

Case Study of Qunan Community Conserved Area

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Chapter 1:Background of Qunan Community

1.1 Location

Qunan Community (E 22° 26' 57", N 107°54'40") is located in the Jiuchongshan Mountain of Shanxu Township, Fusui County, Chongzuo Municipality of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Province and adjacent to the Bapeng Section of Chongzuo White-headed Langur National Nature Reserve (CWNNR) in the north. The community is about 32km away from the county seat of Fusui County and 73km from

the Nanning, the capital city of Guangxi with convenient transportation to the Nanning airport.

1.2 Administration, culture and history

Administratively, Qunan is a community belonging to a village named Kunlong with about 450 individual and 110 households. The community has a long history of at least 200 years and consider themselves as indigenous Zhuang ethnic group culturally.

1.3 Main livelihoods and income

Rice once was the main crop before 1983 in Qunan. Due to the lack of surface water, the harvest of rice was highly unpredictable and subject to the weather. After the farmland was contracted to each household, the villagers gradually switched to plant sugarcane, maize, peanut and jute. Before the establishment of Qunan Community-Conserve Area (CCA) at the end of 2014, sugarcane and water melon were the main income of villagers and going out for seasonal jobs in cities was the second main income. As the market price of sugarcane was low in the past few years, villagers started to displace the sugarcane with oranges and other fruit tree such as mango and shaddock. Currently, more and more villagers plant oranges. Different with other communities nearby, villagers in Qunan have more farmland and income from agriculture than many other communities in Guangxi. There are about 167 ha farmland in Qunan among them about 33 ha is Eucalyptus plantation at the foot of

hills. Over 90% families have new buildings. Almost all families raise water buffalo for transportation and most families have a farm truck for the irrigation of water melon. Villagers choose to stay at home instead of leaving home to work in large cities as migratory workers.

1.4 Traditional culture and knowledge

Qunan have three patches of Fengshui forest that are strictly protected by the community. Among them two are natural forest or secondary forest and the other is mainly the plantation of pine and other trees with a history of over 100 years. Two temples were built for their guardian god in the Fengshui forest and worshiped by all villagers who believe that Fengshui forest is a treasure indicating the fortune of the community and no leaf or stone even can be taken from the Fengshui forest. Anyone who harm the Fengshui forest will be punished eventually.

The community has many traditional holidays when all members will go to worship their guardian god and pray for peace, health and good weather for their crops. Qunan has its special harvest festival in lunar November with dance and dining together. Villagers own many traditional knowledges of wildlife and traditional medicines. The community has its own regulations on the protection of Fengshui forest and use of other natural forest. According to the result of a survey on knowledges, attitude and practices (KAP) on conservation in 2014, 68% villagers

interviewed knows the regulations and 93% know that the white-headed langur is protected by the law. Some villagers said that the white-headed langur is part of their lives.

The community also has its own procedure of collective decision-making on public affairs. All villagers will meet and dine at the Dragon Temple on Lunar May 4th. Any public issues can be proposed and discussed without argument and adverse opinions could be fully discussed until a final agreement was reached. Any agreement will be fully implemented afterwards by all villagers. The community regulations were also made in this way.

Chapter 2: Description of the CCA

2.1 The unique biodiversity of the CCA

Qunan CCA is a hilly area with a typical karst landscape. All land in valleys has been cultivated and the limestone seasonal rainforest left on the hills is intact relatively with rich and endemic biodiversity. Only part of their natural forest was once destroyed severely but were restored naturally since 1980s according to the report of villagers. There were tigers in 1960s and cloud leopard and pangolins in 1970s but these species extinct now. There is still many wildlife in the forest such as white-headed langur, Rhesus macaque, wild boar, musk deer, python and Gekko. The baseline surveys conducted by the CCA also showed the rich diversity of birds and butterfly.

The most significant species in the CCA is the white-headed langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalu*), which is an endemic species only distributed globally within a small area of about 200km² between Ming River and Zuo River in Guangxi and listed as endangered by IUCN red list. This species was once listed as one of the 25 most endangered species in the world and the global population is about 1000-1100 according to the latest survey by the Guangxi Forestry Bureau in 2016. There were over 120 individuals of white-headed langur in 13 groups in the Qunan CCA during the survey in January 2017. The langur population and habitat in the CCA is recovering in the past 20 years. The Qunan CCA lies in the southwestern Guangxi terrestrial biodiversity priority area identified by the “China Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan” and the Sino-Vietnam Biodiversity Corridor of CEPF Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.

2.2 History, purpose of establishment and governmental recognition

Qunan community signed a co-management agreement with the local government and was demarcated as part of the Guangxi Chongzuo White-headed Langur Provincial Nature Reserve in 2002. When the reserve was upgraded as a national nature reserve in 2012, Qunan was excluded from the reserve since the local government planned to extract ore in the area. The reserve recruited a part-time

ranger from Qunnan to patrol the langurs since it was first established in 1980 as a county-level reserve.

