



# ANNUAL REPORT



2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR

[communityconservation.org](https://communityconservation.org)

# Why

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## Community Conservation?

**We are in a biodiversity crisis.** Global wildlife populations have declined by an average of 73% since 1970.

But there is a solution: communities.

**Communities are good conservationists.** Conservation by communities is the future of biodiversity protection. It has the best impact over the long term and it is low-cost.

And it can work across a **large scale**. Across 73 countries, nearly 20% of land is legally owned or managed by local communities and implementation of existing legal frameworks in just 19 of those countries could increase that to 40%.\*

However, not enough communities have the opportunity and support they need to protect biodiversity. That's where Community Conservation comes in. By providing support to communities, we help them conserve their environment and the world's biodiversity.

**Imagine what we could achieve if communities were actively conserving biodiversity everywhere.**

\*Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023. [Who Owns the World's Land?](#)



**Community Conservation is a nonprofit organization that supports communities around the world to conserve biodiversity.**



# How are we different?

## **We recognize diverse community values.**

From forty years of experience, we know we don't need to convince people to conserve biodiversity. Our role is to support and build on existing and diverse conservation values within communities. There are conservationists in every community.

## **We support a community-based process.**

We focus on the process of governance and management within the community. We help communities create systems that help them make decisions to protect biodiversity within their context and culture.

## **We build the capacity of communities to protect biodiversity.**

We provide training to communities to monitor, manage, and conserve biodiversity based on their priorities and interests. We also provide scientific information to help them make management decisions.

## **We encourage diverse benefits from conservation.**

People benefit from biodiversity in many ways, including the conservation of species, ecosystem services, and livelihood benefits. We encourage recognition of the diversity and work to deepen people's understanding of the benefits.



# Our history

Community Conservation was founded in 1989 by Dr. Rob Horwich from his living room in Gays Mills, Wisconsin. Rob was first inspired to work alongside local people in Belize while studying black howler monkeys, locally known as baboons. He quickly realized that unless he joined forces with local people to protect the howlers' forest home, there might not be any more howlers to study in the future. Since 1989, we have supported nearly 30 projects in 18 countries around the world. In every project, we join forces with local communities and increase their capacity to conserve biodiversity.

While Rob was dedicated to protecting biodiversity one village at a time, we are now working to scale up his vision. We have been linking our partners around the world over the past seven years and delivering virtual and in-person trainings to build capacity among students, conservationists, and others to work with local communities to conserve biodiversity.



## From our Board President

Greetings Friends,

I'm happy to report that we've had another successful year at Community Conservation, thanks to the support of our generous donors. We expanded existing community programs in several countries, including Nepal, Peru, Malaysia, and Thailand. We also completed our first donor trip to Belize, the home of our earliest community conservation project.



We are grateful to our supporters for helping us reach this point, and we look forward to seeing what lies ahead.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kara DeLanty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kara DeLanty, Board President





## From our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This year, we've achieved so much thanks to your unwavering support. Our achievements are a testament to the power of community-based conservation.

However, I want to be transparent about the challenges we continue to face. Like many nonprofits, particularly those focused on long-term, community-driven change, we are still on our journey to achieving financial sustainability. This means that while we are making a real difference on the ground, we are also working diligently to secure the consistent funding needed to ensure our work can continue for generations to come.



In the past year, we have taken important steps to address our financial stability:

- We've expanded our individual donor outreach, investing in building stronger relationships with our donors, including offering our first donor trip to Belize.
- We've diversified our funding streams by launching a planned giving program and seeking corporate sponsorships.
- We've streamlined our giving by switching our donor platform to Givebutter, which gives our donors more ways to donate seamlessly.

We believe deeply in the power of individual giving. Every contribution, no matter the size, plays a vital role in sustaining our programs and empowering communities to protect their natural resources. It is this collective support that will allow us to move from project-based funding

to a more sustainable model, enabling us to make long-term commitments to the communities we serve.

We understand that supporting global initiatives requires a unique perspective, and we are profoundly grateful to those who have embraced our vision. We are confident that by continuing to build strong relationships with individuals who share our passion, we will achieve our goal of financial sustainability and secure a brighter future for the communities and ecosystems we work to protect.

