

CINR 3rd Quarterly Report (June – August 2013)

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).

Activities completed in the third quarter:

EU Study Tour:

In July 2013, ten representatives from protected areas in Heilongjiang, Sichuan, Tibet, Yunnan and Zhejiang visited German national parks to learn about park management, community involvement and environmental education. They were accompanied by project staff from SISC and GIZ, the latter having organized the study tour. The group took advantage of the in-depth programmes prepared by the German national park administrations and the EUROPARC Federation, the umbrella organization representing Europe’s protected areas, who introduced their co-operation projects to support protected area management in Europe.

In each of the three national parks visited, Bavarian Forest, Müritz and Born, park management was introduced with a view on community development. The group met community representatives to discuss the role of the national parks in sustainable regional development. Particular emphasis was laid on environmental education programmes and the educational functions of visitor centres with practical examples.

In their report the participants concluded: “The German practice of protected areas management has given us a lot of inspiration, ... a lot of things we can learn from and promote, ... but we also recognize that we cannot simply copy this – we need to combine it with our own practice in order to take advantage of it.”

Output:

- Overview presentations on park management of all national parks visited, as well as on specific topics such as: environmental education, visitor management, visitor centres and stakeholder co-operation.
- Meeting with community representatives and business to discuss issues of park management and sustainable local development.
- Introduction of EUROPARC Federation and its cooperation activities for protected areas in Europe as an example for protected area cooperation in China.

Impact:

Participants learnt from the exchanges with their colleagues in Europe and were motivated to disseminate what has been learnt upon their return to their colleagues and stakeholders.

Media coverage: The study tour was partly covered in local media (newspaper)

Additional information:

Due to logistical obstacles (e.g. extreme weather in Beijing), almost all of the participants had to postpone their flights by two days so that the case study in Austria (Neusiedler See) could not be visited.

List of Participants:

Name	Organization	Title
1. Mrs. Wan, Lu	Shangri-la Institute for Sustainable Communities	Assistant Director
2. Mr. Wendegomba, Wendegomba	Shangri-la Institute for Sustainable Communities	Community Project Leader
3. Mrs. Chen, Binghua	Regional Center of Expertise in Sustainability Education for Greater Shangri-la	Co-ordinator
4. Mr. He, Zhixian	Sanhuanpao Nature Reserve Administration, Heilongjiang Province	Deputy Section Chief
5. Mr. Shao, Mingchang	Dongsheng Nature Reserve Administration, Heilongjiang Province	Deputy Director
6. Mr. Chen, Zixue	Changxing Forestry Bureau, Zhejiang Province	Leading member
7. Mr. Luo, Hao	Tibet Tourism Co. Limited	General Director of Cultural Strategy Department
8. Mr. Ding, Wendong	Shangri-la Pudacuo National Park	Conservation Manager
9. Mr. Gema, Jiangchu	Baimaxueshan National Nature Reserve	Nature Reserve Staff and Ornithologist
10. Mr. Xiao, Lin	Baimaxueshan National Nature Reserve	Director General
11. Mr. Wu, Yong	Xuebaoding National Nature Reserve	Director
12. Mr. Peng, Jiansheng	Shangri-la Tourism Co. Limited	Manager
13. Mr. Luan, Shenqiang	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ GmbH	Project Director
14. Mr. Brüggemann, Jens	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ GmbH	Senior Project Manager



left: visit to Bavarian Forest National Park

right: visit to community museum and tourist centre in Born National Park



left: visit to Environmental Education Centre in Bavarian National Forest Park
 right: shared learning with counterparts in “Forestry Home for Youth” in Muritz National Park



left: discussion with community leaders, tour company representatives and management of Bavarian National Forest Park
 right: participation in EUROPARC report

Regional Activities:

Shangri-la Institute for Sustainable Communities

Yunnan:

- Training for Youth

July 20th- 23rd: Tibetan Language classes were held in the SISC bookbar in the old town of Shangri-la. The aim of classes was to raise interest in Tibetan culture and improve student’s language ability and knowledge of local traditions. Implementation included promotion by reaching out to local primary and middle schools, and classes also included learning on environmental education. A local eco-tourism expert also gave a lecture for students on tourism in Shangri-la and history of Tibetans.