The Qunan CCA was established in 2014 with the support of the Bapeng Protection Station (BPS) of the reserve, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) China and Guangxi Biodiversity Research and Conservation Association (BRC)¹. The heads of Qunan communities first lobbied and obtained support from over 10 prestigious community elites who visited each household to solicit comments and discuss the proposal from September to November 2014. The community member meeting was held on November 9th and an agreement was reached by all participants upon the establishment of CCA and application of governmental recognition. The villagers aim to conserve the white-headed langur, beautiful landscape and natural resources for next generations and benefit from the rich biodiversity via carrying out environmental education and developing eco-tourism.

With the support of BPS and BRC, Qunan CCA was ratified by Fusui County Forestry Bureau (FCFB) as the Qunnan White-headed Langur Small Nature Reserve² on

¹ BRC is a local NGO based in Guangxi. FFI is an international conservation NGO with its headquarter in Cambridge in UK. FFI and BRC implemented a CEPF project together on promoting CCAs in the Indo-Burma hotspot in Guangxi from 2014 to 2017. BRC also implemented a GEF SMP project on the capacity building of CCAs in Guangxi

² Guangxi Provincial Forestry Bureau enacted a regulation on the "Small Nature Reserves for the Conservation of Wildlife and Forest" which encourage indigenous people or local communities to establish and manage their own protected area and allows CCA to register in local forestry bureau for support.

December 3rd, 2014, The villagers in Qunan consider and patrol the whole community as a CCA which is about 1010ha in total, although the governmental recognition area is just 412.5ha in total covering mainly the current range of white-headed langur.

2.3 Boundary and Property Rights

All land in Qunan CCA, including farmland, curtilage, road, pond, fengshui forest and other forest or woodland, are collective land of the whole community. The community owns the property rights both customarily and legally. All villagers know the boundary of the community clearly and there is no dispute about the boundary with the reserve and any neighboring communities. The use right of farmland in the community was distributed to each household since 1983 and all forest land was classified as the national public welfare forest (NPWF) since 2011 and each household get the compensation in cash for their conservation of the public welfare forest every year. According to the regulation of NPWF, the villagers should protect the forest from fire and illegal cutting or logging for market, but they could collect fuelwood or cut a few trees for building or other use.

Chapter 3 : Management Status of the CCA

3.1 Conservation Target and Management Objective

The main conservation target of Qunan CCA is the white-headed langur and its habitat. This protected area is established for the conservation and restoration of

white-headed langur and the Karst forest and sustainable use of nature resources. The villagers reported that the community had flood nearly every ten years and had drought more often. They believe that the conservation of forest will decrease natural disasters and bring more water and good weather for crops and beautiful landscape and suitable living conditions for themselves. The CCA therefore played an important role in providing non-timber forest products, regulating weather, strengthening resilience to natural disasters, traditional culture, and providing aesthetic and spiritual values.

3.2 Governance and Management System

After the establishment of CCA, the community established a management committee consisting of four members with clear task division and decision-making process. Based on the threats to Qunan CCA, the management committee made and publicized four new items of community regulation on the CCA: 1) Outsiders are not allowed to enter into the CCA without permission; 2) Poaching of wildlife, bird catching, illegal logging for land and collecting natural resources by outsiders are prohibited; 3) no fire at the foot of hills; 4) Any behavior mentioned above could be reported to the rangers after soliciting the comments through meetings and festivals.

The management committee also recruited 17 volunteer rangers from the young in the community and established a voluntarily ranger team in 2014 as the young is very active and has more enthusiasm in public affairs. Besides the patrolling for

conservation, the rangers are also responsible for the security of the whole community. The leader of rangers reports directly to the management committee. The ranger team also made its own management regulations.

3.3 Threats to the CCA

Before the establishment of the Qunan CCA, the main threat was the encroachment of langur habitat by eucalyptus plantation and agriculture. It was once happened before and some villagers planted eucalyptus on hills without taking the advice of the reserve. The minor threat was illegal hunting of wildlife. Some villagers or outsiders caught or hunt wildlife such as Gekko, snake or python for market.

After the CCA was established, the new community regulation clearly prohibits the above behavior. The rangers will dissuade the one who intend to violate the regulation. Therefore, there is no encroachment of langur habitat now. The main threats include the poaching of wildlife by snares, tree-cutting for beehive and stealing of ornamental trees by outsiders and the bird catching or Gekko catching by some villagers.

Since the villagers already have well awareness of the plight of white-headed langur and punishment by the law is quite serious, there was no reporting or record of langur poaching or illegal logging in the past few years. Villagers once even rescued an injured langur by reporting directly to the reserve before the establishment of CCA.