We encourage you to share this journey with your friends and family who share your unique vision and understanding. Your continued support, whether through financial contributions, volunteering, or simply spreading the word about our work, is essential to our success.

Together, we can build a world where communities and nature thrive.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teri Allendorf', written in a cursive style.

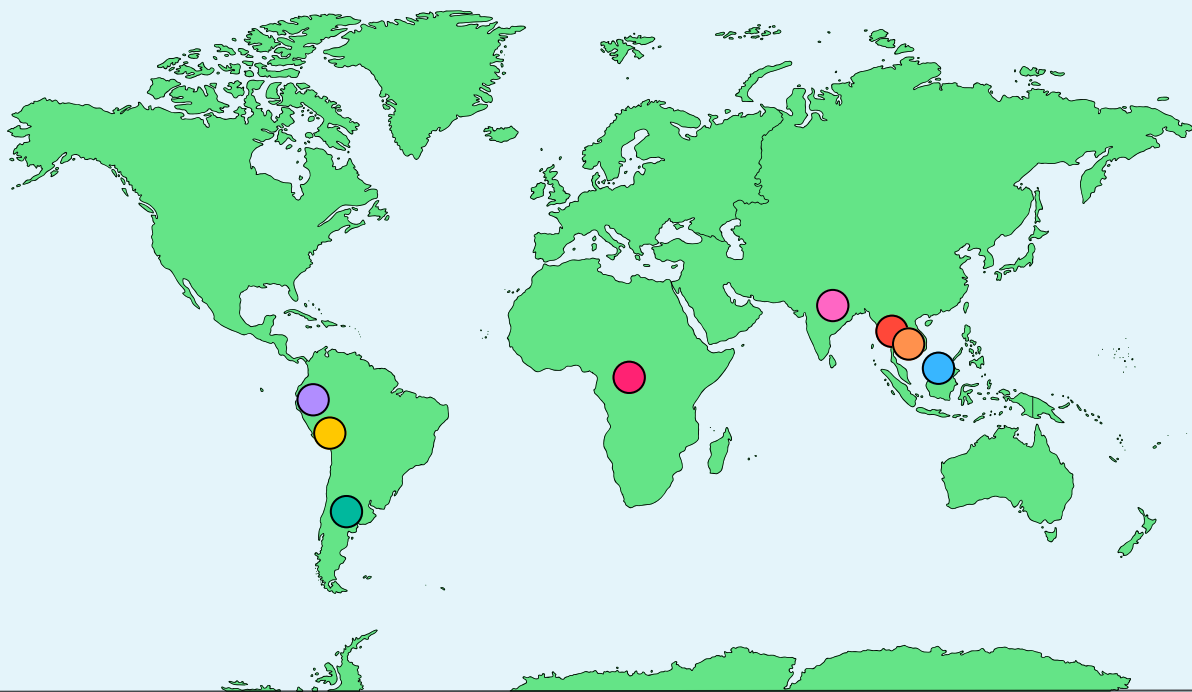
Teri Allendorf, Executive Director



# Where we worked

*in 2023-24*

## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION SITES



Colombia

Peru

Argentina

Cameroon

Thailand

Nepal

Myanmar

Malaysia

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

Dr. Rob Horwich



# Doing Community Conservation

## NEPAL: FOSTERING COMMUNITY-LED WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

**Wildlife Protection:** Inspired by an exchange visit with successful anti-poaching groups in Chitwan National Park, community forest groups in Jhapa and Morang districts established their own Community-Based Anti-Poaching Units (CBAPUs). These groups now actively combat poaching of deer and other wildlife. CBAPUs also serve as a platform for communities to raise wildlife conservation concerns with local leaders and government officials, fostering collaboration and finding solutions together.

**Expanding Wildlife Monitoring:** Our partner, Nature Conservation and Study Centre (NCSC), camera trapped with 13 community forests in Udayapur District to further expand the wildlife corridor. We also created an [iNaturalist project](#) for the corridor, which has the photos for each community forest so the communities have a record of what animals were found (and you can see them too!).





