



Spring Brings New Momentum!

April marks Earth Month—a time to focus on the health of our planet and the role we all play in shaping its future. At EcoWB, that energy is very much in motion right now, with new projects getting off the ground and others reaching exciting new milestones. Read on for the latest—and for some **big news** from the chimpanzee and forest conservation project in Cameroon that we're proud to be supporting.



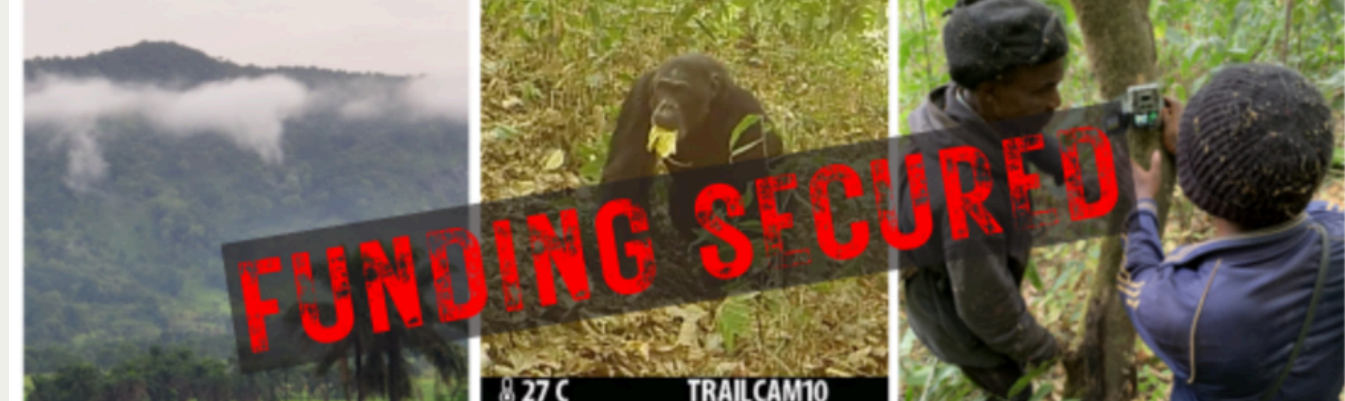
Our 2025 Annual Report is here!



We're excited to share our 2025 Annual Report—a snapshot of a year where EcoWB continued to grow, respond, and deepen our work alongside communities around the world.

Inside, you'll see what this community has made possible—from supporting the establishment of a Community Forest in Cameroon to advancing projects across fisheries, wetlands, and restoration in Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and beyond. You'll also get a closer look at some of the volunteers behind the work, and how their time and expertise are helping turn complex challenges into practical action.

Importantly, this momentum is carrying forward. New projects are already underway in 2026, more are taking shape, and we're continuing to respond as communities reach out for support. We're proud of what's been achieved—and even more excited about what's ahead. Click [HERE](#) to download the full report.



Cameroon Funding Secured: We did it!

Over the past few months, we shared an urgent call to help protect an important forest habitat in northern Cameroon that is home to a population of endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees. Today, we're so pleased to share that—together—we did it!

Thanks to an extraordinary collective effort, we reached the finish line and the full match has been met. In the final stretch, the **Bruce G. Geary Foundation** stepped forward to close the remaining gap, unlocking the full \$66,000 needed to secure the forest lease—building on the \$33,000 match challenge set by the **Nancy-Carroll Draper Charitable Foundation**. We are deeply grateful to them, the **Leiter Foundation**, and the many supporters who helped carry this over the line.