3.4 Actions Taken and Action Plan

3.4.1 Baseline Survey

The social, ecological, cultural and economic baseline surveys were conducted by the management committee or ranger group together with FFI and BRC. The results informed the establishment and daily management of the CCA and the environmental education activities carried out afterwards. The first survey conducted from 14-18 November collected the baseline information about the geography, population, culture, economy, infrastructure, nature resources and associated problems by interviews, and studied the diversity of birds and butterfly. The first KAP survey about the biodiversity conservation was conducted on December 1st. A survey on December 9th of 2014 revealed the history of Qunan community and the story about two temples. Several complementary surveys were conducted afterwards and another KAP survey was conducted in November 2016. All the results of surveys were shared with villagers by meetings, reports and photos.

3.4.2 Patrolling and Monitoring

After the establishment of the CCA, villagers were actively engaging in the conservation of the protected area. They will monitor the implementation of the community regulation on the CCA during their daily farm work. If there is any outsider entering into the CCA, the villagers will make an inquiry, tell them the regulation of CCA and reported to the rangers who will educate the outsiders and confiscate the

tools and the wildlife they take. Alive animals will be released immediately. Trees will be planted in the community. If the rangers could not deal with it by themselves, they will ask the rangers of the reserve to cope with it. The serious cases that violate the laws will be reported directly to the reserve or the county forestry bureau. According to the estimation of the ranger team, about 70-80% villagers in Qunan are actively participated in the monitoring. A small number of villagers in Qunan will violate the regulation. Usually, violating actions were stopped or prevented before any negative impacts incurred.

The ranger team of Qunan conduct joint patrolling during slack seasons and investigate and deal with cases reported by other villagers. The management committee dismissed the rangers with poor performance and recruit new ones who have commitment and willingness. The ranger team has 12 members now. The team conducted joint patrolling of 99 days*person and investigated five illegal cases in 2015, conducted joint patrolling of 18 times and investigated 5 illegal cases in 2016, and conducted 24 days*person and investigated four cases. The ranger team started to use the camera trap to monitor wildlife in the CCA in June 2017. They also used the summer and winter camps of students to monitor the dynamic of langur population in the CCA since January 2017.

3.4.3 Capacity Building

Both the management committee and ranger team of the CCA keep improving their own capacity with the support of NGOs. The Qunan CCA joined the Guangxi CCA consortium³ in April 2015 and participated in many training workshops, study tours and exchange activities organized by the consortium: they went to study the sustainable agriculture and self-governance of community in July 2015 in Nandan, Guangxi; study the sustainable agriculture and operation of villagers' cooperative in Longzhou, Guangxi in October 2015; participated in a training workshop on how to improve their leadership and make action plans in November 2015; one representative attended a workshop on community-based conservation and a System of Products Friendly to the Protected Areas in Beijing in December 2015; one representative attended a community forum organized by UNDP in Yunnan and visit a pilot community on water resource management and eco-tourism development in May 2016; one representative went to Taiwan to study the CCAs and community-based conservation in the national parks in June 2016; the management committee participated in the International Workshop of CCAs held in Nanning in November 2016 and exchange with the participants from Iran, Vietnam, America and other provinces in China on CCA management. All participants visited the Qunan CCA during the workshop; one representative joined the study tour to Nonggan National Nature Reserve in Guangxi to exchange with local communities conducting

³ The consortium was established in April 2015 by BRC for enhancing the communication and exchange among CCAs in Guangxi. There were 7 CCA members in the consortium now. The training and

eco-tourism on birding in June 2017; one representative participated in a workshop on engaging local communities in conservation held in June 2017 in Nanning and reported the experiences of Qunan CCA. After two and half years of operation, the management committee is more capable in the management of CCA and has clear task division among members on financial management, environmental education, management of the ranger team and external cooperation.

The management committee also organized several training workshops for the ranger team together with the BRC. The first one was held in January 2016 on the importance and basic skills of patrolling, The management rules on the rangers and annual work plan were made in March 2016. The patrolling certificate was made by the committee and issued to the rangers in April 2016. A training course on how to use digital camera, binocular and telescope was delivered. Another training course on bird identification was delivered in June 2016. The ranger team has the uniform since the end of 2016 which greatly improve the proud and appreciation of rangers. Rangers learned how to observe the behavior of white-headed langur and how to conduct census of langurs as well as making the annual work plan and objective in January 2017. The ranger team learned how to use the standardized datasheet for patrolling and made a rule on equipment management. The team was trained to use the camera trap to monitor wildlife in Qunan CCA in June 2017 and use a special APP to record the trail of patrolling. All the training courses were delivered during the spare time of volunteer rangers to avoid negative impacts on their livelihoods.