## CAMEROON: SUPPORTING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

**Developing an Indigenous Community-Based Monitoring Program:** Our partner in Cameroon, Community-Based Biosynergy Management (CBBM), has successfully engaged 11 Baka communities in the Baka Monitoring Network, with the community of Nomedjoh actively revitalizing its forest management committee, adjacent to the Dja Faunal Reserve.

**Creating a Forest Corridor for Chimpanzees:** CBBM identified key forest areas for chimpanzees and other species through camera trapping and began the process of creating a 5,000-hectare community forest in Somié. Degraded areas are being restored by planting beneficial tree species for both humans and wildlife.





## PERU: STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CONCESSIONS

**Strengthening Existing Concessions:** Our partner, Neotropical Primate Conservation (NPC), supported communities in protecting and managing nine community conservation concessions and private protected areas, providing training in forest monitoring, land defense, and legal processes.

**Establishing New Conservation Areas:** NPC initiated the establishment of three new conservation concessions in the San Martin and Amazonas regions and revitalized two abandoned ones with 11 indigenous Awajun communities in a remote area of northern Amazonas region.





## MYANMAR: INDIGENOUS NAGA COMMUNITY CONSERVATION OF TWO WETLANDS

**Community-Led Wetland Protection:** Our partner, Friends of Wildlife (FoW), continued to support a community-led wetland conservation project in northwest Myanmar, focusing on the protection of Naung-yan and Naung-sai Lakes. This project supports local communities to become stewards of these vital ecosystems. Key activities included capacity building for the Naga Conservation Association (N-CA), a local partner organization, through workshops and training sessions. FoW facilitated community engagement by conducting stakeholder workshops, gathering local knowledge, and supporting the formation of village-level conservation groups.

**Baseline Data Collection:** FoW also conducted crucial baseline data collection, including climate change vulnerability assessments, to inform conservation strategies. This data, combined with community input, will be used to develop comprehensive management plans for both lakes. While travel restrictions posed challenges, the project saw significant progress with community-led conservation actions. Local communities actively participated in activities such as tree planting, clean-up campaigns, and the removal of garbage from the lakes. These collective efforts, involving 800 individuals across 21 villages, laid a strong foundation for long-term conservation success.





## MALAYSIA: INDIGENOUS IBAN COMMUNITY RE-WILDING

**Forest Restoration:** We are working with two indigenous Iban communities to rewild rubber plantations by removing invasive species and planting native fruit trees to provide more habitat for species like orangutans, hornbills, Bornean banded langurs, and bearded pigs.

**Wildlife Monitoring:** Communities are learning to use camera traps and acoustic detectors to monitor wildlife.



## THAILAND: WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS KAREN TO CONSERVE TIGERS IN THUNG YAI NATIONAL PARKS

In collaboration with the University of Minnesota and with support from the US Fish & Wildlife Foundation, our partner, Rabbit in the Moon (RiM), is working with Karen communities in Thungyai Naresuan West Wildlife Sanctuary. Through the One Community Project, RiM is enhancing the communities' capacity for biodiversity conservation through workshops on various species and camera trapping techniques. We also shared insights from our projects around with the world with the communities.





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# *Spreading* Community Conservation

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This year, Community Conservation (CC) actively engaged with diverse audiences through presentations, events, partnerships, and online platforms, promoting community-based conservation initiatives locally and internationally.

## **Presentations and Lectures**

Dr. Allendorf shared her expertise and insights at various venues throughout the year.

- **Community Conservation on Tour Engagements:**

- **October 10:** Sustainability Chat, Sustainability Institute, LaCrosse, WI
- **October 11:** Wednesday Night @ The Lab, UW-Madison
- **October 16:** Plato Lecture, Capitol Lakes Retirement Community, Madison
- **February 22:** "We Are Sauk Prairie" Lecture Series, Sauk Prairie
- **April 8:** Plato Course, "Pathways to a Sustainable Planet," Madison, WI
- **December 8:** Friends of the Zoo presentation at the Milwaukee Zoo with board president, Kara DeLanty.