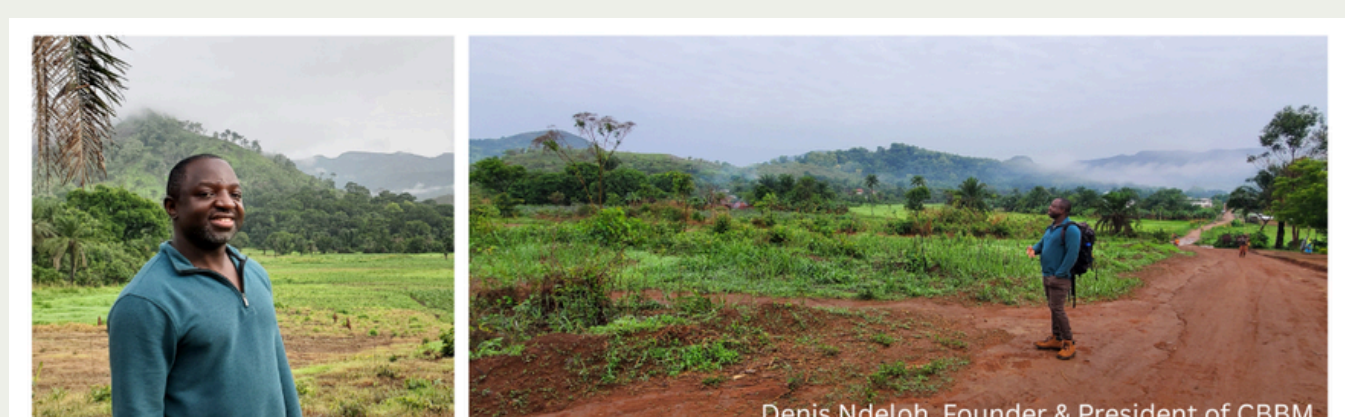
In the weeks leading up to the deadline, we heard from our partners at **Community Based Biosynergy Management (CBBM)** that logging activity had begun just 20 km away—a stark reminder of how narrow the window for action had become. That urgency makes this outcome all the more significant.

With this funding in place, the process to establish the forest as a legally recognized Community Forest can move forward. This means long-term stewardship will sit with the community itself—supported by the technical input, GIS mapping, and conservation planning work contributed by EcoWB volunteers.

This is a powerful example of what can happen when communities, local organizations, volunteer expertise, and generous funders and supporters come together—connecting the right skills and resources at the right time to help secure landscapes that matter, both for people and for wildlife.

"This is a big moment for us. Thank you to EcoWB for standing with CBBM to make it happen. Securing the lease on this forest is something we've been working toward for a long time, and we couldn't have done it alone. It means a lot to the community of Somié to know that there are people around the world who care about what happens to their forest and are willing to give their time, resources, and expertise to help protect it. Thank you."

Denis Ndeleh, Founder and President of CBBM



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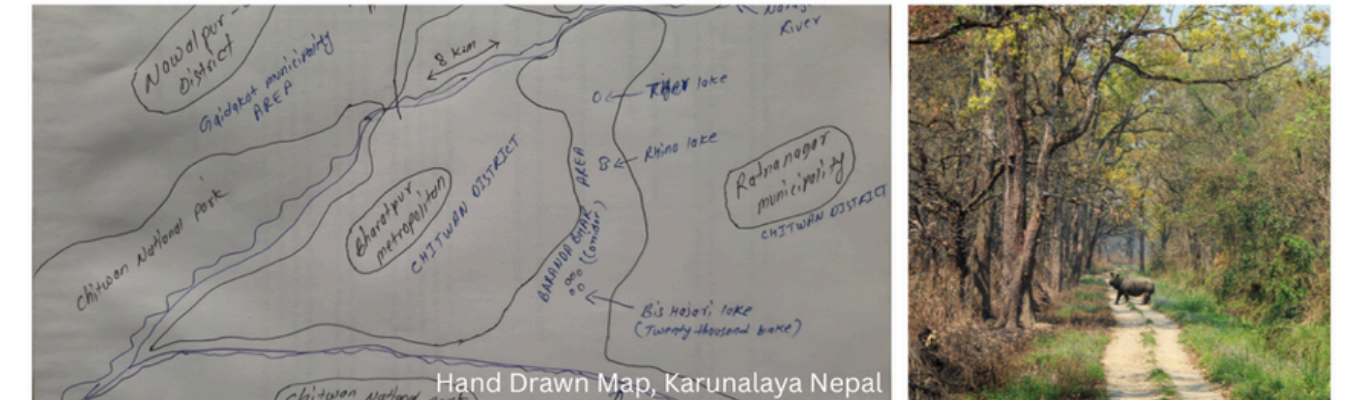


Volunteer of the Year!

