

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Shan Shui Conservation Center
Project Title:	Promoting Community Conserved Areas and Civil Society's Involvement in Development Planning in the Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot
Date of Report:	2014/11/30
Report Author and Contact Information	YU Lu, lyu@shanshui.org

CEPF Region: Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot

Strategic Direction: 6. Consolidation

Grant Amount: US\$ 400000.00

Project Dates: 2012/1/1-2014/9/30

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Sichuan Forestry Department: provide policy guidance and technical support for this project.

Qinghai Forestry Department: provide policy guidance and technical support for this project.

Lixian County Forestry Bureau: local partner for Lixian CCA and in charge of relevant activity implementation.

Qinghai Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve Management Bureau: provide funding and technical support for Nyanpo CCA.

Sichuan Gexigou National Nature Reserve Management Bureau: local partner for Gexigou CCA and in charge of relevant activity implementation.

Gansu Baishuijiang National Nature Reserve Management Bureau: local partner for Liziba CCA and in charge of relevant activity implementation.

Nyanpo Yutze Ecological Protect Association: local partner for Nyanpo Yutze CCA and in charge of relevant activity implementation.

Chengdu Biology Institute, China Academy of Sciences: the main contributor for component 3: developing strategy on community-based endangered plants conservation in Gonggashan Landscape.

Sichuan Gonggashan National Nature Reserve Management Bureau: local partner of Gonggashan Landscape and working closely with local community on plant conservation.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The Phase I CEPF demonstrated the effectiveness of CCAs as a means of enhancing landscape integrity. In order to consolidate CEPF investments in the corridors, in this project we strengthened community leadership in selected pilot CCAs. Liziba CCA got support from Phase I CEPF to improve the fuel-wood efficiency, Gexigou CCA and Zhaga Monastery did CSP program on community conservation, and Lama Tashi, the community leader from Nyanpo CCA was a member and trainee of Green Community Network supported by Phase I CEPF.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

With the support from CEPF Phase I and Phase II, Shan Shui sustained our work in Mountains of Southwest China. Three pilot CCAs have been functionally and economically strengthened.

Promoted provincial policies for the village governance for collective non-commercial forest conservation in Changqing of Shaanxi, Pingwu and Lixian of Sichuan, and Liziba CCA of Gansu, and resulted in 1,200 km² of forests coming under protection by communities. Similar approach was promoted to manage 7,000 km² collective forests; leveraged at least 174 million yuan of the National Eco-compensation Fund for collective non-commercial forests; provided training to over 250 forest guards from 81 villages in Lixian. And this demonstration is being promoted to whole Aba Prefecture and even officials from Qinghai Forestry Department came to learn from Lixian experiences.

We raised awareness of general public on CCA and through events. And we developed an online map to make conservation information easier for communities, government departments, and general public.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Community Conserved Area is recognized as a formal and effective protected area category in China with government supervision and funded from both government and civil society. Civil society's participation in policy development at both center and provincial levels regarding biodiversity conservation has been enhanced.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

Fundraising for CCAs are increasing both from private sectors and Chinese Foundations, we have raised more than 1 million USD during the year 2012-2014 from private sectors, and 1.61 million USD from Chinese Foundations.

The government has begun to recognize the importance of CCAs, and civil society's participation in policy development at both center and provincial levels regarding biodiversity conservation has been enhanced. We held the Sanjiangyuan legislation forum in Jan 2014 and Ecological Security Safeguards Conference in July 2014.

We signed the MOU with Sichuan Forestry Department, inside the MOU in the next seven years Sichuan Forestry Department and Shan Shui will work closely in the following aspects: mitigating and adaptation of climate change, community-based biodiversity conservation, community forests and water resource conservation, natural education, and the co-funding will be more than 3 million USD.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

1. In 3 pilot CCAs, namely Tangqiao-Gexigou (with an area of 7,000 ha), Liziba (with an area of 6500 ha), Nianbaoyuze (with area of 30,000 ha among the total 90,000 ha) and the endangered plant conservation area Mt. Gonggashan (around 20,000 ha of total 500,000ha), the Community Conserved Area is proved to be effective and cost-efficient.
2. In the Giant Panda Corridor and the Species-rich Sacred Landscape, the CCA approach receives political, financial and technical support from an alliance of government, civil society and private sector actors.
3. Communities, NGOs, and development planners have improved access to use and share data and knowledge in the public domain for biodiversity conservation. By using the interactive GIS-based websites, CCA, nature reserve and civil society are able to monitor conservation outcomes at site level.
4. That CCA becomes an alternative for communities empowered with positive land right on collective-owned forest land has been demonstrated in Liangshan.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

In 3 pilot CCAs, over years experiments, all are going well and formed effective management structures. Both community and local government agreed that CCA is a good complement to nature reserve conservation.

