



Conservation Coaches Network

Strengthening conservation strategies and practice through coaching

Welcome to CCNet Stories October 2025!

The stories in this newsletter show how CCNet coaches and the Conservation Standards are supporting conservation efforts across the globe. Enjoy!

Reflections



Photos (above): During a conservation planning workshop for chimpanzees in Tanzania in 2010, CCNet coaches Cristina Lasch and Elizabeth Gray pose with Dr. Jane Goodall and the core team. On the right, Cristina Lasch speaks with Dr. Goodall. Photos by Ingeborg Lasch.

Remembering Dr. Jane Goodall's Impact on CCNet and the World

Story from [Cristina Lasch](#) (*The Nature Conservancy, CCNet Global*)

Growing up in Mexico, I was very fortunate to have ample opportunities to play outdoors, observing and exploring nature, and I was especially curious about how things connected and worked together to produce something good. At school we sometimes had to give a presentation on a topic of interest, and while the idea of getting up in front of my class made me nervous, I loved the opportunity to learn more about things I cared about: monarch butterflies, whales, chimpanzees, elephants. The internet was not available yet, so I would delve into my parents' National Geographic magazines as my main source of inspiration. That is how I first learned about a young, courageous woman who was in Africa studying chimpanzees and discovering wonderful things. This woman was Jane Goodall. Learning about her work expanded my horizon of what I might also pursue as a girl. I studied biology and, after college, I began working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in my home country, which also led me to serve in our global CCNet community.

During my time with TNC, I had the privilege of getting to meet Dr. Goodall. Back in 2010, the Jane Goodall Institute and its partners wanted to update Tanzania's chimpanzee conservation plan, and my colleague Elizabeth Gray and I were asked to serve as conservation coaches. Working with 40 people from 25 institutions over three days to identify a focused set of strategies for protecting chimpanzees, while also addressing the needs of people who depend on local resources, across critical habitats in Tanzania was a challenging and rewarding experience. One of the highlights was Dr. Goodall's inspiring opening address in which she reminded us about the importance of working with communities to find lasting solutions and led the group in a chorus of chimpanzee calls. After the address, I was able to tell Dr. Goodall how her example had inspired me from a young age—as it surely did for many other young people, especially girls—and how grateful I was for the opportunity to support the work she started so many years ago.

Over the years, Dr. Goodall showed a deep appreciation for CCNet and spoke highly of the work we do:

“CCNet coaches have played a key role in bringing people together and encouraging real collaboration in the building of good, focused conservation strategies. These are being successfully implemented on the ground in Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The coaches network has not only provided some support for these efforts, but it is also helping various organizations around Africa, including our own, to develop ever stronger collaborative strategies for improving conservation efforts. And not just in Africa, but in other parts of the world.” -- Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace

In 2018, Dr. Goodall kindly dedicated a video message for the welcome plenary session at our CCNet Global Rally. Her inspirational message was a powerful reminder of the complexities and challenges of conservation and the incredible importance and value of CCNet’s efforts.

Since Dr. Goodall’s passing on October 1, 2025, I have been reflecting on these experiences and mourning the loss of one of my greatest role models. I—like many of my CCNet colleagues and communities around the world—feel a deep sadness, but also a profound gratitude for Dr. Goodall’s immense legacy.

In addition to her groundbreaking work as a scientist, conservationist, and peacemaker, Dr. Goodall connected with people of all ages around the world. Dr. Goodall transformed our understanding of the natural world and our place in it as humans. She encouraged curiosity and collaboration and raised awareness about our responsibility to serve our world by acting and engaging with empathy and intelligence. Up to her last day on this planet Dr. Goodall was a relentless champion for hope. When asked about her reasons for hope, she would cite the amazing human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power and dedication of young people, and the indomitable human spirit. As she reminded us, we can’t afford to lose hope. “When we lose hope, we become apathetic, and we give up.”

Like Dr. Goodall, I believe that each of us has the power to keep hope alive through action, and I trust that our CCNet community will join me in practicing this “active hope.” I am grateful for my connection with each of you and believe that, together, we can honor Dr. Goodall’s legacy by “using the gift of our life to make the world a better place.” May all the good Jane Goodall shared during her life bring strength to all of us—and to her loved ones and colleagues. My heart is with you.