We're delighted to share that EcoWB's Board President, **Rebekah Padgett**, has been awarded 'Community Volunteer of the Year' by Washington State's Combined Fund Drive—a statewide program that connects public employees with charitable giving and volunteering.

This well-deserved recognition reflects Rebekah's exceptional commitment to service, generosity of time, and dedication to strengthening communities—values that sit at the very heart of EcoWB. [Congratulations Rebekah!](#)

EcoWB in Action: New Project Update



Karuna Nature Conservation Campaign, Nepal

The first new EcoWB project of 2026 focuses on the Narayani River corridor in Nepal, in partnership with **Karunalya Nepal** (which translates as Compassionate Nepal), a grassroots organization leading conservation and community initiatives in the region.

The project focuses on a network of wetlands—including Bishazari Tal (Twenty Thousand Lakes), Batuli Pokhari, Tiger Lake, and Rhino Lake—located in the buffer zone and floodplain landscape surrounding Chitwan National Park. These wetlands form part of a broader ecological corridor connected to the Rapti-Narayani river system and provide critical habitat for wildlife moving between riverine ecosystems and the forests of Chitwan National Park.

The area is under growing pressure from plastic pollution, waste linked to religious tourism, and invasive water hyacinth, which is overwhelming key ponds used by wildlife.

Karunalya Nepal has asked EcoWB to support the technical side of this work by bringing in volunteer specialists to, amongst other things, help map pollution sources using GIS, design monitoring approaches, and support the development of practical evaluation methods—strengthening the project's ability to track progress and guide restoration over time.

This collaboration helps ensure that locally led efforts are backed by the technical expertise needed to make them effective and sustainable.



Expedition Underway

The Shifting Tides Expedition is now underway in the Sea of Cortez. **Green Flash Conservation Science's** team set sail in late March and are currently at sea, retracing the route of John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts' legendary 1940 expedition documenting changes in coastal ecosystems.

Ahead of the voyage, EcoWB volunteers supported the team by developing educational materials and tools to help local coastal communities take part in biodiversity monitoring. These resources will continue to be used long after the expedition ends—helping build lasting, community-led understanding of these changing coastal environments.

Apparel with Purpose!

Here's a snap of Jen Schlegel, EcoWB volunteer and past board member, out and about and proudly wearing her EcoWB t-shirt.

Every tee, hat, and hoodie from our Bonfire store helps fuel EcoWB's work, and we love to see you in yours. Snap a photo wearing your EcoWB gear and tag us on social media or email it for us to feature online! It's a great way to show support for EcoWB and spark conversations about our work. [Visit our store HERE](#)



Welcoming Three New Board Members in 2026

We're delighted to welcome three new members to the EcoWB Board in 2026 — Dave Meyer, Amy Gutman, and Jenna Kim.

Dave brings over four decades of experience across environmental management, sustainability, and nonprofit leadership. With a deep technical background and a long-standing commitment to purpose-driven work, he adds valuable perspective as EcoWB continues to grow.

Amy joins us with more than 25 years of global communications experience, helping organizations shape their voice, navigate change, and connect with audiences in meaningful ways. Her energy and insight will be a real asset as we continue to share new about EcoWB's work.

Jenna, a long-time EcoWB volunteer, brings a background in environmental science, geospatial technology, and nonprofit development. Her experience—combined with her deep connection to our work—makes her a great addition to our board.

We're so pleased to have Dave, Amy, and Jenna on board, and look forward to all that we will build together in the year ahead.

It costs \$119 to keep one EcoWB project running for a single day.
ecowb

Help keep this work moving.

When a community reaches out to EcoWB, we bring together the right skills, resources, and support to help move their project forward.

On average, it costs around **\$119 a day** to keep a project moving—from early scoping and planning, to coordinating volunteer teams and supporting delivery alongside our partners.

If you believe in this work, we would greatly appreciate your support. A donation of any size helps ensure we can keep showing up, keep responding, and keep this work moving forward.

Thank you!

