



Sikles

CHANDRA GURUNG CONSERVATION TRUST

Mentoring the next generation of Himalayan leaders in conservation and sustainable development



December 2016

Dear Friends of Chandra Gurung Conservation Trust,

Namaste from the Board

On September 24, 2016, CGCT celebrated its 10-year anniversary. As an all-volunteer organization, we have a lot to be proud of - and thankful for. Our sister organization in Nepal, the CGCF, is stronger than ever, and Chandra's daughter Amanda is now at the helm. The country is steadily rebuilding from the devastating earthquakes of 2015, led by dedicated volunteers, local and international NGOs, and charities from around the world. Our partners in Gorkha and Sindhupalchok Districts have made good progress building new schools and latrines, providing hygiene education, and so much more.

We could never have provided support to Nepal without you, our generous donors. We are honored by your trust in us to use your money wisely. In these uncertain times, your support means more than ever. Please renew last year's donation, top it up, or honor a loved one with a holiday gift [donation](#) to CGCT. All donations are USA tax deductible.

Please check our new [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for program updates and other news from Nepal. A deep bow to all our supporters - we are grateful,

Wendy Lama, Maureen DeCoursey, Steve Powers and Wendy King

New Mentees Announced at Annual Commemoration

2016 Mentee Mr. Y Magar interviewing villager



Since 2009, the joint [CGCT/CGCF Mentorship Program](#) has annually supported a couple promising Nepali college students with a scholarship for field work and a mentor to provide academic advice and guidance in the job market to become conservation professionals.

A comprehensive review of the Mentorship Program this year resulted in significant improvements. The

flagship program promises to continue to grow. In 2017, an international mentor position will be added; CGCT President and Ecotourism Specialist Ms. Wendy Brewer Lama will be the first such, joining Mr. Prashant Singh, Ms. Sharareh Bajracharya, and Mr Ang Phuri Sherpa as national mentors.

The **2017 mentees** are Ms. Rani Gurung and Ms. Madhuri Khadka. Ms. Khadka will assess the ethnobotany and diversity of non-timber forest products around Ghandruk in the Annapurna Conservation area. Ms. Gurung's topic, "Green Printing" seeks to engage grade 8 students in environmental stewardship through the development and implementation of interactive lessons with a gender sensitive lens.

At the recent 10th year commemoration event honoring Chandra's legacy, former mentee Ms. Richa Pradhan presented her findings on the impact of climate change on agriculture and women in Kathmandu Valley. She found a decline in agricultural output due to erratic weather is increasing women's workload, and increasing the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides.

In Richa's words:

"I had a remarkable experience as a mentee in CGCF mentorship program. My mentor, Dibya Gurung, has guided me throughout the year and provided me ample opportunities to learn. Her insights and professionalism has inspired me to make a difference in the field of conservation."

2016 mentee, Mr Yogesh Rana Magar, presented his research on the attitudes towards Red Pandas in buffer zone communities of Langtang National Park. Even though there are fewer than 30 pandas residing in the park, and only a fraction of villagers have ever seen these elusive animals, many villagers knew of the pandas existence and participated in conservation efforts. Yogesh concluded that park administrators should strive to include local community members in Red Panda policy decisions and management planning. Dr. Ghana Shyam Gurung, Conservation Program Director for the World Wildlife Fund in Nepal, served as Yogesh's mentor. Yogesh said:

"I am quite happy to be a mentee of CGCF-CGCT mentorship program. This will be a milestone for my career... May this organization be a role model for every institution and individual in the sector of conservation."

CGCF Takes Off

Building on the solid platform created by their predecessors, CGCF Member Secretary Amanda Gurung and President Tara Gurung have solidified financial and in-kind support from a variety of sources inside and outside Nepal to make the organization more sustainable and effective. Check out their new [CGCF website](#) and a very active [Facebook](#) page!



Photo: CGCF Planning Meeting

CGCF projects and programs include:

- Scholarships and Mentorships
- Knowledge Development Platform
- Educational and Awareness Building Programs
- Post-Earthquake Reconstruction in Ghyachchok
- Publication of Chandra Gurung's book on ACAP
- Organizational Development and Fundraising Activities

CGCT continues to fund the [Mentorship Program](#) (@ US\$500/mentee/year) and a portion of CGCF's administrative costs and special projects. We are grateful for the opportunity and partnership to help these young mentees gain experience and become professional people-centered, biodiversity conservationists. Chandra would approve!