- **International Engagement:**

- **April:** Presentation at the International Primate Protection's League (IPPL) Biennial Member Meeting (see page 13).

- **Podcast Appearances:**

- Foodie Pharmacology with Dr. Cassandra Quavie
- The Herbal Spot





## Events

CC hosted and participated in several events to foster community and support its mission:

- **July 7-21:** Annual Pedal, Paddle, and Plod virtual event
- **August 26:** Open House and Spoken Word event, Viroqua, Wisconsin
- **January 31:** Community Conservation Coffee, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **February 10-18:** Donor trip to Belize in collaboration with Community Baboon Sanctuary
- **May 18:** Happy Hour hosted by Board Vice President Doug Pierce, Eagle River



## Site Visits

Dr. Allendorf conducted field visits to project sites:

- **November:** Thailand
- **January:** Nepal
- **March:** Thailand
- **May:** Malaysia

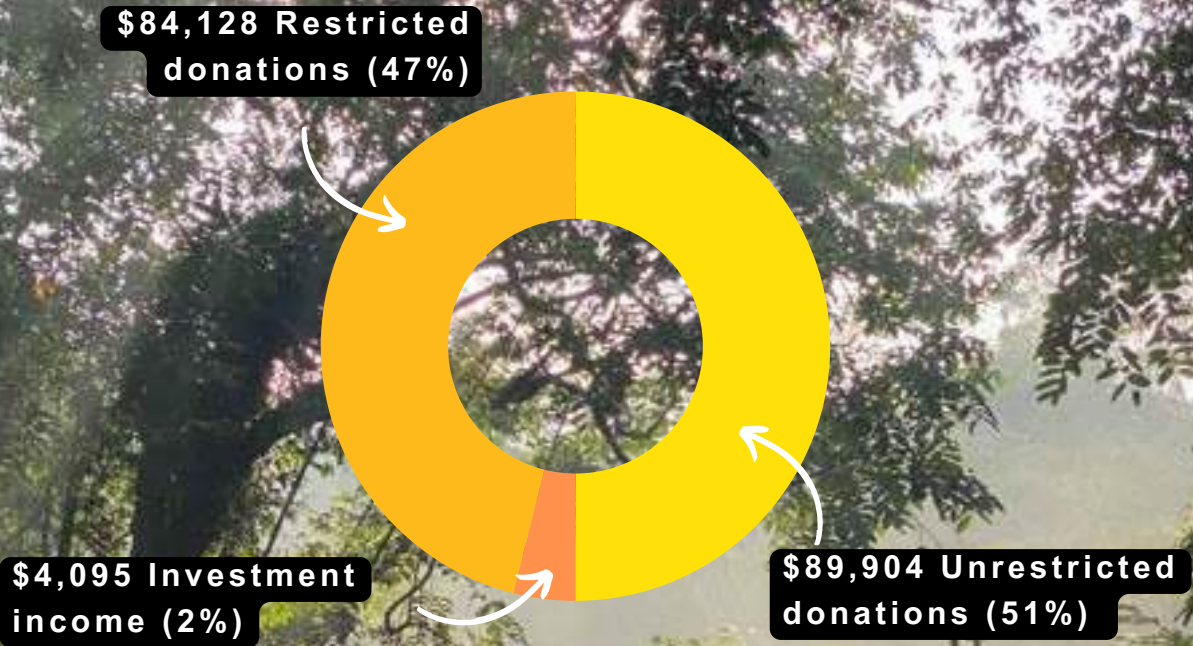
## Other Activities

- **Workshops:** Community Conservation Workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal, in collaboration with Nature Conservation and Studies Centre (NCSC) and Community Conservation Nepal (CCN), January 20-21.
- **Public Education:** CC reached over 13,000 individuals per month through its website and social media platforms, raising awareness of community-based conservation.
- **Student Mentorship:** CC mentored UW graduate students working in Nepal and Botswana and a Colorado College student researching policies for community-based biodiversity conservation.