Output:

Students learned about the importance of taking responsibility for their environment and how to incorporate Tibetan customs of environmental preservation into their daily life practices.

Impact:

The demonstration of the important role indigenous knowledge and local traditions play in local nature conservation.



Photo: Youth Training in Shangri-la

- Development of land and purchase of equipment on NapaLinka Community Learning Centre.

In June bikes and other equipment have been purchased to improve eco-tourism at the Napalinka CLC and eco-lodge, also, design has begun of signs and leaflets to enhance promotion. The centre continues to receive tourists and offers learning on: Tangka Painting, Plant identification, Local culture, Photography, Music, dancing, eco-living and Leave No Trace Ethics. Moreover, land has been developed to improve the production of organic vegetables.

Output:

Eco-tourism activities implemented as a sustainable way of protecting the local environment, natural resources and biological and cultural diversity of the Tibetan Plateau whilst simultaneously empowering and providing a means of income for local communities.

Impact:

- Community led conservation promoted and livelihoods improved, whilst also reaching out to a broader audience (tourists).
- The protection of Shangri-la's unique biodiversity and ecosystems enhanced through community-initiated activities.

Tibet:

- Development of Lhasa Community Learning Centre

At the beginning of August the refurbishment of Lhasa CLC began, it is expected to be completed by the end of October ready for workshops by the end of 2013.

The Lhasa CLC will be developed as a window to disseminate information about nature protection and environmental governance, as well as the location for a series for workshops for community members from all over the Plateau. As a site of particular spiritual importance, Lhasa attracts pilgrims from all over Western China, and therefore workshops run in Lhasa can enhance knowledge, skills and values for environmental governance for people from all over the Tibetan plateau. It will also serve as a platform to reach rural and nomadic communities living in particularly vulnerable plateau eco-systems.

This site plays an important role in empowering local communities and enabling them to have a voice, and the opportunity to participate in the environmental governance of their homeland. The Lhasa CLC will also provide a venue for the sale of community handicrafts etc, produced as part of the sustainable livelihoods initiative. Lhasa's CLC will double as a Visitor's Centre information point for the 2 TAR Nature Reserves. The centre requires some renovation and the provision of furniture and other facilities. This is a significant site as it can provide information on the diverse and varied ecosystems for the whole of the Tibetan Plateau, an area of immense national and global importance, as the home of 'the third pole' (concentration of glacial ice) and the great river basins of Asia. There are many indigenous plants and animals that are unique to this region.

Output:

Establishment of facility for CLC in Lhasa to engage local communities in the protection of the local environment.

Impact:

Community capacity strengthened to participate in the prevention of environmental degradation.

GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

Heilongjiang:

- Participation in Training Seminar on Management Planning

10 representatives from the pilot sites in Sanhuanpao and Dongsheng Nature Reserves, as well as from Zhejiang, participated in a regional training seminar on protected areas management planning on July 31st and August 1st in Fujin, Heilongjiang.

Output:

- Management planning framework (guideline)
- Analysis of key stakeholders for establishing Management Planning Committee in Dongsheng and Sanhuanpao Nature Reserves
- Road Map for establishing management plans for Dongsheng and Sanhuanpao Nature Reserves

Impact:

- Participants learned a step-by-step approach to management planning including stakeholder involvement. This new approach – in contrast to management plans formulated by experts – involves the nature reserve administration staff as the key player and has received great attention by participants.

- The two nature reserves of Sanhuanpao and Dongsheng indicated their interest in elaborating a management plan according to the framework provided.
- Zhejiang Provincial Forestry Department wants to replicate this training seminar for wetland parks and nature reserves in Zhejiang.
- Environmental Awareness Training



Visibility

It was possible to present the EU-funded project during the 6th Sino-German Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation in Bonn/ Germany, from June 15th – 18th, which was attended by representatives of the Federal German environment administration, research organizations and the Chinese Research Academy for Environmental Sciences (CRAES).