I still have a hard time talking about Chandra. It's been 10 years but seems like yesterday. It is still unbelievable -- he had such energy, such spirit, and such compassion! Thank you for keeping his legacy alive. Amanda has always been so much like her father. And combining her mother's spirit with Chandra's makes her her own unique, intelligent and dynamic person. She and Adhish keep their father's spirit alive!

Erica Piedale, Chandra's sister-in-law, CGCT Board Member

Conservation Day

September 23, 2016 marked the 10-year anniversary of the tragic helicopter accident that took the lives of Chandra and more than 20 other visionary conservationists. CGCT donated \$500 to CGCF to help organize "Conservation Day" in their honor, and to help re-green Kathmandu in the wake of the earthquake. Over 200 people attended the lively event featuring music, poetry and the distribution of 1080 -- an auspicious number -- native tree saplings.

Both individuals and groups, including *Lumanti*, a local organization that plants trees in the very poorest communities, pledged to care for the saplings. We hope that sapling distribution and re-greening Kathmandu can become a regular CGCF activity - it is desperately needed!



EQ Reconstruction Updates

CGCT continues to support three organizations that are rebuilding infrastructure and lives in the hardest earthquake-hit areas of Nepal.

1. [HELP \(Helambu Education and Livelihood Project\)](#)

HELP has obtained Ministry of Education approval to rebuild 15 elementary schools in Sindhupalchok District. The first school, Shree Deurali Primary School, has been completed in Tartong Village. CGCT contributed \$4000 for WASH infrastructure (water sanitation and hygiene) including separate toilets for girls, hand-washing stations, and sanitation training and education programs.



Double Happiness Supporting HELP

Founder and Board Member Wendy King supported rebuilding in Helambu through sales of her beautiful ceramic art. [Double Happiness Pottery's](#) 2016 donation of \$2000 to CGCT will support [HELP \(Helambu Livelihood and Education Project\)](#) rebuild 15 schools in Sindhupalchok District, where Wendy was based as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the 1970s.



Photo: Nima Dolma Lama from Sermathang visits Wendy in Double Happiness Pottery Studio.

[2. Yangrima School](#)

The earthquake devastated the village of Sermathang in Sindhupalchok District, where CGCT's Wendy King and Wendy Lama both spent time as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the 1970s and as a USAID project consultant in the 1990s, respectively. Most of the houses and buildings were destroyed. Yangrima Primary School, which served 350 students (more than half girls) primarily from the Hyolma and Tamang ethnic groups, was badly damaged. Student living quarters were demolished and the remaining structures were beyond repair.



Working through Yangrima's founder Mr. Gopal Lama, CGCT contributed \$2000 to build a much-needed year-round water storage tank and drinking water facility for the school. Construction of the buildings is nearly complete (see opening day on its [Facebook page](#)). The school will now have the capacity for 500 children, with 16 classrooms from kindergarten to Grade 10 (4-16 years old). Yangrima is the first school in Sindhupalchok

District to be rebuilt post-earthquake.

[3. Ghyachchok and Barpak Villages](#)

CGCF and CGCT, in partnership with the Tamu Society and [Gorkha Foundation](#), supported a variety of earthquake relief activities in these large Gurung communities near the 2015 epicenter in Gorkha District. These include emergency food, rescue and trail construction, roofing materials to the poorest families, and school furnishings for a newly re-built primary school. Plans are underway to support an additional school in a remote village on the edge of the Manaslu Conservation Area, one of last conservation area programs created by Chandra before he perished.

Donate today!

If you are evaluating your end of the year giving, please consider [donating](#) to CGCT on a one-time basis or join our growing Monthly Sustainers. We will charge your credit card each month so you don't have to worry about it and you'll get a statement at the end of the year for tax purposes. Contact us for more details- info@chandraguruntrust.org. Thanks and Happy Holidays!

Maya na marnu!

STAY CONNECTED:

