

Social Assessment

October 2018

CEPF Grant 099

Hainan Gufeng Environmental Consulting Co. Ltd (HGEC)

*Community Co-management for Threatened Bird Habitat Restoration in Hainan –
the Red-breasted Parakeet as a Case Study*

Baisha County, Hainan, China

Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization:** Hainan Gufeng Environmental Consulting Co. Ltd (HGEC)
2. **Grant title:** Community Co-management for Threatened Bird Habitat Restoration in Hainan – the Red-breasted Parakeet as a Case Study
3. **Grant number:** CEPF-099
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:** 1st October 2018
8. **Indigenous People affected:** *This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.*

The project will work with the Li minority group living in four villages (Natang, Zhuanghe, Pogao, and Fanghong) around/ within the pilot area of Yinggeling National Nature Reserve. The area is a pilot site for community co-management and long-term biodiversity monitoring. Total population is about 700. The villagers used to grow upland rice and corn through the “slash-and-burn” farming practices. Since government authorities banned slash-and-burn farming, farmland is either regenerate as secondary forest or turned into rubber plantation. Few villagers remain growing grains on hillside slope; while rice is more commonly grown in lowland paddy.

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.*

In order to enhance the habitat, and try to restore population of endangered granivorous birds including red-breasted parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*), we need to understand the current status of wild granivorous birds at the project sites through collaborated field and interview surveys with Yinggeling National Nature Reserve. We will conduct awareness raising outreaches, targeting the local communities, on the importance of biodiversity conservation and preserving traditional cultural/ agricultural practices. We aim at setting up a demonstration of integrating traditional farming into modern agricultural practices under a community co-management mechanism. Local stakeholders at the 4 villages (Natang, Zhuanghe, Pogao, and Fanghong) of the project site will come together to formulate the co-management regulations, and join on their own will to grow upland rice and corn without using any pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Finally, we consider project sustainability and hope to promote such approach in other communities. We will train up community members in long-term monitoring skill on target bird species, in order to evaluate the results of this project.

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 project idea firstly appeared among the local community when villagers observed three red-breasted parakeets in November 2010. The villagers, local government, as well as the Reserve management were excited

for such observation, as the bird had not been formally recorded for many years. They have come up with a similar idea of planting upland rice and corn to conserve locally endangered granivorous birds.

Current project will start from those households that still grow grains on hillside slope nowadays. Other farmers will be encouraged to join on their own will for such traditional agricultural practice. All local stakeholders will be involved in discussions and agreement of the project activities during the establishment of co-management regulations.

Over the years, Nature Reserve/ local government has built up a good relationship with local communities, making them understand and support sustainable farming/ biodiversity conservation. This project will further boost up such relationship in a positive way because:

1. There is a growing demand of organic farm products including highland rice and corn in Hainan, the village committee is better supportive to promote such products for a better income to the community; while the Nature Reserve is supportive too as to conserve the targeted granivorous birds;
2. Villagers, especially those who have seen many red-breasted parakeets in the past, are looking forward the recovery of red-breasted parakeet population. They are proud to be the very last area on Hainan to have such rare birds.
3. The community hopes that such recovery of red-breasted parakeet population can attract bird watchers or nature lovers, so that their income can be improved in a sustainable way through some trials of ecotourism.

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.*

Yinggeling National Nature Reserve has been conducting many education outreaches on biodiversity monitoring, introduction of wildlife protection law, and poverty alleviation programme in different communities around the Reserve, including the 4 villages selected as project site at present. The community has been benefit from previous programme like interplanting of different crops and sustainable bee keeping.

With such basic mindset of biodiversity conservation/ sustainable management on their environment, as well as a good relationship with the Nature Reserve, the project idea firstly appeared among the local community when villagers observed three red-breasted parakeets in November 2010. Villager committee, local government, and the Reserve management were all joined the discussion and come into agreement of planting upland rice and corn at selected farmland under co-management of the community. With facilitation from HGEC and the Reserve, co-management regulations were established by the villager themselves, finalized by the village committee and agreed by the local government/ supported by the Reserve.

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

All project activities implemented by the grantee are discussed with and agreed by the community. Therefore if there is any unexpected adverse impact arisen from the project, meetings and discussion on project activities will be carried out with the village committee and households. Staff from the Yinggeling Nature Reserve and local government officers will join meetings/ activities and will settle any issues related to laws and regulations.

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 Yinggeling National Nature Reserve and local government officers is 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.

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 Cheng Cheng and Mi Hongxu, both the project lead of HGEC (grantee organization); together with contact 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 Yinggeling National Nature Reserve. Contact will also be put on notice boards at main entrance of the project site or the village.

15. Budget:

Any cost related to compliance with the safeguard policy on indigenous people would be covered by co-financing.