The Giant Panda Corridor received 1 million USD donations from private sector (HSBC water programme) for the year 2014-2016 in CCA approach with positive land right on collective-owned forest land and watershed forests preservation.

Sichuan Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve Management Bureau had signed a MOU with Shan Shui in May, on collaboration and technical support. The NR agreed to give Baixiongping Conservation Station to Shan Shui and let us do the conservation actions and research there. This is the first attempt that the NR was willing to let a NGO involving in their conservation work and hopefully it would be an effective demonstration that will be copied by other NRs.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: in total 763,500 ha, Gexigou 7,000ha, Liziba 6,500ha (within Baishui Jiang KBA), Nianbaoyuze 30,000ha (within Sanjiangyuan NR KBA), Gonggashan 20,000ha, Lixian 700,000ha.

Species Conserved: There were no targeted actions for species, although many threatened species occur at the project sites.

Corridors Created: Giant Panda Corridor and Species-rich Sacred Corridor are sustained and maintained.

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

Community interests are important. And when we first select a pilot village we will use a small amount of funding called 'test fund' to see whether this community has good management structure and will be able to initiate a bigger project. The test fund will be used on a public admin affair such as road building or bridge building and it will be decided by whole community. In the meantime Shan Shui will help the community on self-governance and conservation techniques. This is an effective approach while working in a community.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned:

CEPF investments in Community Conserved Areas in the Giant Panda Corridors and Sacred Landscape sustained and scaled up through community capacity building and legal recognition.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

In Component 1, the community leadership training workshops and the training manuals were done by matching fund from different sources. Thus we have revised the resource of CEPF grant on writing the CCA case study and several multiple stakeholders involved events and workshops. The CCA case study includes 13 community conservation stories on our project sites such as Liziba, Lixian, Yajiang-gexigou CCA. And it will be published by Peking University Press by the end of 2014. And for scaling up the CCA recognition, we hosted the Ecological Security Safeguards Conference, together with GEI, WCS and Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in July 8-9th, Beijing.

Component 2 Planned:

Pilot CCAs have been functionally and economically strengthened to solve particular issues and formally recognized at provincial level.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

Nyanpo CCA:

Conducted a study tour to Sichuan Nature Reserves for learning conservation management plan, both Sanjiangyuan NR and the community representatives participated. Local 31 community patrollers were empowered by Sanjiangyuan NR and were issued with patrolling certificates. They also received community monitoring trainings.

The regional plant baseline survey was done by local community and plant image database was established.

With the support from Sanjiangyuan NR, the community set up the Environmental Education Center in Baiyu Township, and it was intended for local people learning their hometown.

Yajiang-gexigou CCA:

Together with Yajiang Forestry Bureau, Zhaga Monastery and local community, we set up the human wildlife compensation fund in 2009. After 5 years practicing, the beneficiary increased from 49- 124 households and 5 communities joined this fund. The community developed the regulation for managing this fund and compensation plan, which is followed by local people.

Without outside funding, this compensation fund depends on the donation from the local community, Zhaga Monastery and Yajiang Forestry Bureau. This is a good example of sustainable project.

Learning exchange to Yunnan was done in 2013 and we invited officials from Sichuan Forestry Department, Qinghai Legal Affairs Office joins this exchange. Besides learning the advance experiences in Yunnan, we also demonstrated our practice on human-wildlife conflict compensation fund both in Yajiang and in Sanjiangyuan to the government officials.

Liziba CCA:

Liziba CCA locates in Bikou Township, Wenxian County, Gansu Province, which is the main component of Panda Habitat in Minshan Mountains. So it is also inside the Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot.

With the support from Lanzhou University, we help the community done plant nursery, community patrolling and conservation and fuel wood efficiency such as using electricity tea making stove.

