



ANNUAL REPORT



2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

communityconservation.org

Why

Community Conservation?

Community conservation is the engine driving us toward global biodiversity goals, including the '30x30' initiative to protect 30% of the planet by 2030. These targets may seem daunting from a distance, but through local leadership, they shift from abstract benchmarks to active, ongoing realities. Here's how community conservation makes global goals a reality:

Massive Scalability

By partnering with one community at a time, we create a ripple effect. Each success story inspires others, and a model that works in one place can be adapted and adopted by communities around the world. We are not building a top-down organization; we are fostering a global movement of local action.

Cost-Effectiveness

Community-led initiatives are often more efficient and cost-effective than large-scale, centrally managed projects. They rely on local knowledge and labor, reducing the need for expensive external consultants and enforcement.

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



Resilience and Permanence

When conservation is embedded in a community's culture and governance, it becomes more resilient to external pressures. These efforts are not easily undone by political shifts or funding changes because they are an integral part of the community's identity and future.

By investing in community conservation, we are making the smartest possible bet on the future of our planet. We are investing in the inherent human capacity for stewardship, creativity, and resilience.

A Call to Action

The future of global biodiversity depends on our willingness to change our approach. We must move beyond the old models and embrace the power of community-led conservation. This is not about a single project or a single place; it is about building a foundation for a new, more effective era of conservation. We invite you to join us in this vital mission.



How are we different?



We recognize diverse motivations

A common misconception is that communities are motivated to conserve only when it provides a direct economic benefit. We know their reasons are far more diverse. They may be driven by a desire to preserve sacred lands, to ensure clean water for their children, to maintain a traditional way of life, or simply to protect the natural beauty of their home. By listening to and honoring these diverse motivations, we can build a stronger, more resilient conservation movement that goes far beyond a single metric.

We build capacity, not dependency

Our role is not to lead, but to support. We provide communities with the resources they need, including technical training and policy guidance. This model avoids creating dependency. Instead, it builds the long-term capacity of local organizations, enabling them to govern their own conservation efforts, monitor biodiversity, and advocate for their own rights. We support them to be self-sufficient stewards for generations to come.



We support local agency and ownership


When a community feels a sense of ownership over a project, they become its most dedicated guardians. This approach respects their traditional knowledge, cultural practices, and deep understanding of their local ecosystems. The community decides what to protect, how to protect it, and why. This agency leads to durable outcomes that withstand political and economic shifts.

Our history

Community Conservation (CC) was established in 1985 through the work of Dr. Robert Horwich and Dr. Jonathan Lyon, who pioneered the Community Baboon Sanctuary in Belize as a landmark model for grassroots habitat protection. Originally incorporated as Howlers Forever, Inc. in 1989 to support the sanctuary, the organization eventually became Community Conservation, Inc. in 1999 to reflect its expanding global mission.

Dr. Horwich served as the organization's primary catalyst for over 30 years. Under his leadership, the organization achieved remarkable results, including a five-fold population increase for the endangered golden langur in Assam, India, and the successful protection of 40 primate species across 15 countries. Rob's methodology relied on "conservation contagion," a phenomenon where the visible success of a local project naturally motivated neighboring villages to initiate their own programs, creating regional impact at a fraction of the cost of traditional top-down methods.

While Rob was dedicated to protecting biodiversity one village at a time, Community Conservation is now working to scale up his vision. We are linking our partners around the world to share lessons learned and delivering virtual and in-person trainings to build capacity among students, conservationists, and others to work with local communities to conserve biodiversity.



"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

From our Board President

Greetings Friends,

While reflecting on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for all of the individuals who helped us support communities in conserving global biodiversity. Although many have been faithful supporters for years, we welcomed numerous new donors. This growing network of partners allowed us to deepen our impact, expand programs, and forge stronger connections with those working on the front lines of conservation.



Over the year, we focused on growth, which was reflected in the success of our fundraising initiatives. Through the efforts of staff, board members, volunteers, and donors, we raised more money for our annual Pedal, Paddle, or Plod event than ever before. Another focal area for expansion was our board and volunteer base; we've added new members and ambassadors with skills in fields of human resources, education, community outreach, and development. Their expertise will be an asset to our existing board, staff, and executive director, helping to fill critical gaps and strengthen our collective leadership.

