



The Shangri-la Institute for Sustainable Communities (SISC) and GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) have partnered to implement the 'Community Integrated Nature Reserves for a Sustainable China' project as part of the EU Environmental Governance Programme (EGP).

The project will involve 15 nature reserves in five regions across China (Lhasa in the Tibetan Autonomous Region, Three Parallel Rivers in Yunnan, interconnected Giant Panda reserves in Sichuan and wetlands in Zhejiang and Heilongjiang), building the capacity of communities to participate in environmental governance as well as strengthening the ability of nature reserve staff to guide such participation and learning. The two-year project aims to build on the existing strengths of each reserve while showcasing an aspect of reserve-based learning and grassroots participation – this will include eco-tourism development in Baima Xueshan, environmental education in Zhejiang, cultural preservation in Lhasa and biodiversity education in the Giant Panda reserves. Experiences will be shared through a series of publications, national workshops, learning trips and staff exchanges. Additionally, all of the reserves work towards engaging broader stakeholders (schools, communities, visitors, business and government) in order to establish themselves as a site of interactive learning about indigenous culture, biodiversity and sustainable development.

With most project activities being implemented from March 2013, the first quarter was mainly a time of internal meetings between SISC and GIZ to prepare for:

- Hangzhou kick off in April 2013
- National Launch and seminar in Shangri-la May 2013
- European study tour July 2013

An initial webpage for the project has been set up at:

<http://www.shangrilainstitute.org/projects/eu-china-environmental-governance-programme/>

Activities completed in the first quarter:

#### **December 2012 in Yunnan**

- **Bazhu Village**

Shangri-la Institute for Sustainable Communities and Bazhu Community Learning Centre initiated several activities under the EGP CINR project in Bazhu Administrative Village in Weixi County, NW Yunnan.

The outputs were:

1. 285 people participated in ecology natural resource management training
2. Bazhu Organic Farming Cooperatives Preparation Seminar held
3. One library set up in Bazhu Community Learning Centre and 759 books in ecology, agriculture as well as Tibetan language and culture purchased
4. Development of a coordination body at the Bazhu CLC to facilitate community initiated activities.



- **Eco-tourism Learning Tour for Women of Kesong Village**

In December, the Kesong CLC in Shangri-la organised local community residents to take part in a study of eco-tourism or the surrounding area. 43 people participated in the activity including 5 from SISC and 38 women from Kesong Village (located in the Napahai wetlands near Shangri-la) visited Dongzhulin Temple, Baima Snow Mountain, Feilai Temple, Yubeng Village and Yubeng Sacred Waterfall to learn about eco-tourism work that has been implemented on these sites. At the same time, by going into nature they were able to understand further the need to protect their local environment and the importance of traditional culture.

Challenges: Ensuring safety of all participants on the hike, particularly the older women. Unpredictable weather.

Successes: All of the women felt that they learned a great deal from the trip, for many it was the first opportunity they had to visit some of these sacred sites, they felt that their knowledge of eco-tourism, environment and health issues was increased. They also learned about the urgency of local cultural heritage protection, and need to encourage the younger generation to understand traditional practices.

Social Impact: During the trip the group encountered many tourists and local villagers with whom they shared the knowledge they had learned on eco-tourism. Communication and co-operation between participants was improved, which will support future activities in Kesong Village.

