

CINR 5th Quarterly Report (December 2013 – February 2014)

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).

From Dec 2013 to Feb 2014, main task of SISC and GIZ was the preparation of the project's Interim Report and Expenses Verification. In late December 2013, project staff from SISC and GIZ held several internal meetings to discuss the preparation of the Interim Report and auditing. On receiving approval by the EU, the original audit firm was changed from PWC to RSM due to the PWC's tight schedule. Auditors from RSM visited SISC and GIZ's office to conduct field audit in late January 2014. Together with Expenses Verification and the Payment Request Form, the Interim Report was formally submitted to EU commission on 24th February summarizing the output, impact and learning from the CINR project from December 2012 to November 2013.

During this reporting period from December to February actual implementation of activities was restricted, as it happens to be over the time of Chinese Spring Festival when communities are busy with local celebration activities.

Regional Activities completed in the fifth quarter:

Survey and investigations of Bazhu Community Learning Centre and Community-based Protected Area in Yunnan from Jan to Feb 2014

During January and February 2014, community workers of Bazhu Village Community Learning Centre (CLC)¹ and Bazhu Community Nature Reserve (CPA)² joined together to conduct several surveys and investigations on the local ecological and social situation, and to make a record of on indigenous natural and cultural resources.

Output:

1. Watershed investigation and monitoring for Bazhu River.

Last September, a training workshop was held by SISC to introduce water monitoring & evaluation methodology, as well as the geographical environment of Bazhu. Community workers of Bazhu CLC and CPA took part in the workshop and formed a River-care Team to implement regular river monitoring activities and watershed investigations of the Bazhu River.

On 1st, 5th and 10th of December, team members gathered key data on Bazhu River such as flow rate, water quantity and collected water samples at 14 water monitoring sites in Bazhu watershed and examined its pH, as well as other indicators such as Chloride (Cl-), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Hardness (Hd), Nitrate (NO₃-), Phosphate (P). A small amount of Copper and

Iron are detected at the only hot spring in Bazhu. Other elements of Chromium, Ammonia, Chlorine and BOD have not been detected in any of the monitoring sites. The results of the test indicated that Bazhu river has a good water quality. River monitoring will be conducted over a one-year period, as well as economic and cultural surveys; this will enable the local community to learn about the impact of human activities such as agriculture, on the water quality of their local river. Results of the monitoring will be presented to other villagers through community meetings and events; and information gathered will be used to develop eco-tourism resources for Bazhu, and support the local area's long-term sustainable development plan.



Top left: Water monitoring sites; Bottom left: Water Testing- PH; Right: Collecting water samples

2. Agricultural survey in 21 natural villages in Bazhu Community.

Following a first basic survey of social conditions in Bazhu's households last year, community workers in Bazhu CLC and CPA visited the head of each of the 21 natural villages in Bazhu to collect data on local agriculture. The survey was organized in two parts: from Jan 1st to 20th, team members recorded the farm area sizes and total yield of each type of crops for each of the 21 villages; from Feb 10th to 20th, team members interviewed elder community members and recorded sowing & harvesting times for each locally cultivated crops.



Interviewing villagers in Bazhu

3. Record of indigenous knowledge ---Local folk songs, legends and customs in Bazhu
Through interviews with elder citizens, a traditional Plough Song and the legend of its origin were recorded. In areas where Tibetan Buddhism is the main belief system, farmers invited a high Lama to the community's plough rite every year to pray for the lives under earth that might be hurt by the plough.



Interviews with elder citizens to collect indigenous knowledge

4. Through the implementation of these activities, and after several discussions, SISC has worked with the community to establish a core team at Bazhu CPA. This team is composed of 10 community members who have participated in a training day organised by SISC to build knowledge on division and protection of the key areas, watershed and forest management etc.

Impact:

Information gathered will be used to develop eco-tourism resources for Bazhu, and to support the local area's long-term sustainable development plan. Moreover, through these activities implemented by the CLC and CPA, institutional capacity of local community on researching, monitoring and managing of natural and cultural resources is enhanced. By working with community members, mechanism of good environmental governance which is more applicable in the community's internal structure will be developed, and this will eventually enable the local community to implement actively participate in the protection of local ecological resources sustainably.

¹ Bazhu CLC is a joint initiative by SISC and the villagers; it is staffed by younger members of the community in order to provide a platform that promotes youth leadership and supports sustainable development in the local area.

² Bazhu Community Nature Reserve (CPA – Community-based Protected Area is run by representatives from each of the 21 natural villages that compose Bazhu administrative village. The goal of the CNR is to ensure effective management of local natural resources.

Organic Farming & Capacity Building Initiative for Napalinka Community Learning Centre on Feb. 2014

Napalinka

Napalinka is located on the Napahai wetlands and is composed of a teaching and learning centre in close proximity to the community alongside an eco-lodge that embodies a truly sustainable way of life. Together, the CLC and eco-lodge aspire to be a realistic example of sustainable community life, more over they are a platform for the dissemination of environmental protection and sustainable development knowledge in the Shangri-la region, as well as providing a means by which to preserve traditional and cultural heritage.

Activities at Napalinka aim to support organic farming initiatives and platforms for eco-tourism that mitigate the negative effects of Shangri-la's rapid economic development in recent years. This 'modernization' has put great pressure on the environmental and cultural diversity of Shangri-la, often devaluing and even eliminating valuable indigenous knowledge and practices.

1) Organic seeds for barley (100kg), potatoes (1070kg) and organic fertilizer (10000kg) were purchased and grown on land at the learning centre.



2. An organic cooking course was organised for Napahai Community Learning Centre staff, 16 kinds of organic dishes were learned and are available at Napahai CLC.



3. 397 sets of books related to Tibetan culture and literature were purchased from the Tibetan Youth Bookstore in Qinghai Province
About 500 people/year from nearby villages, SISC staff and tourists will be benefit from the library.



Impact:

- 1a. The quality of land around the Napalinka Learning Centre is maintained through the implementation of organic farming.
- b. Organic agricultural practices will be implemented and introduced to the local community. The capacity of local villagers to adopt organic farming practices has been improved.
- 2) a. Awareness and availability of local organic food is being promoted, and locals' and tourists' awareness of organic farming is being raised.
- b. The income of the learning centres has been made more sustainable by selling organic produce.
- 3) Access to information on indigenous culture of Shangri-la will be enhanced and the cultural atmosphere has been enriched for visitors of the library.