The representatives of ordinary villagers also attended some training and study tour to improve their awareness and capacity in environmental education and sustainable agriculture. 10 representatives participated in a training on the definition and importance of and how to conduct environmental education in February 2015. Another 18 villagers attended the training workshop on how to interpret and introduce the nature and culture of the CCA to visitors and five villagers finished all courses in June 2015. Meanwhile, a training course on how to improve the service of logistics were delivered to villagers who host visitors.

Up to now, two households are piloting sustainable planting of mango and orange and sell the product with a brand of the white-headed langur to decrease the use of pesticides and fertilize for environment protection. Three representatives of Qunan joined a study tour to Guilin and Liuzhou in Guangxi to learn how to manage a eco-farm. One presentative attended a training course on sustainable agriculture and community support agriculture (CSA) organized by PCD⁴. Two pilot households also obtained technical support of an expert on sustainable agriculture from the Guangxi University during their practices.

⁴ A Hongkong NGO aimed to promote CSA in Guangxi.

3.4.4 Publicity and Education

To improve the awareness of villagers in Qunan and neighboring communities on the CCA and its management objectives and regulations, the management committee held a ceremony with traditional performance to celebrate the establishment of CCA and governmental recognition on December 26th 2014. The representatives from other CCAs, neighboring communities, administrative village management committee, the township government, the reserve, the local forestry bureau and NGOs came to attend. The committee also erect two big signs on the CCA at the main entrances of Qunan and put up posters on the CCA in the community. The committee organized annual ceremony on the CCA at the end of year 2015 and 2016 to raise the awareness of villagers. The committee also used other ways of publicity such as wall-painting and calendar.

3.4.5 Environmental Education

With the support of BRC, the Qunan CCA stated to establish an environmental education base on the white-headed langur since its establishment. The CCA hosted the first winter camp organized by BRC in January 2015. In total 16 Families from Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and other big cities in China came to attend the winter camp on the white-headed langur conservation. Since then, environmental education camps were organized every winter and summer holidays by different NGOs or companies in Qunan CCA. The students learned the ecology, behavior and plight of the langurs, karst forest ecosystem and their relationship with the community and

human being, and they were trained to think about how to balance the development and biodiversity conservation. Many villagers in Qunan were involved in the camps by providing accommodation, food, transportation, nature interpretation, security and other services. The education program was all free for children in Qunan who loved to make friends with students coming from big cities. The rangers usually introduce their work, nature and culture during courses, work as field guide and provide security service for visitors. Women also participate by making traditional food, showing traditional culture or performance. The villagers could deliver 10% training courses during the environmental education courses in 2016. It's promising that more and more villagers could become nature guide in the future to introduce the nature, culture and history of CCA independently.

Qunan is also becoming a popular base on environmental education. Up to June 2017, **in total 17 events** were held in the CCA with over 600 visitors. The visitor paid the management fee to the CCA and part of the income of households from providing homestay accommodation and meals also was contributed to the CCA according to the agreement of villagers. The income was publicized by the committee and used for the daily management and sustainable development of the CCA, including the cost of ranger team, community festival and other public affairs.

3.4.6 External Cooperation

The Qunan CCA obtained a lot of attention after becoming an environmental education base. The leader of committee, ranger team, children association, women dancing team, host families association formed a collaboration committee with the external supporters including BRC, the reserve and the local forestry bureau. The purpose is to: 1) Form a synergy of all key stakeholders and external supporters 2) Enhance communication and exchange among different interests groups and key stakeholders 3) Raise more funding or resources for the CCA. The collaboration committee has meetings every quarter and discuss any issues of interest, such as approve the application on environmental education events, task division, monitoring and evaluation of external cooperation.

3.4.7 Next steps

The management committee made the management plan every year with the facilitation of the BRC. The management plan of the CCA in 2017 was made in January and a brief action plan on the white-headed langur conservation was made as well. The CCA proposed an objective of “No Damage” and prohibited the cutting of tree for beehive and the bird catching by villagers in Qunan. The CCA therefore would 1): Conduct joint patrolling of 16 times at least, prevent the damage, educate those who do not comply, record the information and evaluate the effectiveness in time. To better support the ranger team, the committee provides a budget of 5,000 RMB every year to cover the costs of necessary equipment, clothes and water during the joint

patrolling, a dine together and training courses. 2): Enhance the internal management of the environmental education base by improving the quality of homestay services, the financial management, and information disclosure. 3): Improve the sanitary condition of the community and encourage the elders to play a key role in it. 4): Support the development of sustainable development.