A learning tour to Changxing County for community artificial wetland was done.

As Liziba is the water source of Qingchuan County, Sichuan, a public photo exhibition was held in Qingchuan to show the conservation works in Liziba.

Prof. Wei Huilan published 3-4 papers on Liziba case study and low carbon village.

Component 3 Planned:

A sub-grant awarded to Chengdu Biology Institute to develop a strategy on community-based endangered plants conservation in the Gonggashan Landscape and 20,000 ha of new CCA planned. A training on community-based conservation endangered plants with intensive participation and monitoring from Shan Shui.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

The Gonggashan endangered plant species conservation strategy was developed and 13 endangered plants were identified as priority targets for conservation.

2 Trainings were done on Gonggashan Plant Conservation and local community representatives and officials from Gonggashan NR participated.

The officials from Sichuan Forestry Department commented on the research that it was worthy and will be adopted by other organization whom want to do plant conservation in Gonggashan Landscape.

Component 4 Planned:

The alliance for generalizing the CCA approach built in Phase I CEPF has been consolidated and expanded through communication and experience-sharing.

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

In Component 4, the proposed Gonggashan 'Through their eyes' community video training failed to initiate due to the revised strategy of Shan Shui in 2012, and the local partner cannot provide the matching fund for equipment like video-cameras. Thus we relocated this activity in Aba, Sichuan and to work with Dongke Sacred Mountain Ecological Conservation Association, a grass-root NGO based on the east of Nyanpo Yutze Region. And there were 7 films produced by local community on the aspects of their homeland and their reflections of conservation and traditions.

In Component 4, the semi-annual exchange events were failed to initiate since it is difficult to organize big events due to the safeguard stability in Tibetan areas. Certain amount of grass-root NGOs supported by Phase I CEPF vanished gradually. And some of our local partners such as Zhaduo and Snow Mountain and Green Rivers Association gathered communities and NGOs and hosted different kinds of exchange or training events.

Component 5 Planned:

A GIS-based website will be set up as a biodiversity information platform, with improved accessibility to biodiversity knowledge for people from both sides of development and conservation, and with functions to measure and enhance conservation effectiveness for CEPF supported CCAs and nature reserves.

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

In Component 5 due to the lack of experiences in website building and we seriously underestimated the costs of GIS-based website building and we invited several students from School of Earth and Space Sciences, Peking University as professionals for helping us on

this activity. However they know ArcGIS well but website building they are not that familiar so the progress is behind the schedule. In 2014 we have invited a professional company developing this GIS-based website. And by the end of 2014, Shan Shui will release an annual biodiversity report from the view of civil society and most of the species data will come from this website and the general public will have access to get these data using this biodiversity website.

Component 6 Planned:

NGOs supported in Phase I CEPF have been engaged in studying the feasibility on establishing more CCAs on collective forest land and submitting follow-up policy recommendations to relevant provincial departments, which are based on pilot CCAs established in Liangshan.

Component 6 Actual at Completion:

In Component 6, the feasibility study on establishing CCA on collective forest land in Liangshan was done and the report was submitted. However there has been a huge opportunity in Lixian County, Sichuan on collective forest land. The whole county government is cooperating with Shan Shui and is willing to establish 'board of shareholders for community-owned forest management' in 81 villages. Thus there will not only be two CCAs in Liangshan but 81 CCAs on collective forest land in Lixian County and the whole area is 10,449,900 mu (approx. 700,000 ha) collective forest land in Lixian County.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

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In Component 6, the feasibility study on establishing CCA on collective forest land in Liangshan was done and the report was submitted. However there has been a huge opportunity in Lixian County, Sichuan on collective forest. The whole county government is cooperating with Shan Shui and will establish 'board of shareholders for community-owned forest management' in 81 villages. Thus there will not only be two CCAs in Liangshan but 81 CCAs on collective forest land in Lixian County and the whole area is 10,449,900 mu (approx. 700,000 ha) collective forest land in Lixian County.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

The Community Leadership Manual, specifying how to select and develop a community leader and with experiences and case studies from 5 communities.

The CCA case study 'The Context of Community Conservation', by NI Jiubin, will be published by the end of 2014, Peking University Press. Including 13 CCA case studies and with experts reviews on each case.

