

Social Assessment

12 December 2018

CEPF Grant 105

Yingjiang Taoyuanxiaozy Farm (YTF)

Building the Capacity of Taoyuanxiaozy Farm, Yingjiang County, China

Tongbiguan, Yingjiang County, Yunnan, China

Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization:** Yingjiang Taoyuanxiao Zhu Farm (YTF)
2. **Grant title:** Building the Capacity of Taoyuanxiao Zhu Farm, Yingjiang County, China
3. **Grant number:** CEPF-105
4. **Grant amount (US dollars):** 19,980
5. **Proposed dates of grant:** 1st October 2018 – 30 September 2019
6. **Countries or territories where project will be undertaken:** China
7. **Date of preparation of this document:** 12 December 2018
8. **Indigenous People affected:** *This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.*

The project is implemented in the 160mu community forest (i.e. Taoyuanxiao Zhu Farm) of which 60mu is natural/ mixed forest, and 100mu of fruit trees plantation.

The project will work with the Jingpo minority group living in Jianbian village, which is under one of the four village committees in Tongbiguan Town. Jingpo minority group is the largest subset of the Kachin people, who live in the neighboring Myanmar. In China the Jingpo lives almost exclusively in Yunnan at mountain slopes between 1,500 and 2,000 meters in the Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture. Jianbian village is a small village locates less than 3km from the Tongbiguan Nature Reserve. It consists of 32 households in population of 132 people, whose traditional livelihood relies on natural resources and slash-and-burn cultivation. The fertile land under warm and wet climate produces various crops and forest products. With rising awareness on wildlife protection and poverty alleviation in recent decades, most Jingpo makes their livelihood by growing upland rice, paddy rice and corn. Other economic plants and fruits include rubber, birch, coffee, tea, citronella, pineapple, jackfruit, walnut, Chinese chestnut and persimmon. There is an increasing trend of young generation working in town and cities.

9. **Summary of the proposed project:** *This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.*

The overall goal of this project is to build up the capacity of Taoyuanxiao Zhu Farm as a biodiversity-based station for scientific research/ survey, ecotourism and public education; as well as a demonstration to motivate surrounding local communities to conserve and restore natural forest and biodiversity in their community forest.

To achieve the goal, we plan to conduct a flora and fauna baseline survey, with the help, training and guidance from various experts. Camera traps will be installed to obtain direct photographic records of wildlife. The results will be shared with surrounding villagers during the public education activities.

In order to preserve existing forest and restore degraded areas/ facilitate natural succession, weeds and invasive species will be manually removed while wearing gloves and other suitable protection. No herbicides and any other chemicals will be used. We target to weed an area of 100mu. Forest restoration will be conducted in an area of 40mu by planting native pioneer trees, including wild fruit

trees. Seeds will be collected from the wild and grown into seedlings/ saplings in nursery before planting.

We will employ 1 full-time and 2 part-time local villagers as the Farm rangers. They will receive training in species identification skills and in relevant laws in order to patrol the Farm.

While a core team of local villagers will be engaged in the above-mentioned activities, a wider range of the indigenous communities will be involved in our public education activities and Farm visits.

With the support from officers and staff of Tongbiguan Nature Reserve, we will use our biodiversity survey results in biodiversity awareness-raising outreach and training materials. The public events will meanwhile introduce wildlife protection law.

Local communities will be invited for Farm visits to promote and demonstrate ecological plantation practices/ eco-farming and ecotourism. We will cooperate with Yingjiang Bird Watching Society to discuss the possibility of developing bird-watching tourism at Taoyuanxiaozy Farm.

10. Potential impacts: *This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.*

We do not anticipate any negative impacts from this project on local communities. The community has already started planting fruit trees as an income source. Native trees have been planted since 2002 to restore degraded habitat in this community forest. Weeding and removal of invasive species have been carried out manually without using any chemicals/ herbicides. The latter practice has also positively improved farmland quality and native ecosystem.

Illegal hunting and logging are prohibited by national law regardless of this project, while improving habitat quality by forest restoration will help recolonization and could potentially lead to increases in wildlife populations, as well as other non-timber forest products (NTFPs). This can be regarded as a positive impact, since it will provide the local community with more useable natural resources.