3.5 External support

The Qunan CCA obtained substantial support from the reserve, county and township governments, BRC, FFI, CEPF, UNDP SMG and other organizations. The reserve helped Qunan community to get the poverty alleviation fund from the County government in June 2015 to clean the pond in the community and built a sewage treatment system which greatly improve the sanitation and landscape of the community. As langurs will come down to drink the water in the pond during the dry season, it also benefits the langur conservation. The local government provided fund to Qunan to drill a new well to supply clean drinking water to the community in autumn of 2016. The township government and local forestry bureau built an open stage for the recreation of the community in December 2016. The local government repaired the poor road of about 3 km in Qunan for the environmental education. The Guangxi Provincial Forestry Bureau (GPFB) also supported 50,000RMB to the Qunan CCA in 2016.

As a local NGO focusing on promoting establishing a CCAs network in Guangxi, BRC has been supporting the Qunan CCA both technically and financially. The support of BRC is mainly on the capacity building of the CCA, self-governance of the community, promoting environmental education and sustainable agriculture, improving the policy environment and leveraging support for the Qunan. For example, BRC raised fund from the public to improve the facilities for environmental education, such as the lighting for their stage and blue course, air conditioner of the office, projector, computer, video camera, binocular, interphone and garbage can.

Chapter 4: Conservation Effectiveness and Impacts on the Community

4.1 Conservation Effectiveness

The conservation effectiveness of the Qunan CCA is obvious, especially the increase of langur population and no encroachment of langur habitat. Before the establishment of the CCA, there was over 50 langurs in the area according to the survey of the reserve in 2012. The KAP survey in 2014 showed that villagers had high awareness of the langur and its conservation status and good attitude toward the conservation of forest and wildlife. The use of natural resources by the villagers of Qunan was low. Villagers interviewed in Qunan mainly collected bamboo shoots, herbs, fungus and fuelwoods from the forest and the use rate (percentage of users among interviewees) ranges from 3.6 to 39%. They mainly catch fish, frog, Gekko, snake and birds with a use rate ranging from 3.57% to 14.29%. Over 70% interviewees supported the

sustainable use of natural resources in Qunan. Villagers had high awareness of the community regulations on the natural resources but did not have strong willingness to monitor the violating behavior.

The latest survey showed that there were over 120 individuals in 13 groups of white-headed langurs distributed in the Qunan CCA. The ranger team also reported the recovery of langur population because new babies were born every year and the range of langur enlarged in recent years. Due to the forest protection policy, the vegetation on the Karst hills are restoring as well. After the establishment of the CCA, there is no encroachment of langur habitat by agriculture or plantations due to the enhancement of awareness raising and the patrolling. One obvious change is the villagers will monitor and report the damage done by the outsiders. The ranger team estimated that over 90% violating cases conducted by outsiders were reported by villagers of Qunan. The second KAP survey also showed that more villagers are familiar with the ecology and behavior of langurs than before and about 81% villagers interviewed believed that the langur population is increasing. Compared with data in 2014, 99% villagers interviewed expressed the willingness to actively participate in the monitoring any damage to the nature, which was significantly different with the attitude before the establishment of the CCA. In addition, more villagers (97% of interviewees) expressed the willingness to participate in the environmental education activities. However, the frequency and way of use of natural resources did not change during the past three years. Some villagers, mainly young people under 30 years old,

still went to catch wildlife including bird, snake and Gekko, which is illegal and will harm the wild populations. Although the damages by the outsiders could be well monitored by the villagers in Qunan now, the committee already noticed the violation of a few villagers in Qunan and proposed to strengthen its management in 2017.

Besides, the Qunan CCA earned collective income of the community for the biodiversity conservation and sustainable development via the environmental education base. The Qunan therefore establishes a sustainable funding raising mechanism based on the market. The funding could be used to support the ranger team, organize community activities, improve the publicity and fund the public affairs to obtain the support of all villagers on conservation and CCA.

4.2 Other impacts on the community

The social, physical, human, financial, and natural capitals of sustainable livelihoods were all improved in Qunan, among which the social capital increased most significantly. As the governmental officially recognize the self-governance and management of the Qunan CCA, the community was empowered and the collective decision making, cohesion, sense of identity and pride, appreciation of indigenous culture were all greatly improved. The cooperation between the community with the government at all levels and relevant authorities were enhanced. The community even keeps good relationship with all visitors, NGOs, enterprises and foundations who once supported the CCA. The villagers trust their leaders and local governments

more than before and the villagers trust each other more, because the community leaders enable the villagers in Qunan benefit from the conservation of CCA and adopt more the bottom-up approaches during the establishment and development of the CCA. The villagers were pre-informed and fully consulted about any important decisions. Up to the end of 2017, the Qunan CCA already attracted over four organizations to come to have environmental education activities and built relationship with a few marketing platforms for their agricultural products environment-friendly to the CCA.

