

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Third Meeting of the Donor Council
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC
12 June 2002

Ecosystem Profile

Recommended Action Item:

The Donor Council is requested to **review** and **approve** an ecosystem profile covering ecosystems within the Mountains of Southwest China hotspot. Grant disbursement in this country is contingent on securing GEF Focal Point endorsement.

Background:

The hotspot was originally approved for CEPF preparation work by the CEPF Donor Council in December 2000.

The ecosystem profile was compiled primarily from the results of the five-day Biodiversity Conservation Priority-Setting Workshop for the Upper Yangtze; meetings with government, civil society and conservation stakeholders; and a review of existing literature. During and subsequent to the meeting, CEPF discussed the ecosystem profile with numerous stakeholders representing Chinese and international organizations. Representatives from the CEPF Donor Council were invited to participate in this workshop. Susan Schen of the World Bank was able to participate for a half-day discussion on the profile.

The Provincial Planning Committee of Sichuan, Conservation International (CI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) organized the priority-setting workshop, held in Chengdu, China from 21 – 26 March 2002. The workshop brought together more than 80 Chinese and foreign experts in a participatory process to identify the region's most biologically important areas, assess threats and assign priorities for biodiversity conservation.

Apart from the workshop, additional meetings were held with other stakeholders, including central and local government agencies such as the Sichuan and Yunnan Forestry Departments, State Forestry Administration, State Environmental Protection Administration, Sichuan Tourism Bureau, Chengdu Tourism Bureau, Sichuan Construction Committee, Western Development Program Sichuan Office. Consultations were undertaken with county-level officials, nature reserve staff, local businesses such as tour agencies and operators, university environmental groups, local communities, local and international NGOs, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and conservation experts. In all, additional meetings were held with 87 individuals representing 34 groups.

A draft profile was distributed to staff of each donor organization on 29 April 2002. Comments have been provided by Conservation International, the MacArthur Foundation, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. The draft was presented to the CEPF Working Group by Dr. Lu Zhi, the primary author of the ecosystem profile. Where possible, suggestions and comments from this discussion have been incorporated into this revised draft.

External stakeholders from WWF, TNC, IUCN Species Survival Commission, BirdLife International and TRAFFIC were invited to provide a peer review of the ecosystem profile. Comments from this process have been incorporated into this draft. A revised version of the ecosystem profile was circulated on 15 May 2002.

GEF Focal Point Endorsement is being sought for this ecosystem profile.