Our next major step is to update our strategic plan, enhancing it while keeping our core goals at the forefront: supporting communities, building global expertise, influencing and advocating for global systemic change, and achieving organizational growth and financial resilience. Embarking on this process has been exciting, but it has also highlighted that we are a nonprofit with significant needs and a limited budget.

As we work to turn these goals into impact, we need your support more than ever. Together, we can continue to grow Community Conservation's reach and help conserve biodiversity worldwide.

With gratitude,



Kara DeLanty, Board President



From our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As I look back on the past year, I remain inspired by our mission to put communities at the heart of conservation around the world. In the face of significant shifts in the global conservation landscape, our team and the communities we serve continue to inspire and remind me why organizations like ours—though lean—are so critical.



I want to be honest with you about the road ahead. The recent loss of USAID funding has created a ripple effect across the globe. This transition highlights a long-standing truth: the protection of global habitats and species should not be dependent on massive external aid.

Furthermore, large-scale funding has always struggled with the challenge of how to work directly with communities sustainably. Massive grants often lack the flexibility and local nuance required for long-term success. For example, during a consultation I did in Nepal for a USAID project, the work with communities didn't even begin until the third year of a five-year cycle. In retrospect, they said it was their most impactful activity and should have started on day one.

With an organization like ours, that is never an issue. Supporting communities isn't a secondary goal—it is our core identity. We fill a critical gap by providing the boots-on-the-ground support and trust-based relationships that larger institutions cannot replicate. We ensure that when the funding cycle ends, the community has the knowledge and technical capacity to carry on independently.

To keep this vital, direct-to-community work moving forward, we need your continued and increased support. While the funding landscape is changing, our commitment to these communities is not. By investing in Community Conservation, you are ensuring that resources go directly to the people who live alongside these precious ecosystems, rather than getting lost in the machinery of large-scale aid.

Despite the headwinds, we remain upbeat and focused. Thank you for standing with us as we navigate this transition and continue to prove that the most lasting conservation happens from the ground up.