The human capital also increased while the capacity of different groups improved greatly in the community. The leadership of the committee is acknowledged by the villagers. 15 families decorated their spare rooms and provided homestay accommodation and meals for visitors in January 2015. They formed a team, voted a leader and standardized their management, services and prices to ensure the service quality and equal profits among members. Currently, the community can provide accommodation for 52 persons simultaneously. The ranger team grasps the basic skills of patrolling and monitoring and is an active group in CCA management. Women established their own dancing team, participated in the environmental education camps, and had cooking and gardening competition in their spare time to make the community better. Even children established their own association with their own member management rules. They organize members to clean the garbage in the community on weekends and manage their books donated by visitors. Some of them

are learning how to be a small nature guide as well to introduce the nature and culture to the visitors. The organic mango and oranges produced by two pilot families were also well accepted by the market.

The infrastructure and facilities of the community were improved remarkably due to the establishment of the environmental education base. Many villagers also increased their income by participating in the relevant activities. **The overall income of the community from hosting over 600 visitors has about 180,000 RMB (equivalent to about 27.000 USD) in the past two and half years. The community had a collective fund of over 35.000 RMB (equivalent to about 5.200 USD) for the CCA management.**

The Qunan CCA makes best use of its strength in natural resources, landscape and culture to establish and manage its own protected area. The success of the CCA is to make all villagers to benefit from the biodiversity conservation in various ways. The positive feedbacks and reciprocal relationship between the interests of each family and the conservation generate the strong willingness of villagers in conservation. In general, the villagers in Qunan value their CCA not just for the income owned but more for the overall improvement of their livelihoods.

4.3 Evaluation of the Management Effectiveness and Sustainability of the CCA

The following chart was filled based on the self-evaluation of three members of the management committee of Qunan CCA and the interviews with the staff of BRC as well as the reports and documents about this protected area.

Issue		Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next Steps
1. Boundary demarcation and property rights (11 scores)	1.1 Is the CCA demarcated clearly	Use the sign boards, stakes, poles, meetings, festivals or other ways to demarcate the boundary of CCA	2	2	has two sign boards on the main entrances and one advocacy board in the community	
		Not use the sign boards, stakes, poles, meetings, festivals or other ways to demarcate the boundary of CCA	0			

	1.2 Is the CCA boundary known by the community	More than 60% community members know the boundary of CCA clearly	3	3	all community members know but only part of members know the boundary of recognized area by the government	
		30%-60% community members know the boundary of CCA clearly	2			
		Less than 30% community members know the boundary of CCA clearly	0			
	1.3 Is the CCA and its boundary known by the neighboring communities and key stakeholders	The neighboring communities and key stakeholders know both the CCA and its exact boundary	3	3		
		The neighboring communities and key stakeholders know the CCA and do not know its exact boundary	2			
		Neighboring communities and key stakeholders do not know the CCA and its boundary	0			

	1.4 Does the community own the property rights of CCA	Do not have any dispute on the ownership, use right, management right or usufruct	3	3		
		Property rights are not clear and have dispute on the ownership, use right, management rights or usufruct, but do not undermine the effective management of CCA up to now	2			
		Property rights are not clear and have dispute on the ownership, use right, management rights or usufruct, which undermines the effective management of CCA	0			
2.Management regulations and system (16 scores)	2.1 Does the CCA has a management team with good performance	Has a management team with relatively reasonable composition of personnel, clear task division and good decision-making mechanism, which results in good performance	8		The financial management of the committee should be	The management committee works well but need to

		Has a management team with some problems with personnel composition, task division, decision-making mechanism or other internal management, and its performance is just Ok	5	5	improved with more openness and the management	work more closely with each other.
		Has a management team but has serious problem with personnel composition, task division, decision-making mechanism or other aspects, which results in poor performance	3		should be more adaptive. The committee should improve its	
		No management team of CCA	0		implementation of its decision and engage more villagers in the management. The	

					performance is not just OK but still need be to improved for being good.	
2.2 Does the community has its own regulations on the CCA, which were adaptive to the local context and with full	Has made own regulations on the CCA with full consultation and support of its members and the regulations adjusted according to the feedbacks	8	8	The regulation was adjusted according to the management need in 2017.	More consultation is needed for the adjustment	
	Has made own regulations on the CCA with full consultation of its members	5				
	Has made own regulations on the CCA but without full consultation of its members	3				

	pre-consultation of its members	does not have own regulations on the CCA	0			
3.Management measures and actions (37 scores)	3.1 Does the CCA make and implement annual management plan	Make and implement management plan regularly with specific and practical objectives that could be well achieved during the implementation	8		The management plans were made every year but the committee members all think that the objectives are partly achieved. The objectives made before were not specific and	The management plans should be made with SMART objective and practical actions
		Make management plans regularly and the objectives are partly achieved	5	5		
		Does not make management plans regularly or the plans were not practical and reasonable but actions were taken to conserve the protected area	3			
		Does not make any annual management plan and no actions were taken either	0			

					achievable and thus difficult to measure.	
3.2 Does the CCA conduct effective patrolling	Has a patrol team with management rules well obeyed, conduct patrolling regularly, and all violating behavior discovered can be dealt with in time	8	8	The patrol team works very well in general.	The patrolling work plan should be adjusted because some damages by the outsiders were not discovered and stopped immediately. The confiscated	
	Has a patrol team to conduct patrolling regularly but the management rules were not well implemented and some violating behavior discovered cannot be discovered and dealt with in time	5				
	Has a patrol team to conduct patrolling but without management rules, and many violating behavior cannot be discovered and dealt with in time	3				

