summary and link to the full paper.



Now on Instagram

You can get updates of our work, stories of #conservationoptimism, conservation tools and best practices on our new Instagram – check us out at [@communityconservationinc](https://www.instagram.com/communityconservationinc)

Community Training Sessions

In Myanmar

We are partnering with local NGO Friends of Wildlife to provide conservation education for community members, called "Biodiversity Heroes" trainings. 30 representatives from 13 protected areas attended the training that took place in December. The 5 days of training was expanded from 3 days to cover additional topics the community members asked for. Topics included governance, participatory decision-making, how to find funding, and biodiversity.

In Nepal

In January, we helped provide a community training on wildlife monitoring to community members from the Jhapa district of Eastern Nepal. Trainees learned how to identify animal tracks, use GPS and camera traps, and much more in their community forests. **A new grant** we received will help continue this work, with a specific focus on conservation and management of endangered pangolins.



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"When communities are treated as part of the *solution* rather than part of the *problem*, they are willing to take responsibility for conservation."

- Rob Horwich, founder