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INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

中华人民共和国财政部

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

MOF

国际司

Sanlithe, Xicheng District

Beijing 100820 People's Republic of China

中国北京三里河南三巷3号100820

November 20, 2002

To: Mr. Michael Carroll
Team Leader - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Senior Agriculturist, Latin American and Caribbean Division
The World Bank Group
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433

China: Endorsement Letter for CEPF Project
Mountains of Southwest China Hotspot

Dear Mr. Carroll:

This is to advise you that the Ministry of Finance, as the GEF Focal Point for China, would like to endorse the captioned project to be submitted by World Bank for CEPF support.

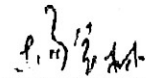
We understand that the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund will provide supports to civil society to implement projects that fulfill the programmatic objectives outlined in the Ecosystem Profile. We also understand that each of the partners, Conservation International, the MacArthur Foundation, the Government of Japan, GEF and the World Bank have provided equal fundings to the CEPF Initiative.

We believe that by participating in the proposed project, China will not only gain from, but also contribute to the global biodiversity conservation.

We are looking forward to fruitful cooperation with the World Bank on this project.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



(Jinlin Yang)

Operational Focal Point for China