		No patrol team, do not patrol the protected area, and the violating behavior cannot be discovered and dealt with in time	0			tools and stuff should be better managed
3.3 Does the CCA conduct necessary baseline and other surveys to understand the status and dynamic of natural resources or conservation targets	Besides the baseline survey, conduct the necessary surveys to understand the status and dynamic of natural resources or conservation targets	5	5	several surveys were conducted based on the real needs of the CCA		
	Conduct the baseline surveys of natural resources or conservation targets	3				
	Never conduct any baseline survey or other surveys	0				

3.4 Do the community members actively monitor the dynamic of conservation targets (e.g. the specific species or natural resources protected) and the CCA management	The willingness of monitoring is high and over 80% members participate in the monitoring eventually; the results of monitoring could all be dealt with in time	8		The participation of villagers in Qunan in monitoring could be improved by improving the information disclosure and other ways
	The willingness of monitoring is high and 50% -80% members participate in the monitoring eventually; the results of monitoring could all be dealt with	5	5	
	The willingness of monitoring is not low but only 30% -50% members participate in the monitoring eventually; the results of monitoring could not be dealt with all or dealt with in time	3		
	The overall willingness of monitoring is very low and less than 30% members participate in the monitoring in reality	0		

	3.5 If the key management information could be disclosed to all community members, such as the management plans, annual work plan, evaluation result, change of rangers, the results of monitoring and	The key management information is disclosed to the community members in time who generally are very satisfied with the information disclosure	8		The result of patrolling was not disclosed in time and the financial information disclosure is relatively poor
		The key management information is disclosed to part of community members or part of the information is disclosed and the community members are satisfied with the information disclosure in general	5	5	
		The key management information is disclosed only to part of community members or only part of the information is disclosed and the community members are not satisfied with the information disclosure	3		

	patrolling, and the financial information	The key management information has never been disclosed and the community members are very unsatisfied with the information disclosure	0			
4.Conservation Effectiveness (15 scores)	4.1 If the conservation of CCA is effective	The conservation status of the targets is improved obviously or kept at a good level. The CCA has good conservation achievements while the targets are well conserved or recovering continuously	15	15	The white-headed langur and its habitat are continuously recovering and the damages by outsiders were prevented in large extent. The encroachment of	more focuses should be put on the conservation of Gekko and other protected animals as well as the ecosystem
		The conservation status of the targets is improved somewhat. The CCA takes some actions that has some effect.	10			
		The conservation status of the targets is unchanged. The CCA takes some actions but the effect is not obvious	5			

		The conservation status of the targets keeps deteriorating. The CCA does not take any countermeasures or the actions do not have any effect	0		langur habitat did not happen anymore	
5.Sustainability (21 scores)	5.1 Conflict resolution: Whether or not the conflicts among the community members or	There is a mechanism or way of conflict resolution and the conflicts could be solved reasonably and in a low costs	3	3	As for potential conflicts with outsiders, the CCA forms the cooperation with	
		There is a mechanism or way of conflict resolution, but the effect is not satisfactory	2		the reserve and	

	<p>between the community members and outsiders on the CCA management could be resolved reasonably and in a low costs</p>	<p>There is no ways or mechanism of conflict resolution (including the traditional ones)</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>local forestry bureau. The rangers usually drive the violating outsiders away after confiscating their tools and stuff and educating them to avoid conflicts. As for the potential conflicts among villagers, the Qunan has its</p>	
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					traditional meeting or other ways to solve the problem.	
5.2 External cooperation: If the CCA could cooperate with key stakeholders well for more funding or resources	External cooperation: If the CCA could cooperate with key stakeholders well for more funding or resources	Have a cooperation mechanism with key stakeholders which plays a key role in fund-raising, getting supports and forming synergy	3	3	Has a cooperative committee	
		Have a cooperation mechanism with key stakeholders but do not have satisfactory results up to now	2			
		Have some cooperation with key stakeholders but do	1			

		not form a cooperation mechanism				
		There is no cooperation with key stakeholders	0			
	5.3 If the CCA is supported by all community members	the community members support the CCA greatly because the goals of conservation and local social and economic development are reciprocal in general	5	5		enhance the education of young people on the wildlife conservation
		the community members support the CCA in certain extent because the goals of conservation and local social and economic development are compatible in general	3			
		the community members do not support the CCA due to the conflict between the goals of conservation and local social and economic development	0			