With gratitude and determination,



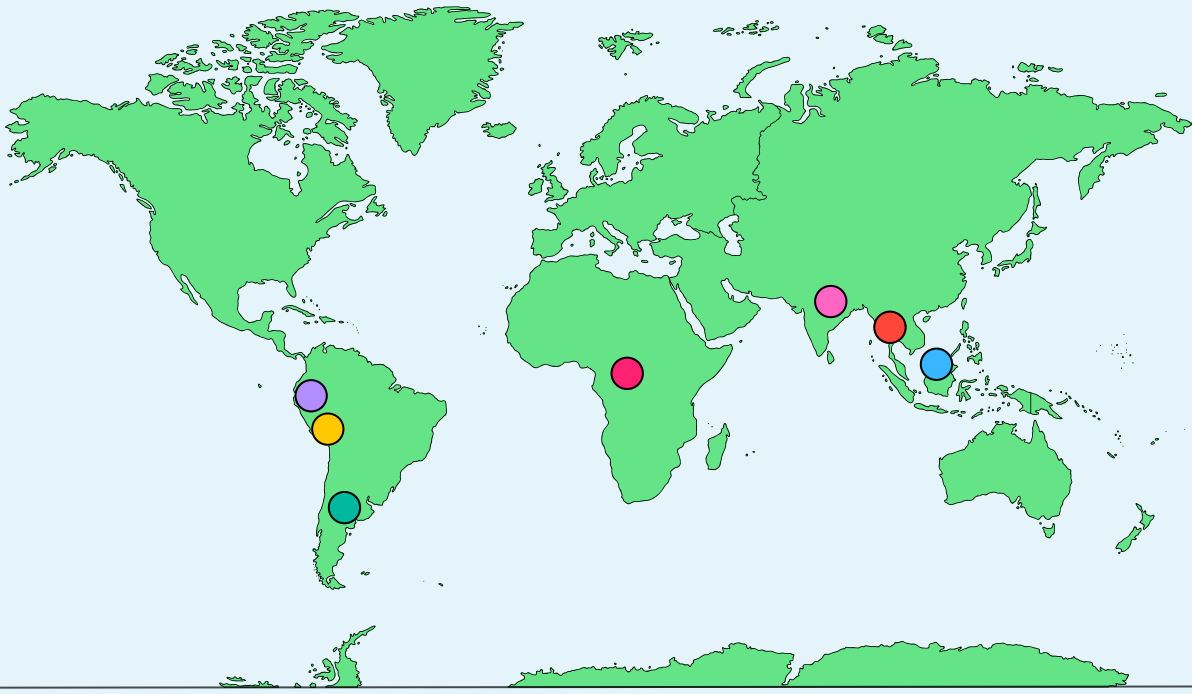
Teri Allendorf, Executive Director



Where we worked

in 2024-25

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION SITES



Colombia



Peru



Argentina



Cameroon



NPC | Neotropical
Primate
Conservation



Nepal



Myanmar



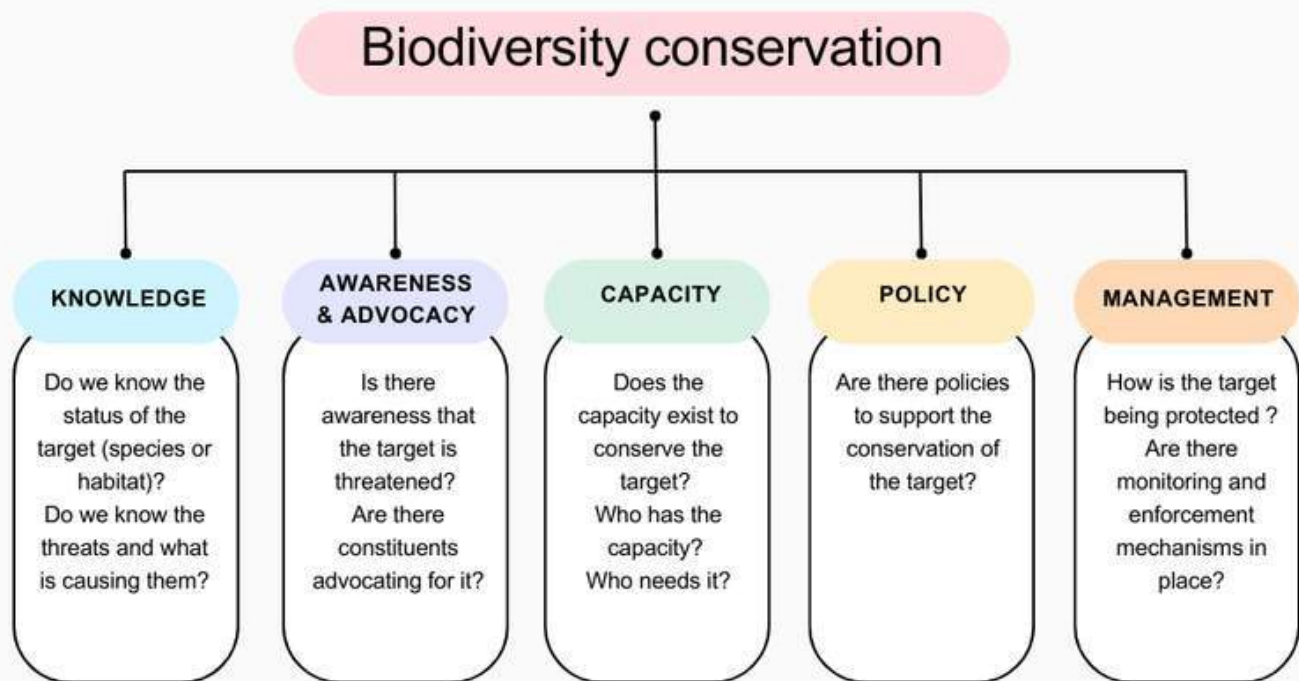
Malaysia

NCSC
Nature Conservation and Study Centre



Doing Community Conservation

The process of designing conservation activities or interventions in conservation can sometimes seem like a mystery. But it shouldn't be. We use a framework that consists of five categories of conservation activities. The categories are all important pieces of conservation and they reinforce and support each other. The five types of activities (also called strategies or interventions) are: knowledge, awareness and advocacy, capacity-building, policy, and the management and governance that directly conserve biodiversity.