Coaches Around the World



Photo (above): Sheep grazing in the El Torres del Paine Biosphere Reserve, Chile. Photo by Mercedes Ibañez (TNC).

Strengthening Biosphere Reserve Conservation in Chile

Story from [Paloma Marcela Bravo Córdova](#) (Corporación Nacional Forestal)

Since 2022, the [National Forestry Corporation \(CONAF\)](#) and [The Nature Conservancy, Chile \(TNC\)](#) have applied the Conservation Standards to support management planning in the La Campana Peñuelas, Araucarias, and Torres del Paine biosphere reserves in Chile. Those efforts identified the need to strengthen governance for the nation’s biosphere reserves.

In 2025, a multidisciplinary team of professionals from CONAF and TNC developed the first official guide for management planning for Biosphere Reserves in Chile, based on the Conservation Standards. The process faced a major challenge: Biosphere reserves combine conservation with sustainable development and cultural preservation, so management planning must integrate ecological, social, and economic dimensions. The new guide, which will be published in November 2025, structures the process around biological, cultural, and human well-being values, promoting evidence-based planning that is grounded in the landscape and its history. Using the guide, project teams will have tools, such as viability analysis, threat prioritization, and strategy design, to support adaptive management.

The guide is currently being piloted with biosphere reserve managers, which will allow us to assess its relevance, adaptability, and usefulness in various territorial contexts and incorporate improvements before its final implementation at a national scale. Once implemented, this guide will support management efforts in Chile's 10 existing biosphere reserves, which cover more than 17 million hectares and represent 15% of the nation.

In addition to aligning national planning processes with international standards, the guide represents a relevant contribution to [UNESCO's Man and Biosphere \(MAB\) Program](#), offering a tool for other biosphere reserves around the world interested in integrating adaptive planning, local participation, and effective conservation. In September 2025, CONAF and TNC coaches, in collaboration with CCNet Global staff, shared lessons learned about the practical application of the Conservation Standards with 170 professionals during an international webinar sponsored by UNESCO. Later that month, representatives from CONAF and TNC shared the guide and case studies at the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves.

This collaboration between coaches and organizations reflects how the Conservation Standards can generate real transformations and commitment to the planet by providing governments with methods that foster community participation, balance conservation with sustainable use, connect technical and traditional knowledge, and promote social dialogue.

To learn more, contact [Paloma Bravo](#) or [Juan Pablo Rubilar](#).



Photo (above): Participants at the Healthy Country Planning training in Indonesia. Photo by YKAN.

Empowering Indigenous Communities Through Healthy Country Planning in Kalimantan, Indonesia

Story from [Sam Bayley](#) (Our Common Place)

In April 2025, a Healthy Country Planning training program in Indonesia brought together 22 conservation practitioners, Indigenous community representatives, and local leaders from across the nation. Participants travelled from Berau, Bulungan, Samarinda, Surabaya, Makassar, Jakarta, Bali, and Kupang, bringing diverse perspectives and demonstrating widespread interest in community-centered conservation approaches that honour both ecological health and cultural values.

Developed in Australia specifically for Indigenous land management contexts, Healthy Country Planning (HCP) offers something unique in the conservation world. While it's built on the globally recognized Conservation Standards framework, it was co-created with First Nations people to ensure it truly serves Indigenous communities. The HCP approach places social and cultural values on equal footing with environmental conservation, recognizing that healthy land and healthy communities are inseparable. Rather than imposing external priorities, the framework ensures that Indigenous and local communities maintain control over their vision and voice throughout the planning process, balancing conservation, community wellbeing, and cultural values. The HCP approach has slowly gathered momentum

internationally as Indigenous and local communities worldwide seek conservation tools that respect their knowledge, priorities, and rights.



Photo (above): Participants at the HCP training in Indonesia formed breakout groups based on projects relating to their work, such as managing customary forests or animal conservation, and used these projects to work through the HCP steps. Photo by YKAN.

The recent HCP training in Indonesia represents an important step in adapting this framework for Southeast Asian contexts, where Indigenous communities continue to be the most effective stewards of forests and ecosystems. Intensive, hands-on sessions equipped participants with practical skills to implement adaptive land management in their own communities and contexts. The group also identified ways to further adapt HCP, including adapting training materials to local contexts by using local examples, stories, and photos; incorporating locally tested HCP community engagement approaches; and establishing sub-regional support networks. As participants return to their communities and organizations across Indonesia, they carry new tools and networks for supporting Indigenous and locally led conservation work.