	5.4 If the CCA is supported by local governments and government authorities	The establishment and development of CCA get the substantial support from local government or government authorities, such as the funding, equipment or the opportunities of training or study tours	5	5	mainly by the reserve, forestry bureaus and local governments	
		The establishment and development of CCA get the oral support from local government or government authorities	3			
		The establishment and development of CCA do not get any support by local government or government authorities	0			
	5.5 If the CCA is supported by NGOs,	The CCA gets the financial support from NGOs, universities, institutes or enterprises	5	5	mainly by the BRC and FFI	

	universities, institutes or enterprises	The CCA gets the technical support from NGOs, universities, institutes or enterprises	3			
		The CCA does not get any support from NGOs, universities, institutes or enterprises	0			
Total scores:			100	88		
Additional scores:	Does the CCA has sustainable funding mechanism ?		Yes : 10	10		
	Does the CCA support the capacity building of the community members, for example, support the members to attend training courses or study tours ?		Yes : 5	5		
	Does the CCA conduct necessary education and awareness raising activities to improve the awareness of its members on sustainable use of natural resources or conservation of species or ecosystems ?		Yes : 5	5		

The management effectiveness and sustainability of the Qunan CCA is the best among all seven CCAs supported by the project according to the evaluation results. The CCA obtained full scores on the following three indicators: boundary and property rights, conservation effectiveness and sustainability. This protected area already established a relatively good management system with specific and widely-accepted regulations on the CCA and a specific management committee with good leadership and obtain 81% scores of the indicator on management regulations and system. The CCA got 76% scores of the indicator on management measures and action and lost scores are mainly about the management plan and information disclosure. To further improve the management effectiveness, the CCA should make SMART objectives, extend its conservation to other protected wildlife, and improve its information disclosure.

4.4 Feedbacks of Key Stakeholders

During the interviews by external experts, majority community members in Qunnan shown positive attitudes toward the CCA. They believed that the establishment and development of CCA not only benefit the conservation but also promote the improvement of the infrastructure, self-governance and sustainable development.

“Before the establishment of CCA, our community was not known by the outsiders and the development was relatively slow, especially on the infrastructure construction. After the establishment of CCA, our work was recognized and appreciated by the township government who helped us to build a landfill site, clean the pond and install streetlights. The road is goanna to be repaired soon. We even have WIFI now. The environmental education activities carried out in the community also enable our children to have more interactions with the outside world.” --- Mr. Zhang Kairong (the member of management committee and head of the voluntarily patrol team)

The BRC also saw the great change of the community, especially the engagement of different interest groups, during the cooperation in the past three years.

“I love this community very much and feel like my homeland whenever I came here. Not just the management committee of CCA. Women in the community established a dancing team to advocate the conservation; Children established their own association named green grass and did what they can on the environment protection.

Some families hosted the visitors coming here to attend the environmental education courses and contributed part of their income to the community for the management of CCA.”---Ms. Luo Li (Project officer of BRC)

Mr. Meng Yuxing, the head of Bapeng Protection Station of the reserve, considered the Qunan CCA as the best one among all three CCAs he supported in Fusui County. He thought that there were three main reasons for the good conservation achievements of the Qunan CCA: 1) The leaders and elites of the community were all actively engaged in the establishment of the development of the CCA. 2) The outstanding leadership and capacity of members of the management committee of the CCA. 3) The well mobilization of community members. The Qunan is the only one whose children were also actively involved in the conservation.

Chapter 5: Lesson learned

Overall, the Qunan CCA is a successful example with good management and positive social, economic and ecological impacts on the community. The community was greatly empowered to conserve its white-headed langur and Karst forest ecosystem with good achievements that are widely recognized and appreciated by the local governments, NGOs and other key stakeholders. The CCA also seems have better resilience to the internal and external threats now. However, the Qunan CCA put most of its efforts on the conservation of white-headed langur and habitat and neglect the sustainable use of its natural resources by its own villagers although they prevented the outsider from using their natural resources. The villagers do not realize that some

way of use, such as catch Gekko and snakes, may harm the whole ecosystem as the populations of these species declined dramatically in the past decades and not much left in the forest. This behavior will also undermine the reputation of its environmental education center.

Fortunately, the management committee already realized the problem and proposed to address it in 2017 although there are still many challenges including the low awareness of villagers on this problem, the low willingness of villagers to report their relatives or neighbors who violate the community regulation, and the difficulty for patrolling and monitoring at night or during festivals or traditional holidays. The committee and the ranger group should do more investigation on the root causes of this problem and enhance the education and awareness raising on the sustainable use of natural resources, role of different species in the ecosystem and ecological services. The community also needs to find solutions on how to use various natural resources in a more sustainable way.