Doing Community Conservation

NEPAL: FOSTERING COMMUNITY-LED WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

In partnership with the Nature Conservation and Study Center (NCSC) Nepal, we are supporting local Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) in southeastern Nepal to monitor and manage wildlife in their community forests. This initiative is essential for preserving habitat connectivity across the broader landscape of southeastern Nepal, ensuring that endangered and vulnerable species like tiger, elephants, and pangolin, can safely survive in and navigate through contiguous forests.





Category	Key Achievements
Knowledge & Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted a camera trapping project that documented 21 wildlife species (including 18 mammals) in 13 Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) in Udayapur District.
Awareness & Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organized a public event on October 4th in Udayapur to unveil the results of the camera trapping initiative, showcasing the diverse wildlife captured, and to highlight the importance of community-based conservation to local government representatives and journalists.
Capacity-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted two wildlife monitoring trainings with 57 participants from 18 CFUGs. The training sessions successfully equipped CFUG members with practical skills in setting up and monitoring camera traps.
Policy & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held meeting with community forest user group to plan to install cameras in additional community forests in Udayapur, including those in neighboring Chaudandigadhi Municipality.• Held meetings with FECOFUN and CFUGs in Saptari and Sunsari Districts to plan camera trapping.• Held workshops in Jhapa and Morang Districts to discuss on-going support for the community-based anti-poaching units (CBAPUs) activities.
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held initial discussions to integrate wildlife monitoring into community forest management.

CAMEROON: SUPPORTING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

In partnership with Community-Based Biosynergy Management, we are supporting communities at two sites by building their capacity to monitor and sustainably manage wildlife. At one site, we support the Baka Indigenous community in the Nomedjoh Community Forest, a vital buffer to the Dja Faunal Reserve UNESCO World Heritage site, to protect habitat for gorillas and elephants. At the other site we are supporting the community of Somié in the Mayo-Banyo landscape to create a community forest that will protect vital habitat for a rare and fragmented population of chimpanzees. We are also working with CBBM to resume activities to conserve the Cross River gorilla and participating in broader national initiatives.



Category	Key Achievements
Knowledge & Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed second assessment of chimpanzee abundance and threats in Somié via camera traps and reconnaissance walks. • Mapped chimpanzee presence and forest connectivity for Small Project One. • Supported community-led monitoring of Cross River Gorillas in Mawambi Hills using ArcGIS Field Maps and camera traps to inform decision-making.
Awareness & Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated traditional knowledge transfer between Baka elders and youth in Nomedjoh through land-based activities and storytelling. • Influenced regional conservation strategies through participation in Africa Climate Week. • Utilized the Koko Sign Application to increase awareness and empathy for Cross River Gorilla conservation. • Provided scholarships for 60+ middle school students in Somié.
Capacity-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched the first CBBM/CC Spring Community Conservation Workshop for students and practitioners. • Trained and equipped Baka monitors (Sapelli platform), rangers (drones), and eco-guards (GPS, compass, and camera trap maintenance). • Trained 6 monitors in Mawambi Hills on gorilla ecology and digital reporting.
Policy & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Cameroon. • Secured high-level commitments for community-based climate action.
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnered with REFOCASO to plant chimpanzee-friendly trees and implement sustainable agroforestry for smallholder farmers. • Commenced monthly chimpanzee monitoring in Somié with Graine de Vie. • Initiated conservation activities in Mpem and Djim National Park in partnership with the government. • Proposed watershed restoration in Ndungalleh, including native species nurseries.

PERU: STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CONCESSIONS

In partnership with Neotropical Primate Conservation Peru, we are supporting an ever-growing network of local communities in the northern and central Amazonian regions to protect critical habitat for primates, which serve as "flagship species" for community-led conservation. These efforts have successfully secured legal management for over 300,000 acres of montane and dry forest habitat through the creation of private and community-run reserves known as Conservation Concessions.