The HCP training in Indonesia was organized by Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (YKAN), funded by The Nature Conservancy, and delivered by Our Common Place (formerly Conservation Management). To learn more, visit the [Our Common Place website](#).



Photo (above): Conservation leaders and practitioners from across Africa with the TNC Conservation by Design team at a workshop in South Africa in September 2025. Photo courtesy of Olivia Millard.

Conservation by Design Workshop in Africa

Story from [Marisol Mata](#) and [Olivia Millard](#) (TNC)

The Nature Conservancy's Conservation by Design Team, in close collaboration with CCNet Africa leaders Chantal Migongo-Bake (Africa Deputy Conservation Director) and Tuyeni Mwampamba (Africa Director of Science), convened conservation leaders and practitioners from across Africa for an intensive five-day training workshop in September. Held in Cape Town, South Africa, the workshop built a strong foundational understanding of Conservation by Design ([TNC's version of the Conservation Standards](#)) as a key precursor to effective adaptive management, strengthened a regional network of practitioners, and provided in-depth facilitation training on key modules.

Twenty-seven participants representing a wide range of countries and roles, including field coordinators, program managers, directors, and analysts, attended the workshop. Participants were intentionally selected by regional leadership to help build a cohort that can support the region's strategy planning needs. Participants engaged in hands-on learning, strategic discussions, and collaborative exercises. The collaborative environment and diversity of perspectives enriched the learning process and inspired new approaches to conservation challenges. Participants consistently expressed that the workshop was a transformative experience, providing both practical tools and renewed motivation for their work. Comments included:

- "I found the pace and structure of the sessions excellent. There was no death by PowerPoint :-) and a good mix of theory and practical which kept the group completely engaged throughout. Thank you so much for an engaging learning experience, definitely one of the most valuable workshops I've attended."
- "The training team was wonderful and put a lot of effort in to keeping the training relevant to the group and at a good pace."
- "Let CbD conveners schedule for more of these sessions to the Africa BU team as means of cultivating more internal capacity."
- "You are an amazing team of trainers. I would like to have your continued support as I mature in my journey as a facilitator."

As a result of this workshop, conservation leaders and practitioners throughout Africa are empowered and equipped to use Conservation by Design modules to facilitate adaptive management of their conservation work in support of TNC's 2030 Goals.

For more information, contact [Olivia Millard](#).



Photo (above): Graduate students in the 2024-2025 Environmental Conservation Professional program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Photo by Arlyne Johnson.

Building Conservation Standards Capacity at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Story by [Arlyne Johnson](#) (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Since 2013, over 275 graduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have completed conservation planning courses and have engaged with over 40 conservation organizations around the world to draft conservation plans based on the principles of the Conservation Standards. As part of the 15-month Environmental Conservation Professional Master's Program at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, students participate in two accredited conservation planning courses, which provide training in Steps 1-5 of the Conservation Standards and offer real-world experience in planning and evaluating the effectiveness of a conservation project.

During 2024-2025 academic year, student teams worked in collaboration with the American Bird Conservancy, the International Crane Foundation, and the Wisconsin UniverCity Alliance Program to advance the design, monitoring, and evaluation of projects focused on improving breeding ground habitat for the Kirtland's Warbler in the United States, reducing human-wildlife conflict affecting Sarus Crane populations in Cambodia, and wetland restoration with two local governments in Wisconsin. At the end of the first semester, student teams provided each organization with a written conservation plan, a final presentation of the plan, and a Miradi file to use for further development and evaluation of the project. In the second semester, students used the completed plans to monitor whether conservation

actions are achieving desired results and contribute to the evidence base of what works, what doesn't, and why. Students also practiced communicating their conservation goals and strategies to obtain funding.

This program is one example from the [CCNet Conservation Standards in Academia Network](#).

To learn more about the Environmental Conservation Professional Master's Program and these conservation planning courses at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, visit the [website](#) or contact [Nathan Schulfer](#), Director of International and Professional Programs.

Share Your Stories

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