Through their implementation of the project, the core team formed by local villagers will learn scientific techniques and skills in biodiversity survey, species identification, conserving natural resources and eco-farming from different experts. They can apply such knowledge for a more sustainable living or management of their natural resources. Wildlife photos from camera trapping and other public education events help to share such knowledge and promote such practice to surrounding community. Trials and discussions on ecotourism will help the local communities to explore extra sources of income. All these measures will help relieve pressure of illegal use of natural resources and improve relationships among local communities and Tongbiguan Nature Reserve.

11. Participatory preparation: *This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.*

When Director Wang Liyan of Taoyuanxiaozy Farm started preserving and restoring natural forest in the community forest since 2002, she met, discussed and obtained consent from the village committee of Jianbian village. The practice had good results and, over the years, led to widespread support from other local communities, Tongbiguan Nature Reserve and local government.

Communities in Jianbian village are not new to conservation projects. They agree and understand the benefits of sustainable management of community forest/ natural resources. Director Wang and her helpers (all are local villagers) have involved in various scientific surveys and conservation projects, including Forest Conservation and Community Development Project (FCCDP); population investigation of Indo-Chinese Tiger and its prey (State Forestry Administration, 2008); Monitoring of *Craigia yunnanensis* (plant with extremely small populations) (Forestry Department of Yunnan Province, 2010), In-situ conservation of *Diploknema yunnanensis* and *Calycopteris floribunda* (Forestry Department of Yunnan Province, 2014), etc.

The current project is designed based on such consent and the good relationship with local communities, Tongbiguan Nature Reserve and local government, with a main expansion on animal surveys, public education activities for a wider range of community, and a trial of bird-watching tourism collaborating with Yingjiang Bird Watching Society.

12. Mitigation strategies: *This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.*

All project activities will be implemented by the grantee in the community forest. All supports from experts and other outsiders are in financial and scientific aspects to make front-line conservation practical in localized scale, i.e. employment for a few patrol staff and planting workers and training on species identification, survey and recording techniques. Such supports would not alter their extant cultures and community structures; while employed staff can resume their family-base works in agriculture/ forestry plantation after the completion of current project. Their tradition on hunting wildlife and logging native forest has been made illegal by the national laws decades ago. With years of public education on biodiversity conservation by forestry/ nature reserve departments, such practice has declined regardless of the present project. We will keep promoting communities' understanding on sustainable management of natural resources. This actually better preserves their traditions and cultures for future generations.

Regular meetings and discussion on project activities will be carried out with the village committee and households who collectively manage the community forest. Staff from the nearby Tongbiguan Nature Reserve and local government officers will join meetings/ activities and will settle any issues related to laws and regulations. In case the success of current project gives rise to wildlife density/ population in the project site, this may result in more human-wildlife conflicts. Fencing will be set up to protect the planted seedlings from ranging cattle/ disturbance from wildlife. If people's farms are raided by wildlife, this would be solved by the insurance managed by forestry/ nature reserve departments. This is currently a common good practice at the town.

13. Monitoring and evaluation: *This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.*

Since village committee members, staff of Tongbiguan Nature Reserve and local government officers are supportive to the project plan during stage of participatory preparation; they will monitor implementation of project activities throughout regular meetings. Discussion and evaluation will be done by adapting their local situation and capacity.

Monitoring and evaluation will also be supported by Kadoorie Conservation China (KCC) team, which is able to visit the project site directly as the Regional Implementation Team. KCC will

conduct independent mid-term and final consultations with villagers at different levels from the affected community. We will monitor if the project aligns with the above-mentioned mitigation strategies. Any impacts raised by the community (identity of person raising any complaint would be kept confidential) will be summarized and discussed with all stakeholders in order to find practical solutions.

14. Grievance mechanism: *All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.*

This grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- You should include the following text, exactly, in any grievance mechanism: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

Following the guidance above, describe the grievance mechanism that you will use.

Villagers will be provided with contact information of Wang Liyan, project lead of Yingjiang Taoyuanxiaozhu Farm (grantee organization); together with contract of KFBG (CEPF Regional Implementation Team, the IUCN Asia Regional Office in Bangkok and email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org. The contact information will be printed in Chinese and shared with the village committees and the nearby Tongbiguan Nature Reserve. Contact will also be put on notice boards at main entrance of the project site or the village.

15. Budget: *This section will summarize dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples. These costs should be incorporated into the budget of the CEPF grant and/or covered by co-financing.*

Any cost related to compliance with the safeguard policy on indigenous people would be covered by co-financing. (Telecommunication & Miscellaneous = \$120+300 = \$420 at maximum)