Category	Impacts and Achievements
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained support for biological inventories and wide-ranging research across the northern and central Amazonian regions. • Followed up on leads for new project sites to expand conservation reach.
Awareness & Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led environmental education initiatives in dozens of communities and urban centers across Northern Peru. • Promoted community conservation through targeted follow-up visits and investigation. • Disseminated research findings at national and international scientific events.
Capacity-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened community capacity in field technology, law enforcement, and reporting protocols. • Awarded two cacao production grants to Indigenous Awajun communities to achieve organic, fairtrade, and "bird-friendly" certifications to fund community concessions.
Policy & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated legal applications for four local conservation associations to manage Conservation Concessions (CCs). • Secured legal approval and signed the management contract for the Bosques Remanentes del Morro CC (April 2025). • Advanced three additional conservation proposals: Mashuyacu, Iguahuana-Bosques Secos de Delta, and El Algorrobo Sauce. • Collaborated with the IUCN to update the conservation status of the Colombian black spider monkey and develop Neotropical action plans.
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed land protection and defense for over 300,000 acres of protected territory. • Funded community park guard patrols for the Gran Simacache and La Pampa del Burro concessions. • Partnered with Indigenous-run concessions (Pamau Nain and Tijae Nain) on active land defense and management implementation.

MYANMAR: INDIGENOUS NAGA CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS

In partnership with Friends of Wildlife (FoW), we are supporting indigenous Naga communities in northwestern Myanmar to protect the ecologically vital Naung Sai and Naung Yan Lakes by strengthening local governance and wetland management. Despite significant challenges like pesticide runoff and poor infrastructure, these efforts are fostering a strong sense of community ownership to secure the future of these critical water resources within the Chindwin River watershed.



Category	Key Achievements
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapped and identified critical habitats for the establishment of Fish Conservation Zones (FCZs).
Awareness & Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched the first-ever conservation education initiative in Pansau Sub-township schools. • Reached 731 students across seven schools, focusing on wetland threats and sustainable livelihoods. • Increased active engagement from teachers and local youth in regional conservation awareness. • Installed 40 restriction signboards to regulate human activity and prohibit illegal fishing.
Capacity-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) for 34 participants from 10 different villages. • Provided the N-Ca team with practical, field-based experience in participatory planning.
Policy & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized the Wetland Management Plan for Naung Sai and Naung Yan Lakes. • Facilitated community networking meetings to adopt and enforce binding local regulations for lake resource management.
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed localized village action plans for awareness sharing and wetland management. • Integrated biodiversity management data into the development of local village action plans. • Established Fish Conservation Zones in Naung Saing and Naung Yarn Lakes with physical boundary markers. • Completed shoreline restoration by planting 785 native trees. • Enforced local notices prohibiting cattle grazing in sensitive plantation areas.

MALAYSIA: INDIGENOUS IBAN COMMUNITY RE-WILDING

In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and Sarawak Forestry Corporation, we are supporting three longhouses in Borneo to restore critical habitat bordering the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary and monitor wildlife in the forests. Longhouse community members are clearing invasive trees and planting diverse native fruit trees—grown in community-managed nurseries—to expand habitat for species like orangutans, sun bears, and the elusive Bay Cat.



Activity Type	Key Achievements
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted bi-monthly wildlife/phenology monitoring.• Identified forest type as the lead driver of community shifts (24.5% variance) via RDA.• Recorded four rare Bay Cat detections in LEWS.• Hired a Bioacoustics intern to analyze arboreal wildlife data.• Facilitated the tagging and release of seven pangolins with UniMas and SFC.• Completed an inventory of community-managed fruit tree nurseries.
Awareness & Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presented camera-trap results at Nanga Talong and Lubok Pantu longhouses.• Shared findings globally via a poster presentation at the 61st ATBC Meeting (Oaxaca, Mexico).
Capacity-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empowered community members to independently lead surveys and manage equipment.• Increased female involvement in field operations and seedling care.• Developed bilingual (Malay/Iban) infographic guides for low-literacy technical training.
Policy & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitated collaborations with UniMas and WCS on regional monitoring protocols.• Progressed toward a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UniMas (target: early 2026).
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed two rounds of native fruit tree planting in restoration plots.• Mitigated invasive <i>Bellucia pentamera</i> through manual and targeted chemical control.• Conducted a baseline census of planted fruit trees to monitor growth and status.

Spreading Community Conservation

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.

Workshops

Through our workshops, we are cultivating a legacy. By empowering the next generation of conservation leaders, we are creating a powerful ripple effect that starts with communities and can result in a global transformation.

September 27-28: Two-day in-person workshop, Kathmandu, Nepal

With our partner, Nature Conservation and Study Centre, we held a two-day workshop at the community center Sap Falcha in Kathmandu. The workshop brought together 11 participants from diverse backgrounds.



Participant reflections:

- I had the chance to know the real meaning of community conservation. How it differs from community-related conservation projects.
- This workshop really was worth taking. I could learn more about community conservation from different perceptions. I got broad ideas about conservation. The pre-workshop session was really effective and I got some ideas about conservation and works that are carried out not only in Nepal, but throughout other countries as well.

March 26-27: Two-day in-person workshop in Yaounde, Cameroon

We held a workshop with our partner Community-Based Biosynergy Management. We had 10 participants, including four CBBM staff as well as students and practitioners.

Participant reflections:

- The fact that with any project or activity within the community, the community is put at the forefront. That is, their consent is taken into consideration, and their involvement is important too. We should hear more from them and know from which angle we can help.



Bangladesh virtual workshop

We held a virtual workshop that met once per week for 4 weeks in May 2025 for participants in Bangladesh. We had 10-15 individuals participating each session and an additional 35 people who had access to videos of the meetings.

Participant reflections:

- I started the workshop with a dilemma in my mind. Whether to include community for conservation or let nature be untouched! I still have this in my mind but not as a dilemma anymore, but rather as a question for designing solutions. Because community and nature is not exclusive. We are all part of it and engaging is as important as disengaging. Co-existence will require both ends. And a community conservation approach is a great way to achieve it.
- I've been working for a decade in various conservation projects that are community-based. But I did not have a good enough understanding of the goal. In this workshop I've learned the clear concept of community conservation. Definitely I will apply the methods I've learned here and find out more about community conservation in my country.



Presentations and Lectures

- **September 30:** Biocultural Diversity in Nepal taught by T. Abe Loyd, Global Learning Program, Western Washington University, in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **November 20:** Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology seminar, University of Wisconsin-Madison, “Human communities and conservation through space and time.”
- **December 2:** International Environmental Policy taught by Nikolaos Ziogiannis, Indiana University, “Community Conservation.”
- **February 22:** Lembaga Alam Tropika Indonesia (LATIN), Bogor, Indonesia, “Community Conservation.”
- **April 21:** Fortress Conservation: National Parks and Indigenous Displacement in the US and Global South taught by Tom Robertson, Dickinson College, “Chitwan National Park and Local Communities”
- **June 1:** Think Wildlife, S3 EP30 - Protecting Biodiversity Through Community Conservation with Dr. Teri Allendorf



Events

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

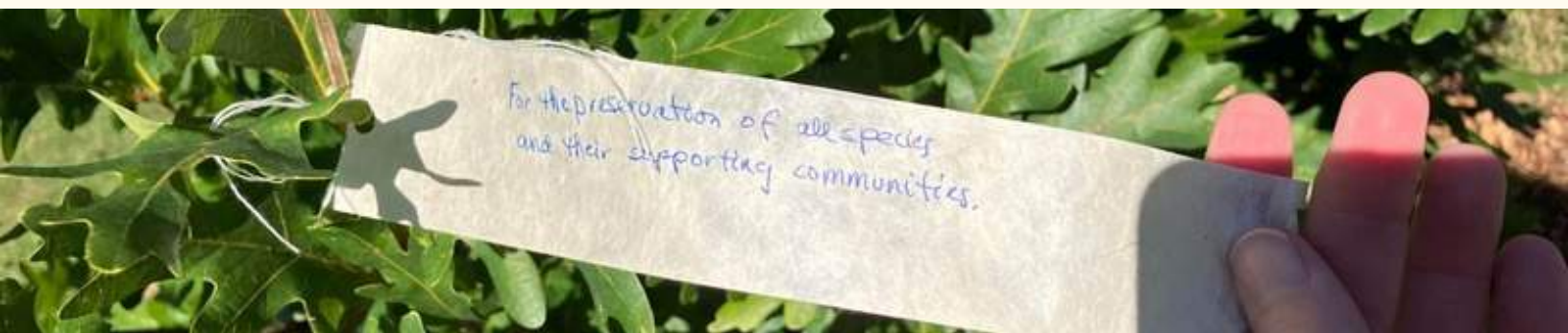
- **August 2-16:** Community Conservation's Annual Pedal, Paddle, and Plod
- **September 7:** Memorial plaque placed at Log Cabin Heritage Park, Gays Mills, Wisconsin, and Spoken Word event, Rob's Art Garden, Driftless Books, Viroqua, Wisconsin hosted by Ron Byers, in honor of our founder, Dr. Rob Horwich
- **June 28:** Dr. Allendorf was a guest speaker at the Valley Stewardship Network's 25th anniversary