The GIS-based website 'Nature Map', www.hinature.cn/map. With more than 300 species data from Peking University and we plan to develop relevant APP on android.

7 Community Documentary films from the project 'through their eyes' in Dongke, Aba Prefecture. The titles are as following:

- The forests of the homeland
- Tteok, the traditional Tibetan food (Glutinous rice cake)
- The traditional ways of dealing the wildlife infectious disease
- Community monitoring and the infrared camera
- How to make a traditional barrel
- Religious dance of Tha Kung
- Tibetan Buddhism rite of blessing on all living creature

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

In the project design phase we were over ambitious and we listed all Shan Shui projects inside this CEPF grant. However, due to the variety of project types; the remote project areas and far from each other; and the community conservation team members usually work in the field for a long time, it is difficult to coordinate the whole project and communicate well. And the overall achievements will be greater if we only focus on 1 or 2 aspects.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

While choosing a CCA site, we shall consider the change of overall context and make adjustment of plan. As Lixian County as an example, in the beginning it was to set up 2 CCAs in Liangshan, however with the big opportunity in Lixian County on collective forest land. We revised our strategy and to work in Lixian County. In 2014 the impact increases dramatically and Aba Prefecture and even Qinghai Province visited Lixian for learning its experiences.

Funds raised from private sectors are increasing in China. And NGOs should learn to dialogue with business people and try to use their language to explain and 'sell' the conservation projects. That is use measurable indicators, the specific outputs and to coordinate with the company communication.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:
None.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Bridgestone Company	A	\$100,000	Nyanpo CCA
Garnier of L'Oreal	A	\$30,000	Gonggashan Landscape
SEE Foundation	A	\$100,000	Giant Panda Corridor

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The sustainability lies in sustainable funding and the government supports. From our experiences, to remain a good relationship with local government is crucial. Take Lixian for example. We use previous CSP - conservation agreement model to demonstrate the National Eco-compensation Fund for collective non-commercial forests management. In the beginning it was only one village which using the scoring system that linking the conservation outcomes with the eco-compensation fund. Lixian Forestry Bureau found it very effective and they adopted this method and promoted in total 81 villages inside Lixian County. There are 7000km² forests in Lixian and the impact is much bigger.

As for the case in Yajiang-gexigou CCA, we set up the compensation fund for solving the human-wildlife conflict there. After five years implementation, Shan Shui no longer donated any funding directly into the compensation fund for most recent years. It depends only by the local Yajiang Forestry Bureau, Zhaga Monastery and the community. And the fund is operating well. However, it might be different try to copy their model in other communities. Because in Gexigou CCA, the Zhaga Monastery has its influence on local community and people will not lie about their loss by wild animals. And we are still thinking that how to find a third party that could replace the role of Zhaga Monastery. Then Yajiang-gexigou Case could be adopted in other community which also facing the human-wildlife conflict problems.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

The indigenous people are not familiar with complicated project management method, thus multiple approaches were adopted for project implementation records such as wording and photographic etc. Training workshops were provided for the community on the basics of project management and financial management. Meetings were held with the full community. Special efforts were made to ensure the participation of Indigenous People. Minutes of the meetings were kept and copies of the minutes were filed and distributed. Nearly all the Indigenous People in the project site speak Mandarin and Tibetan language, so the meetings were held in both in Mandarin and Tibetan.

We followed the rules of CEPF's safe guard policy on Indigenous People and we remain good relationship with all local people on our project sites. We respect their traditional knowledge and encourage them to do the conservation actions based on their belief.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

None.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets				
(2012/1/1-2014/9/30)				
Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant. Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.				
Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from Jan 1, 2012 to Sep 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Y	57,000	57,000	Tangqiao-Gexigou 7,000 ha Nianbaoyuze 30,000ha Mt. Gonggashan 20,000 ha
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Y	30,000	30,000	Nianbaoyuze 30,000 ha
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Y	63,500	63,500	Mt. Gonggashan 20,000 ha Liziba 6,500 ha (within Baishui Jiang NR KBA) Tangqiao-Gexigou 7,000 ha Nianbaoyuze 30,000 ha (within Sanjiangyuan NR KBA)
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Y	700,000	700,000	Public forest in Lixian County 700,000ha
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	N			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit											
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:			Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities									
Total																				

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit: