

CINR 6th Quarterly Report (March – May 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).

Regional activities completed in the fifth quarter (not included in previous report):

Planning Workshop in Harbin

On 24 and 25 February 2014, the GIZ project team met representatives from the pilot sites in Zhejiang and Heilongjiang in a wetland park in the outskirts of Harbin to discuss the annual plan of activities. The meeting was hosted by Heilongjiang Provincial Wetland Conservation and Management Centre. In total, 27 participants attended the meeting, including 2 representatives from the Office of Wetland Conservation and Management of the State Forestry Administration.



Output:

- Feedback report on activities developed during the first year of the Action.
- Consensus on 2014 plan of activities.

Impact:

Basic support from national level and local partners assured.

Regional activities completed in the sixth quarter:

Scoping Visit on Agriculture and Wetland Conservation

From 15 to 19 March, GIZ project staff visited Heilongjiang with consultants from the Ministry of Agriculture. In Heilongjiang, GIZ has supported the establishment of the Naoli River Wetland Network which includes five Nature Reserves. The purpose of the network is to align management objectives and find solutions to common threats and pressures to wetland conservation including land conversion to agriculture and grazing, burning of wetland vegetation and agricultural residuals, pollution (especially pollution from agricultural sector), as well as water management including drainage and irrigation.



Output:

- Meetings were held with staff of Dajiahe, Qixinghe and Dongsheng nature reserves, community representatives, other stakeholders and local government to discuss threats and pressures to wetland conservation from agricultural production and resource use in and around nature reserves.
- The consultant will henceforth develop options for balancing agriculture and wetland conservation in a participatory approach with relevant stakeholders.

Impact:

- Awareness raised with nature reserve staff, community representatives and local government.

Zhejiang Regional Training on Environmental Education

The 2-day training was held on 28 and 29 March in Changxing County of Zhejiang Province. The training focused on environmental education approach, including theoretical knowledge and practical method. The 17 participants came from Zhejiang Provincial Forestry Department, China Wetland Museum, Zhejiang Nature Museum, Changxing County Forestry Bureau, Changxing Environmental Protection Bureau, Changxing Experimental Primary School, XSL NWP Tourism Company, China Alligator Nature Reserve and Baita Lake National Wetland Park, the Forestry Department and nature reserves staff from Heilongjiang Province.



Learning, organising and practising various interactive group games.

Output:

- The participants gained theoretical knowledge of environmental education mainly about the difference between public relation and environmental education, land art and procedures of guided excursion design and implementation.
- The participants learned and practiced different skills of guided excursion and education for sustainable development, including ice breaking games, role-playing game, story-telling and fish-tank.
- In groups the participants practiced the step of how to organize and play the mentioned games.
- The participants also learned evaluation methods for the end of an excursion.

Impact:

- The tour guides are interested in applying the training's new education methods and the Changxing Forestry Bureau indicated support for implementation.
- The primary school teacher would like to integrate the training content into his science lesson; it is proven that the methods are especially helpful for children to learn about nature from last training in Nov, 2013.
- The Zhejiang Provincial Forestry Department is interested in disseminating the training content on provincial level.
- The training provides new vision of education for Heilongjiang people and helps them to think about their own education concepts.

List of participants

No.	Name	Organization	Position
1	Mr. Yu Xiaojian	Zhejiang Provincial Forestry Department	Deputy division chief
2	Ms. Wang Yingying	China Wetland Museum	Staff
3	Mr. Chen Shuihua	Zhejiang Nature Museum	Director
4	Mr. Ye Weixian	Changxing County Forestry Bureau	Deputy director
5	Mr. Zhang Hua	Changxing County Forestry Bureau	Section chief
6	Mr. Zhu Pei	Changxing County Forestry Bureau	Staff
7	Ms. Jiang Min	Changxing County Forestry Bureau	Staff
8	Mr. Zhang Jianguo	Changxing Experimental Primary School	Teacher
9	Mr. Yang Weizhen	Changxing Environmental Protection Bureau	Section chief
10	Ms. Yang Yuantian	XSL NWP Management Company	Tour guide
11	Ms. Li Qian	China Alligator Nature Reserve	Tour guide
12	Ms. Wang Ting	Baita Lake National Wetland Park	Tour guide
13	Ms. Zhang Yan	Baita Lake National Wetland Park	Tour guide
14	Cheng Ziqin	Heilongjiang Provincial Forestry Department	Staff
15	Pei Zhongxu	Qixinghe Nature Reserve	Section chief
16	Li Chunlu	Dongsheng Nature Reserve	Section chief
17	Zhang Fengshan	Dajiahe Nature Reserve	Vice Director

Handbook on Wetland Education drafted

With the support of an international expert, the working group organized a meeting on 31 March to 1 April 2014 in Changxing/ Zhejiang Province, to discuss the first draft of Wetland Environmental Education Handbook. The working group was established by relevant organizations, such as Forestry Bureau, Environmental Protection Bureau, museums, wetland parks and schools.

Output:

- The first draft was finished, the following task and timeline are setup, such as layout design and publication.

Impact:

- Final draft should be finished by end of June and then send for publication.

The First Bazhu Handicraft Making Workshop

This activity of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-GEF-SGP) was originally planned as a small-scale handicraft making training for only 9 people. However, due to a great deal of interest from local community members, we expanded the programme to four days, with a total of approximately 100 people participating between 12 and 16 May.



Mr Puduo of SISC, a professional on traditional Lhasa embroidery, Mr Luosang and Mr Wandegongba organised the four days of the workshop. Handicraft making demonstrations were given by several older members of the community to a range of participants including youth. Several participants showed exceptional talent in making traditional products, such as caps, robes, shoes, carpets, blankets, sweater; all using locally produced materials.



Traditional Bazhu-handicrafts



Locally sourced raw materials



Traditional Handicraft Making Tools



Young participants watching demonstrations



Embroidery demonstration from older community members



Presentations and case studies

Output:

- Participants were trained in how to make traditional clothing and embroidery using local raw materials.
- Indigenous knowledge on traditional handicraft was documented and shared.
- 6 professionals demonstrated the use of traditional tools at the Bazhu Community Learning Centre.
- A case study from a handicraft making project in Sichuan showed participants the different kind of products that can be made.
- A one-year handicraft project plan was developed by the community.
- Following the workshop, a garbage clean-up activity was organized by the River Care Leadership Team of Bazhu, and participants learned about watershed management.

Impact:

- As one of many components, the workshop promoted a sustainable development of Bazhu village, conserving its indigenous culture, and creating alternative sources of income.

2nd Sichuan Regional Workshop

Sichuan’s second CINR regional workshop was held in Mianyang Normal University from April 19th to 21st 2014 with around 40 attendees.

The 2-day meeting brought together nature reserve staff and community representatives from the 3 project sites in Sichuan; experts and researchers in the field of giant panda conservation; and governmental officials from Sichuan Forestry Department. During the workshop, they shared knowledge on the challenges and possible solutions for the increasing strain between the need to improve local livelihoods, and the continuous degradation of the Giant Panda habitat. Participants gave valuable advice on the “community quantitative management system” developed by the team of experts in Mianyang Normal University and how it could be used as an important tool to promote the development of community integrated nature reserves in Sichuan and broader China.

Following the meeting, the project team took a field trip to one of the project sites in Pingwu, the Shangyou village of Xuebaoding Nature Reserve. A large amount of information on indigenous knowledge was collected in this trip.

Output:

- Communication and dialogue between local communities and nature reserve staff has been strengthened.
- A mechanism of “Nature Co-ordinator Team” has been initiated in the 3 project sites, to facilitate and sustain the management of community integrated nature reserves.
- Indigenous knowledge, unique traditions and folk-customs of local communities have been documented and will be included in the Locality Pack of the Panda Habitat as a learning resource provided to nature reserve staff and local communities.

Impact:

- The event was reported by local media:
<http://www.mianyang.net.cn/aspgetnews/readnews.asp?Articleid=1321626>
http://www.mnu.cn/news_view.asp?id=4797
http://e.suloon.com/mywb/html/2014-04/28/content_219092.htm
- All 3 nature reserves and counterpart communities have shown great interest in forming a “Nature Co-ordinator Team”. As a key component of the management structure, the Team will be composed of both nature reserve staff and villagers; this will further strengthen communication and collaboration between nature reserve and local community on livelihood development and nature conservation. The team will be the first step in developing a supplementary NR management structure adapted to the local situation.
- All nature reserves and communities are interested in the documentation of indigenous knowledge and will provide support in developing educational materials such as the Locality Pack for project regions in Sichuan.



Group photo of participants



China's first Panda Expert Mr. Hu Jinchu, and an academic from China's National Engineering Research Institute Mr. Ma Jianzhang, giving keynote speeches

Tibetan Watershed Workshop for Educators

From May 9th to 10th, a training workshop on the topic of *Ecological Environment in Tibetan Plateau* was held in Lhasa CLC. Lectures were given on: Biodiversity, Watershed Protection, Climate Change and Glaciers in the context of Tibetan Plateau by experts from Tibet University.

Participants included community leaders and school teachers from Lhasa city, nature reserve staff and related communities from the 3 project sites in TAR (Linzhou county; Cuogao village of Gongbujiangda county; and Milin county of Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon) as well as key stakeholders from Mozhugongka county.

Output:

- Participants improved understanding of local ecological issues.
- Shared learning opportunities for community educators of different nature reserves were provided.
- Communication and dialogue between different stakeholders from local communities and nature reserve staff has been strengthened.

Impact:

- Synergy between CINR and other SISC implemented projects created
- Each of the participating schools and communities developed an action plan of classroom-based environmental education activities, and community projects for this year. By working with village schools and communities leaders, community-based learning and action on nature conservation will be initiated in the communities adjacent to selected nature reserves, such as Gongbujiangda and Yalung Zangbo Grand Canyon.



Expert lectures from Tibet University professors