Site Visits

Dr. Allendorf conducted field visits to project sites to support projects and collaborate with our partners as well as learn about new areas:

- **September-October:** Nepal
- **February-March:** Indonesia
- **March:** Cameroon



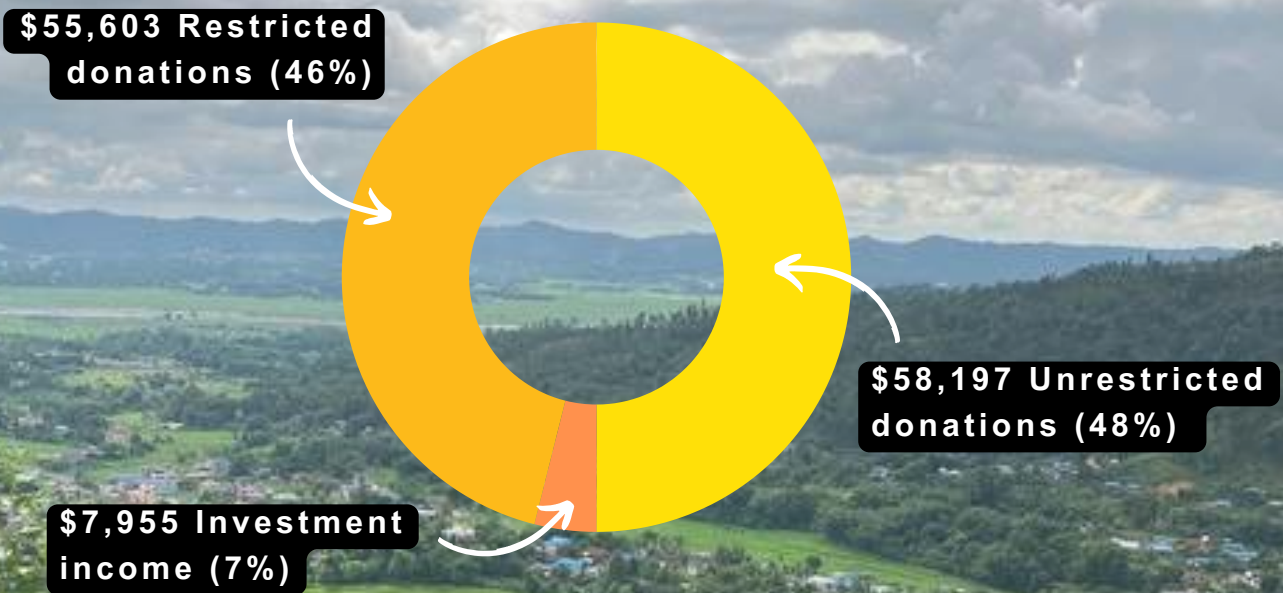
Other Activities

- **Student Mentorship:**
 - Mentored University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate students working in Nepal and Botswana
 - Facilitated a group of La Follette School of Public Affairs students (Ali Mammadov, Ben Jaccard, Francie Fink, Gattioso Traore, and Kanan Mammadov) to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of community forestry in Nepal for Cost-Benefit Analysis Public Affairs 881, Fall 2024
- **Public Education:** CC reached over 13,000 individuals per month through our website and social media platforms.
- **Board game:** Created a Community Conservation board game in English, Nepali, and French. Thanks to CC ambassador Dan Jergens!
- **Met with UW-Madison alumni** in Indonesia, March 21, 2025.