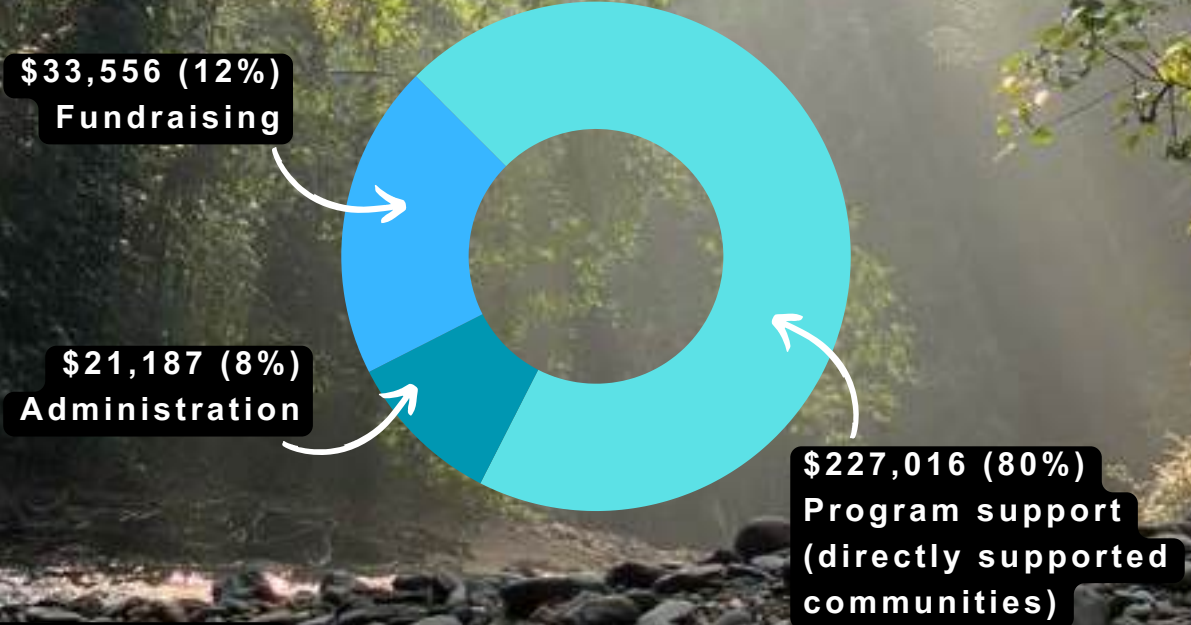


# Financials

In 2022-23, our total revenue was \$178,126:



Total expenses were \$281,759:



These numbers are from Community Conservation Inc.'s unaudited numbers for the IRS form 990-EZ and Wisconsin Form 152.



# Thank you!

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Donors are our largest source of funding. Each contribution is vital to our daily operations and long-term success. **We are immensely grateful to our past and present donors** who understand the power of community-based conservation. We recognize that supporting communities across the globe requires a unique perspective, and we deeply appreciate those who have embraced this vision.

**Thanks to 145 individual donors in 34 states across the USA and 3 countries (Finland, Thailand, and Vietnam!) who donated to CC in 2023-24:**

- > 66 Donors (\$1-49)
- > 33 Wildlife Supporters (\$50-99)
- > 56 Sanctuary Builders (\$100-249)
- > 18 Forest Protectors (\$250-499)
- > 10 Conservation Catalysts (\$500-999)
- > 12 Conservation Partners (\$1,000+)

**And a huge thanks to our corporate sponsors who generously gave for our annual Pedal, Paddle, and Plod (PPP) event:**

- > Osaic
- > The Milwaukee American Association of Zookeepers Chapter
- > Wonderstate Coffee





# Our Board

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**Kara DeLanty**  
President



**Doug Pierce**  
Vice President



**Christine Lane**  
Secretary



**Shauna Steigerwald**  
Treasurer



**Phil Recchio**  
Member



**Anne Clark**  
Member

# Our Staff

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**Dr. Teri Allendorf**  
Executive Director



**Kellie Surmacz**  
Development Director



**Kory Shrum**  
Communications  
Director



## Mailing Address and Donations

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