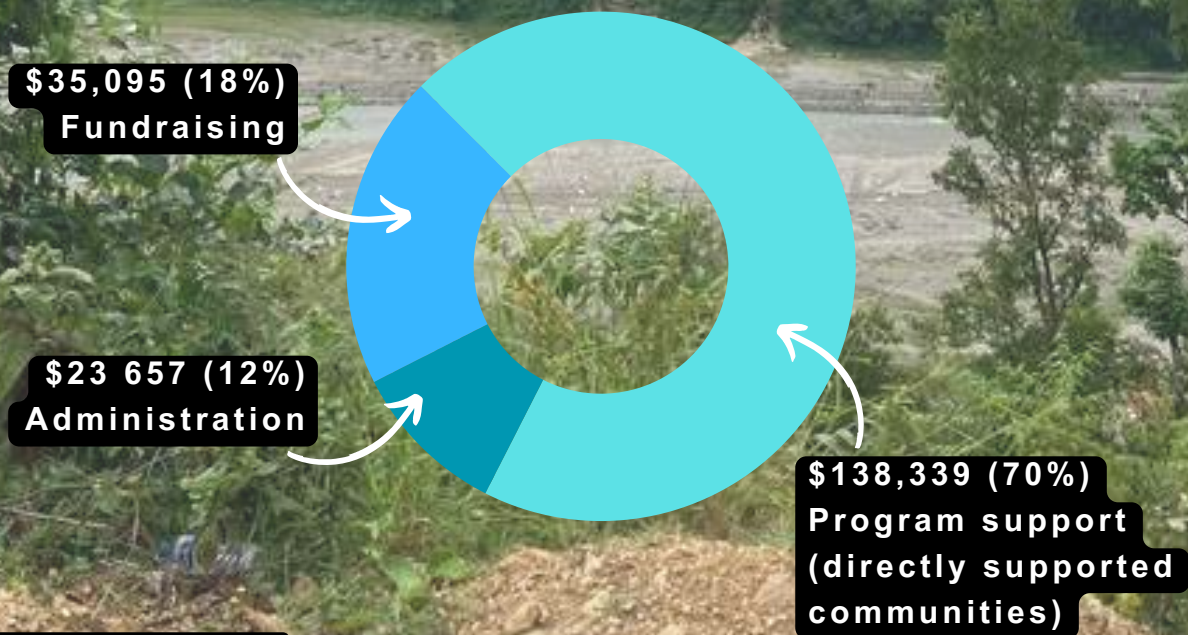


Financials

In 2024-25, our total revenue was \$121,754:



Total expenses were \$197,091:



These numbers are from Community Conservation Inc.'s unaudited numbers for the IRS form 990-EZ and Wisconsin Form 1952.

Thank you!

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.

A huge thank you to 153 individual who donated to CC in 2024-25:

- > 55 Donors (\$1-99)
- > 58 Sanctuary Builders (\$100-249)
- > 17 Forest Protectors (\$250-499)
- > 10 Conservation Catalysts (\$500-999)
- > 9 Conservation Partners (\$1,000-4,999)
- > 4 Biodiversity Heroes (\$5,000+)

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

- > Milwaukee AAZK Chapter
- > Osaic



Our Board



Kara DeLanty
President



Doug Pierce
Vice President



Christine Lane
Secretary



Shauna Steigerwald
Treasurer



Beth Shair
Member



Anne Clark
Member

Our Staff



Dr. Teri Allendorf
Executive Director



Kellie Surmacz
Development Director



Kory Shrum
Communications
Director

Mailing Address and Donations

Community Conservation Inc.
PO Box 24
Viroqua, WI 54665 USA

Office

110 S. Main Street
Viroqua, WI 54665 USA
(608) 616-9172



communityconservation.org

